

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program

Science and Technical Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

October 31, 2005

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

Minutes

Call to Order

Michael Rikard, STAC Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The welcome and introductions were followed by an explanation of the logistics: two meetings were taking place at the same time (STAC and the inaugural meeting of the APNEP Policy Board). Thanks were extended to the U.S. EPA for hosting the meeting. After comments on the Summer (August 3-4) 2005 meeting, there was a call for a motion to approve that's meeting's minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

Contributions to the beverage fund for this meeting by Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation were acknowledged. Those attending from the VA DCR were welcomed.

APNEP Update

Dean Carpenter, APNEP Science Coordinator, provided an update on APNEP activities since the August meeting. Three STAC members (T.J. Lynch, Kenneth Moore, James Tomlinson) had resigned since the summer meeting. Participants were reminded that the winter STAC meeting will take place on February 1 in Greenville, NC and that the spring meeting (date TBA) will be held on the coast. Stay tuned!

Communication Update

The APNEP STAC website is up on the web. The U.S. General Accounting Office report on the Chesapeake Bay will soon be posted on the web. The next STAC Executive Board meeting is planned for early December. There is a push to have goals for APNEP in a pragmatic format so information is more effective to lay stakeholders.

Roger Pugliese—of NOAA's South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Presentation on Ecosystem-based Management

This is an opportunity to blend APNEP with coast-wide Coastal Habitat Protection Plans (CHPP) in North Carolina. Dr. Pugliese pointed out the need for environmental indicators to mark progress on goals. This stemmed from the four state Habitat Comprehensive (policy), amended. (The four states included are North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.) He discussed possibilities for establishing sustainable fisheries habitat. Connections to the Sustainable Fisheries Act were explained. Cooperation, collaboration, and partnerships are needed to make the ecosystem management program possible.

Lunch with APNEP Board

Three lunchtime presentations: (1) Sally Steele of the North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) presented an oyster restoration project video, (2) STAC member Doug Rader of Environmental Defense discussed indicator development for APNEP, and (3) Lisa Tolley of North Carolina's Office of Environmental Education discussed the Sound Learning Teacher Institute.

STAC Indicator Development

At their summer 2005 meeting the STAC came together to work on details of environmental indicators matrix composed by each of the six topical area groups (Topic areas: Terrestrial Habitats, Air Quality and Atmospheric Processes, Wetland Habitats, Water Quality and Hydrology, Living Aquatic Resources, and Human Needs). Those attending the current meeting were asked break into groups representing the topic areas. They were tasked with the job of narrowing the list of potential indicators, selecting those that that should continue on to undergo quality assurance assessment.

Because of the dispersed group work at the end of the day, there was no formal adjournment.