

Albemarle Citizens' Advisory Committee
College of the Albemarle
Elizabeth City, N.C.
30 October 1990
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendance - See Attachment A

John Stallings called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the absence of Chairman Brewster Brown. Stallings explained Joan Giordano's absence and turned the meeting over to Randy Waite for the program update.

Program Update - Randy gave the program update reporting that State budget problems were still wreaking havoc with the awarding of contracts, with most public participation contracts being held in the Department of Administration, Procurement and Contracts Office. He added that they hoped to get them out in about a week. He continued saying that the program was now in the middle of developing the Requests For Proposals (RFP) for the 5th cycle, the main item for the evening's agenda discussion. Waite said the Technical Coordinator position for APES was to open the next week, and would remain open for one week. There are many interested applicants. The person filling this position will be extensively involved in drafting the CCMP.

Waite noted that as soon as that person is hired, completion of the Status and Trends Report (STR) will occur with the process of going out for formal public meetings. Seven meetings are being set across the state by Joan and will begin in January 1991. See Attachment B. It is anticipated that the program will have results of the public meetings relative to the Status and Trends Report ready for the Policy Committee by the time of the Roundtable Meeting in March, and publication will occur at that point, Waite said.

The director noted that an outline for the CCMP was being drafted and that he had taken a look at the Blueprint for Action in drafting it. He considered it a real good starting point and anticipated using it at the public meetings with the STR. The biggest question asked during the public meetings will be, where do we go from here? The Blueprint will be used as a starting point to show the type of suggestions we need. In response to a question concerning a delay in the original timetable for the status and trends report, Waite said it wouldn't delay us for the CCMP. The first draft of the CCMP may not be ready by January, but within the next few months. Waite stated, "in terms of a 4 month delay, we are probably still doing OK, as far as these two reports go."

Introduction of Maureen Colwell - As there was no public participation report to give, Stallings introduced Maureen Colwell, the new education specialist, with the Albemarle Environmental Association, and gave a brief background on her education and work experience. Maureen told the committee what she has been doing for the past two months, including speaking to and working with school groups. She mentioned several meetings with Tom Stroud of PTRF to work up programs to present to the commissioners but noted these will probably be on hold until after the elections. There was some discussion over what counties Maureen would serve. She explained that she was coordinating with PTRF in terms of geographical location.

In other business, the committee introduced themselves to each other and to the new director, Randy Waite. They agreed to accept withdrawal of the Awards Banquet public participation project proposed by Tom Burns and cited a three month contract processing procedure and conflict of scheduling as reasons for the action.

Committee members expressed the feeling that the APES program is missing some of the school children, especially in the private schools, and agreed to try to do a better job in that area in the coming year. It was decided that Joan or somebody needs to get a list of private schools and also let all the schools know what information and programs are available. Maureen agreed to work toward getting a list of the private schools from each county board of education.

5th Cycle Request For Proposals - The committee moved on to a discussion of the main agenda item, the 5th Cycle Request For Proposals. Stallings inquired if all members had received copies of the draft report. He then gave members time to read over the report again before requesting their comments. Stallings noted six items were prioritized by the Citizens Involvement Subcommittee, of the Technical Committee, and he asked that committee members decide whether they agreed or disagreed with the order of priority and be prepared to add items if they deemed it necessary. Asked about funding, Waite replied that he would like to see all good proposals funded and not just separated out by percentages. Questions were raised about item #2. See Attachment C. What does public constituency mean? Where will the management plan be plugged into in the system? What will be done with this management plan? Stallings suggested that all groups need to be involved; local government, the general public, etc. A committee member stated the need to get these constituencies involved this year. Waite explained his reading of #2 to mean, how the general public will stay involved after the program concludes and how it will ensure the management plan is implemented. Waite said he was thinking about how to set this up as he read item #2.

One committee member commented that we need a paralleling determination as to how to get the state agencies involved. During the discussion that followed, members questioned who would take over the implementation of the CCMP once the program was over. It was stated that if the state does so, then groups like the Albemarle Environmental Association will be on the outside knocking to get in. The committee wanted to know who will take over from the CACs? Another member said item #2 was a two-parter, which asked for alternative models, and which of those models have been effective in other places. "We need to know how to keep this thing alive", she said. "This item deals with the funding of an entity to take the place of the CACs", said Stallings. "What are you going to do with the outcome of the study?" Waite asked. We need to find out what is being done throughout the nation and then decide what to choose from among alternatives.

Tom Burns commented that we needed to have some kind of definition for technical requirements to identify aims, goals to achieve, and response times. We need a program rather than a feasibility study or alternatives. Waite inquired, "are you asking someone to develop a program for you?" Members wanted to bring hard facts from other established programs to North Carolina and to see more recommendations from other places.

