

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership Ecosystem Symposium 2017: Eyes on the Horizon

Utilizing Partnerships to Address Regional & Community Issues

Panel discussion on the issues, challenges, and opportunities for regional collaboration.

| Panelist | Issues Faced | How Partnerships Influenced Process/Outcome | Success Story | Lessons Learned | Relevant CCMP Actions | Additional Information |
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| Holly White <i>Town of Nags Head (APNEP Policy Board Vice-Chair)</i> | Land Use Adaptability of housing in close proximity to ocean Resiliency & Sea Level Rise Water Quality – Septic Health Initiative | FOCUS: Over 70 individual interviews conducted with key community members and groups VCAPS: 19 individual interviews | FOCUS Nags Head: Created a shared vision for the community (comprehensive plan) that can be implemented through local actions and ordinances The town adopted a Comprehensive Plan in July 2017 and a report on Adaptation Planning, developed in partnership with NC Sea Grant, in August 2017. | Engage early and often Develop & communicate goals and desired outcomes Focus on common values | Action B1.2: Minimize the introduction of pathogens from targeted sources. Action B3.1: Assist local governments in the development of incentives for protecting natural shorelines. D3.3: Assist local governments with including climate change & sea level rise into local planning processes. | holly.white@nagsheadnc.gov www.nagsheadnc.gov |
| Dr. Michelle Covi <i>VA Sea Grant and Old Dominion University</i> | Low resourced communities and organizations want to do resilience projects How to match community needs with university | Partnerships are providing ideas, innovation, and hands-on help with projects from environmental education to communications to community design | A kick-off workshop in 2016 was funded through a National Sea Grant program and 5 partnership projects received seed funds. The OODU Resilience Collaborative funded a second networking event in summer 2017 and faculty continue to make matches and promote partnerships. | Matching is difficult Timing is tough Follow-up is important and neglected | Action D1.1: Communicate the importance of stewardship and offer opportunities for volunteerism to further APNEP’s mission. D3.3: Assist local governments with including climate change & sea level rise into local planning processes. | mcovi@odu.edu https://sites.wp.odu.edu/resiliencepartnership/ |

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| | requirements /resources | | | | | |
| Jackie Woolard <i>Partnership for the Sounds</i> | <p>Perception that natural areas / swamps/marshes not valuable resources</p> <p>Low population density</p> <p>Poverty: per capita income 20% below state average, incl. 2 poorest counties in NC</p> | <p>Embodied the call in the original APES CCMP for state/local governments, nonprofits, educational institutions, and private businesses to work together in promoting greater awareness of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system and why we all must share in its protection.</p> | <p>Carried out a program of planning, building, and operating a network of estuarine education facilities located in small towns at the rural heart of the A-P system since 1993</p> <p>Mission: provide education about the A-P system, stimulate sustainable local economic development based around natural/cultural tourism, and serve as an organization that can bring together groups with diverse interests to encourage support of an ecosystem we all cherish.</p> | <p>If your program includes developing facilities, planning needs to include operational strategies and budgets during the entire process.</p> <p>It is critical to remain apolitical but keep in contact with local & state government officials.</p> <p>Keep your mission and successes in the public eye.</p> <p>Remember the underserved.</p> | <p>Action D1.1: Communicate the importance of stewardship and offer opportunities for volunteerism to further APNEP's mission.</p> <p>Action D2.1: Provide and promote opportunities for outdoor experiences that connect individuals with the Albemarle-Pamlico ecosystem.</p> | <p>jpwpfs@embarqmail.com</p> <p>https://www.partnershipforthesounds.net/</p> |
| Carol Shields | <p>Grassroots response to the economic</p> | <p>Diverse group of public/private partners from the</p> | <p>Creation of 200+ mile water trail which features 16 rustic river platforms /campsites</p> | <p>We have much more to attract visitors by working</p> | <p>D2.1 (Outdoor Experiences)</p> | <p>http://director@roanokeriverpartners.org</p> |

