



## **APNEP Wetland Resources Monitoring & Assessment Team**

### **WebEx Meeting**

**1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**October 5, 2018**

### **Meeting Notes by Tim Ellis**

#### **Team members in attendance:**

Rick Savage (CarWA; Team Lead)  
Ginny Baker (NCDWR)  
Bo Dame (Chowan University)  
Michelle Henicheck (VDEQ)  
Pete Kalla (USEPA)  
Kim Matthews (RTI)  
Brandon Puckett (NCCR/NERR)  
John Stanton (USFWS)  
Travis Wilson (NCWRC)

#### **APNEP staff in attendance:**

Dean Carpenter  
Bill Crowell  
Tim Ellis  
Stacey Feken  
Heather Jennings  
Trish Murphey

#### **Agenda/Summary:**

The purpose of this meeting was to develop a course map for the remainder of 2018. The agenda included taking a review of the team's list of indicators and associated metrics to date and then coming to a consensus on a suite of indicators for near-term focus.

Dean Carpenter began the meeting with a brief review of the team's history. He noted that by the end of the year APNEP would like there to be solid draft reports summarizing the status and trends of 3-5 of the metrics being considered by this team. These reports will be approximately five pages long and should target technically-inclined environmental managers. Dean stated that he anticipated APNEP staff working more directly with individuals after today's meeting to facilitate progress on these 3-5 near-term indicator assessments. In early 2019, the team will

then do a synthesis report on the status of wetland resources in the Albemarle-Pamlico region. Later in 2019, there may be a distilled version of these reports for non-technical audiences.

Dean relayed that Kirk Havens (VIMS) was unable to attend today's meeting but wanted to let the team know that VDEQ and VIMS have received funding to investigate incorporating wetlands from the VA-NC shared river basins into the online Virginia Wetlands Condition Assessment Tool (WetCAT). Kirk stated that this will involve coordination with NCDEQ and APNEP in developing a common wetland condition assessment within the shared watershed. Michele Henicheck elaborated on this further and emailed a link for WetCAT to all team members.

Dean gave an overview of the list of potential indicators and associated metrics that was sent to the team. This list contains all the indicators discussed at the team's February meeting, as well as the specific team members supporting each indicator's assessment.

Key points from the team's discussion include:

- *Wetland Vegetation*
  - Ginny Baker was added to the list of team members interested in working on this assessment, which also includes Mike Schafale, Pete Kalla, and Rick Savage.
  - This four-member subgroup will discuss the comments and research previously presented in emails from Ginny and Pete to the team.
  - *Plant canopy height* was changed to *plant canopy cover* with a possible sub-metric of *community structural diversity index*.
- *Wetland Fauna*
  - No changes.
  - John Stanton provided an update that he and Travis Wilson have discussed the *Colonial Waterbirds* metric and it remains Tier I.
- *Wetland Landscape*
  - *Wetland Vegetation* was changed to *Wetland Habitat*.
  - *Extent of wetland vegetation by type* was changed to *extent of wetland habitat by type*. Bo Dame volunteered to assist Kirk Havens and Mike Schafale with this metric.
- *Non-Native Invasive (NNI) Wetland Vegetation*
  - Dean suggested adding Kirk Havens to assist John Stanton and Ginny Baker with this indicator.
- *Ecosystem Stressors*
  - Evaluations of stressors are on hold until progress is made on the Tier-I indicators.

Dean reiterated that he and Tim Ellis will be working directly with individual team members and subgroups going forward to assist with preparations of draft indicator reports.