Waite commented on the need to "pull all ideas in one place for staff. Gather different scenarios from other states, analyze whether they are working and what

would work in our situation. We can set up a tight timeframe, but there will be a year delay in doing this."

Another committee member said the purpose and function of the study is to define what the problems are, what mechanisms are necessary to correct the problems, what is it going to cost and who should do it. These should be important components of the plan. The public is going to have to go before the Division of Environmental Management, etc. and push and support and struggle to get these things implemented. Once the CCMP is adopted and endorsed, we hope to get the legislature to put up enough money to implement it. We need the public out here to get their legislators to support specific items, and we need to put together a CCMP that the public will buy and support.

Waite advised, "When you put out a Request For Proposals keep it open to see what comes in, then narrow the scope when you have the proposal."

A separate committee with technical people on it will actually write the CCMP, the members were told. The committee wanted to know if Randy could give them a presentation on the process for arriving at the CCMP. "The form for now is my idea of where I want it to go," said Waite. "I and the new technical coordinator will write the CCMP, using a small subcommittee. All committees will review the document."

Waite explained an outline was being pulled together now. The next step will be refining the outline, using The Blueprint for Action to give direction. We are now pulling information together. Waite assured the committee the technical coordinator will be a person who knows the state and state government very well, and the subcommittee will be composed of people involved in policy making and regulations.

The CCMP is targeted not just at the Department, Waite noted. There are a lot of other entities that can provide a major contribution to this thing. Stallings then called for specific comments on each proposal in turn, and they were as follows:

Proposal 1 - Too wordy; knock out specific events and activities; organizations instead of principal constituencies.

Proposal 2 - Feasible to start with; come up with a program or two or three different proposals to keep the public involved and participating in this thing through implementation.

Proposal 3 - Fine as proposed; might let materials used reflect what has been learned to date.

Proposal 4 - OK; agree that materials distribution goes in this proposal.

Proposal 5 - Include something specific in terms of educational type things; how can people help solve the problem where people **can** help? Look at updating what we already have, and have paid for. Target an individual to do the legwork and contact TV stations about running public service announcements. Need someone who can market our product, someone who would be in charge. The various media are also the public who need to be reached by the outreach person(s).

Proposal 6 - What purpose is this proposal going to serve? It would be nice to have a routine talk show.

Members agreed there was no problem with the priority of proposals. They agreed to wait and see what proposals came in. A suggestion was made to add marketing to either proposal 4 or 5. It was decided to take another look at what has been printed and see if we need to reprint some. Who makes the reprint decisions?

A committee member made several points including: We can make a difference. We have enough information to put into our public service announcements, and I think we should go forward with them. Decide whose responsibility it is to review what we have for content, currency and/or appropriateness. Then get on to proposal 5. It was suggested that Joan is the best person to continue to do this as she has the experience and contacts.

Another committee member requested to review what we already have, such as videos, pamphlets, etc., before we fund anything more.

Questions/Answers/Public Comment - The Chesapeake Bay Book was mentioned and it was suggested that the committee may want to reprint that publication or selected pages from it. A suggestion was made to print more copies of A Citizens Guide to Estuaries.

Concerning the Heavy Metals Study, (Dr. Stan Riggs' work) members stated a need to finish that study and suggested seeking additional monies to do so, noting that the study did not extend as far as the Meherrin River and up to the Virginia line.

It was learned that the model study on Currituck Sound has been held up somewhat. The committee expressed eagerness to know what the West Neck Creek Study will show as happening in the last seven or eight days, and agreed a model study should be completed for Currituck Sound.

The committee thought a closer look was warranted at bottom feeders, blue crabs and catfish in Albemarle Sound, if end of the year data shows hot spots. They also agreed on the need for an additional study of heavy metals and a look at the marine life side of it, and suggested a call for proposals to do so.

A point was raised about acid precipitation. EPA air quality people at the Research Triangle are checking and collecting data statewide on this acid precipitation. The committee expressed the need for a proposal on herring spawning streams also. Some streams have been diverted due to ditching and this effects herring. Also, it isn't known how much effect the use of herbicides and pesticides on fields has on larval fish during periods of heavy rain. Waite asked, "What type of proposal would you like to see done about herring?" and suggested Harrel Johnson and his staff might check creeks and streams.

A committee member suggested a proposal on constructive wetlands for wastewater treatment, as EPA didn't have enough money to fund these proposals last year. It was brought out that WRRI has funded that already.

It was suggested that someone needs to keep close tabs on a new industry in Edgecombe County called Re-use Incorporated. It is receiving all the fly ash and ash from steam generating plants in eastern Virginia, trucking it into

Edgecombe County and disposing of it in the Tar River Watershed. The same material will also be coming from the new Co-Gentry Plant in Battleboro. There have already been problems with fish reproduction in two lakes from selenium coming out of that ash.