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| <p>Roanoke River Partners</p> | <p>downturn of mid 90s</p> | <p>5 NC counties that border the Roanoke River came together to develop a shared vision to stimulate new enterprise</p> | <p>across 5 counties as well as some from neighboring counties</p> <p>Believed to be the 1st of its kind, our trail system of camping platforms has served as a national model of similar development capitalizing on natural/cultural assets</p> <p>On-going collaboration w/15 small towns/mayors</p> | <p>together than we will ever have by working independently & we want to bring additional supporters into this process</p> | <p>Action D3.1: Ecosystem Services strategy: Develop and implement a strategy to improve decision-makers' understanding of the costs and benefits of environmental protection, restoration, planning, and monitoring.</p> | <p>http://www.roanokeriverpartners.org/</p> |
| <p>Anne Marie Knighton Town of Edenton</p> | <p>Waterways most important asset</p> <p>Issues faced include algal blooms, invasive species (hydrilla), and stormwater management</p> | <p>Mayor and Town Council recognized partnerships were a way for small towns to get things done.</p> <p>The Town has partnered with various state and local entities to improve water quality and address regional & community issues.</p> | <p>Action plans were developed to address water quality and invasive species and partnerships were forged to improve and protect tributaries and waterways.</p> | <p>Communications</p> <p>Engage public, adjoining neighbors, & town staff</p> <p>Citizen Awareness</p> <p>Persistence</p> | <p>Action B1.1: Minimize the introduction of toxics from targeted sources.</p> <p>Action C3.2: Develop and implement a coordinated wetland restoration strategy.</p> <p>Action D2.3: Increase public understanding of the relationship between ecosystem health and human health advisories relating to water, fish, and game.</p> <p>E1.3 (Integrated volunteer /citizen monitoring network)</p> | <p>Anne-marie.knighton@edenton.nc.gov</p> <p>https://www.townofedenton.com</p> |
| <p>Mikki Sager</p> | <p>Community and faith-based</p> | <p>Evaluate spectrum of</p> | <p>\$4.5 million in grants to</p> | <p>If you are looking to engage</p> | <p>Objective D2: Conduct targeted environmental education efforts</p> | <p>msager@conservationfund.org</p> |

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| <p>The Conservation Fund</p> | <p>groups in the Albemarle-Pamlico region are very interested in, and supportive of engaging in developing solutions to environmental challenges, as long as they also address the social justice and economic challenges that pervade their communities.</p> | <p>participation: Aim for meaningful participation</p> <p>A fundamental principle of any strategy for meaningful community engagement is to make the conversations and following actions relevant to the people and places with which you are interested in engaging.</p> | <p>community organizations</p> <p>1,200 local “green” jobs</p> <p>Supported</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Conetoe Family Life Center</p> <p>A Time for Science</p> <p>Coharie Intra-Tribal Council</p> <p>Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative</p> | <p>underserved or non-traditional community partners, the best place to start is by researching the conditions in those communities and meeting with the people to listen and better understand the challenges being faced by community members and leaders.</p> <p>Ask questions before providing solutions.</p> <p>Listen!!</p> <p>Work to build relationships of trust</p> | <p>regarding sustainable use, habitats, and ecosystem services</p> | <p>https://www.conservationfund.org/our-work/resourceful-communities</p> |
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| <p>Brian Roth <i>Mayor, Town of Plymouth</i></p> | <p>Public infrastructure, particularly waste water treatment systems, potable water supply systems, and drainage/runoff are great impactors of healthy environments.</p> <p>Aging infrastructure that is often in close proximity to waterways and wildlife is exceptionally expensive to maintain and often complex to properly manage. This can be particularly true for rural and lower wealth communities.</p> | <p>Through sustained collaboration, persistence, long range planning and proper funding, aging infrastructure is slowly being re-engineered and replaced.</p> | | | <p>B1.2: Minimize pathogens / upgrade wastewater treatment infrastructure</p> <p>C1.4 (WW treatment system upgrades)</p> <p>C1.5 (Voluntary stormwater retrofit)</p> | |
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- **Common Theme: Partners can help communities increase reach, access resources, facilitate planning.**
- **Selected APNEP CCMP Actions that can support or assist local communities and government with their local environmental planning efforts:**
 - ✓ Action D1.1: Communicate the importance of stewardship and offer opportunities for volunteerism to further APNEP's mission.
 - ✓ Action B1.2: Minimize the introduction of pathogens from targeted sources.
 - ✓ Action B1.4: Facilitate the development of state and local policies that support the use of low impact development (LID) practices to reduce runoff.
 - ✓ Action B2.4: Facilitate the development of policies to minimize dredge and fill activities in naturalized areas and sensitive habitats.
 - ✓ Action B3.1: Assist local governments in the development of incentives for protecting natural shorelines.
 - ✓ Action C1.4: Reduce unregulated discharge from wastewater treatment systems.
 - ✓ Action C1.5: Facilitate voluntary retrofitting of existing development and infrastructure to reduce runoff.
 - ✓ Action D1.5: Increase opportunities for public access to waterways, public lands, and trails.
 - ✓ Action D3.1: Develop and implement a strategy to improve decision-makers' understanding of the costs and benefits of environmental protection, restoration, planning, and monitoring.
 - ✓ Action D3.3: Provide assistance to state, regional, and local governments to incorporate climate change and sea level rise considerations into their planning processes.