Stallings noted that this issue will be addressed in the CCMP. There was a call for a proposal to look at basinwide impact from total loading. The committee also questioned the need to look at a management plan state policy on fly ash from co-generation plants in N.C.

In final business, a suggestion was made to rotate the meeting location, and there was general agreement. At this time Stallings recognized John Carlock from Virginia with the Hampton Rhodes Planning District in the Chesapeake area, who was attending the meeting.

Waite stated that anyone having further comments on public participation proposals should get them to John or Joan by next Wednesday. The comments will be forwarded on to Mike Orbach who will write them up for the technical committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be held toward the end of January 1991, at a time and place to be arranged.

Attendance

Attachment A

Albemarle CAC/APES Meeting -
COA, Elizabeth City
Oct 30, 1990 7:00 pm -

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1- | Gates M. Barber | Eliz City |
| 2- | Paul Williams | ✓ |
| 3- | Caryn Pen | Newport |
| 4- | Maureen Colwell | Guest |
| 5- | Bill Richardson | Currituck |
| 6- | Joe WRIGHT | CITOWAN |
| 7- | JOHN M. CARLOCK | HAMPTON ROADS
PDC - CHESAPEAKE |
| 8- | John Paul Lilly | CAC - Wash. Co - |
| 9- | Iredell HASSERL | A-CAC. |
| 10- | RANDALL G. WAITE | A/P STAFF |
| 11- | A.B. Whitley TH | Edgecombe Co |
| 12- | BILL PILAND | ACAC (ONTES, CO.) |
| 13- | Phil Hinton | ACAC, Gates Co. |
| 14- | SHEILA SMITH | ACAC (ATLARGE) |
| 15- | Tom Burns | ACAC (Pasquotank) |
| 16- | | |
| 17- | | |

Attendance

Attachment A

Albemarle CAC/APES Meeting -
COA, Elizabeth City
Oct 30, 1990 07:00 pm -

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1- | Yates M. Barber | Eliz City |
| 2- | Palk Williams | ✓ |
| 3- | Craig Kern | Hempstead |
| 4- | Maureen Colwell | Guest |
| 5- | Bill Richardson | Currituck |
| 6- | Joe WRIGHT | CITOWAN |
| 7- | JOHN M. CARLOCK | HAMPTON ROADS
PDC - CHESAPEAKE |
| 8- | John Paul Lilly | CAC - Wash. Co - |
| 9- | Iredell Hassell | A-CAC. |
| 10- | RANDALL G. WAITE | A/P STAFF |
| 11- | A.B. Whitley TH | Edgecombe Co |
| 12- | BILL PILAND | ACAC (GATES, CO.) |
| 13- | Phil Hinton | ACAC Gates Co. |
| 14- | SHEILA SMITH | ACAC (ATLARGE) |
| 15- | Tom Burns | ACAC (Barnstank) |
| 16- | | |
| 17- | | |

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

The activities funded under the category of Public Participation are intended to accomplish two purposes: 1) to create effective avenues for dissemination of accurate, documented information about the need for planning, conservation and management of the Albemarle-Pamlico sounds and watershed; and 2) to obtain advice and input from the public concerning A/P Study activities. The projects funded in 1991-92 will build on the projects funded in earlier years of the program. For FY 1991, proposals will be entertained on the following specific topics in addition to any proposals that facilitate public participation in the APES program. The following topics are listed in general order of priority, beginning with the highest priority.

1. Public Involvement in the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) Development - This would include proposals for specific events and activities to foster, in conjunction with the Citizens Advisory Committees (CACs), increased involvement of local government, principal constituencies and the general public in the development of the CCMP for the A/P Study area. Projects should emphasize activity in the early stages of CCMP development and assure adequate documentation of project activities.
2. Institutional Alternatives for Long-Term Citizen Involvement - This would include proposals for a feasibility study of institutional alternatives for long-term citizen involvement in policy, planning, management, education, implementation, and oversight concerning the A/P Study area. Of particular interest are comparative evaluations of institutional frameworks, funding sources, and public-private partnership models that have been effective in promoting citizen involvement in coastal environmental issues in post-program phases of estuarine management conferences and other government sponsored programs. These evaluations should identify, in conjunction with the CACs, those alternatives that are most appropriate for consideration in the A/P CCMP and be available to the A/P program by spring of 1992.
3. Outreach Programs - This would include proposals to facilitate interaction between A/P Study activities and local governments, principal constituencies, the educational system, and the general public in 1991-92.
4. Permanent Educational or Interpretive Displays - This would include proposals for educational or interpretive displays concerning the A/P Study area in either site-specific or traveling formats. Of particular interest are displays that will last beyond the formal closure of the A/P program in 1992, and those that have potential application outside of the coastal area.