APNEP Citizens Advisory Committee

Goose Creek State Park, Washington, North Carolina
Fall Meeting Notes, October 19, 2011

APNEP Staff Present: Bill Crowell, Dean Carpenter, Scott Gentry, Jim Hawhee, Jimmy Johnson, Chad Smith

CAC Members Present: Kay Winn, Marjorie Rayburn, Christine Mele, Gonzalo Pitpit

Call to Order and Introductions [Kay Winn]:

- Kay welcomed members to the meeting at 1:18PM.
- There were no public comments.
- No additions or deletions were made to today's agenda.
- Meeting notes from May were approved by consensus with no changes.

Overview of FY 2011 APNEP Accomplishments [Jim Hawhee]:

- Jim passed out a handout detailing APNEP's accomplishments for FY 2011. He reviewed some of the highlights within the handout.
- Jim mentioned APNEP recently received favorable press coverage from NPR-affiliate WUNC and Associated Press (AP) for the recent submerged aquatic vegetation map that was recently released by the program.
- Marjorie added that she like seeing a summary of projects in one document.
- Scott talked about the CAC demonstration projects that were funded this year; the projects were completed on September 30th. Two projects had a follow-up report – he passed around the documents. Jim added that the CAC did a great job at selecting projects. Jim talked about his visit to the Elizabeth City Middle School project. He added that 30 students were out there per class period, and that he was please to see this level of student involvement.
- Christine asked about how Hurricane Irene impacted these projects. Jim added that most projects were completed before the hurricane; the Elizabeth City Middle School Project had to push things back two weeks. Jim added that he didn't know of any additional impacts.
- Kay added that she liked seeing the demonstration projects in the list of accomplishments.
- Jim added that he wanted to put this list together every year. He mentioned that these reports would be on the website and that older projects may take some time.
- Kay asked about the follow-up with the schools – Jim and Scott added that they would like to put a communications list together and follow up with schools on a regular basis.
- Gonzalo asked if these projects fit into the school curriculums; Jim and Bill responded that it depends on the project type, the school, and what was included in the application. Bill mentioned the project at J.H. Rose High School was using the project to teach students about storm water. Bill added that sometimes a teacher will be head of the project but after he/she leaves, the project may fumble and that it is hard to tell how the project will be handled long-term. Marjorie added that we don't track projects 5 years down the road. Kay added that

multiple faculty members should be on the lead of the projects rather than one. Bill emphasized why it is important that projects have multiple conservation components, so if the education side falters, the environmental impacts of the project remains.

- Continued discussion was made regarding the continuation of projects. Kay asked if there were any other comments regarding the list of APNEP's accomplishments.
- Kay and the committee congratulated Bill on his recent graduation and receipt of his doctoral degree.

Review of draft CCMP [Bill Crowell]:

- Handouts of the draft CCMP were provided to CAC members.
- Bill mentioned during the last CAC meeting that members offered their comments; Jim added that the comments were very helpful for further development of the CCMP.
- Kay recommended that the list of acronyms be upfront and that tabs would be a nice addition for print copies of the final CCMP.
- Bill added that the web-version of the document would be better because it will contain hyperlinks to references, agencies, acronyms, and past reports. The downside is that they have to manage the link-references (spot-check that they are still available) from time to time.
- Marjorie added that she liked the glossary; Jim added that they were working on defining terms that didn't require looking up other words.
- Bill said there has not been any change in the goals and ecosystem outcomes since the last CAC meeting but he added that the CAC provided more feedback on the wording of the CCMP than any other committee.
- Bill asked if putting the page numbers (on page 18 of draft copy) that link back to the CCMP goals and outcomes would be appropriate; he added that the web version would have links.
- Marjorie was concerned about the table on page 19 of the draft CCMP; she asked if this should be an appendix. Bill explained the table to members – Marjorie added that the last column, "Example Indicators" was a helpful addition. The committee pointed out minor errors contained in the table.
- Jim added there will be another comment period and encouraged members to read over the draft CCMP again; Bill added that comments were open on the website but CAC members were welcome to contact the staff directly.
- Marjorie had a comment on page 8; the "Figure 1" text reference didn't show the smaller Sounds in the figure itself. Bill added that a more-detailed map might be provided on the web version. Christine mentioned that fishermen may not agree on the first sentence of the last paragraph on page 8, "The sounds also support a vibrant commercial fishing industry." Bill suggested that members pay attention to statements like this and offer their opinions if they think it may raise flags. Marjorie added that the last sentence in the next to last paragraph on page 8 "Sailboats tack in the stiff winds characteristics of the region, while speedboats tow skiers in their wake" may offend other boaters – she added that recreational boaters may be more appropriate and not exclusive to one type of boat user.

- Bill added that we are meeting with the Policy Board on Friday.
- Kay asked Dean if STAC was okay with this document being less technical – Dean responded "yes" and that they were fully integrated in the project. Kay added it would be nice if all the committees were on the same page.
- Christine wanted to offer a compliment on page 29 about sea level rise (Action A2.3) and the notion that decisions were being based on scientific research.
- The committee appreciated APNEP's efforts in making this document readable to a wide audience. Bill added that we have to get it right because it will be our working document for the next 10 years.
- CCMP public meeting schedule: Jim added that they would tour the area for different groups to comment on the draft CCMP. Jim provided an overview of these scheduled meetings – Bill said they would send details out through email and the website. Stops for particular basins: Kinston on November 21st; Washington on November 22nd; Elizabeth City on November 29th; Plymouth on November 30th; Franklin, Virginia on December 6th. Jim said if the committee wants details about the meetings to get in contact with him. Marjorie asked if these meetings would be highly advertised – Bill responded "yes."

A-P Ecosystem Assessment [Dean Carpenter]:

- Dean provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "State of A-P Ecosystem: APNEP's "Interim" Assessment." Dean reminded members that this document would be targeted to a "more advanced" audience (in contrast to the draft CCMP).
- Dean reviewed that the EBM transition team members came from the STAC, CAC, Policy Board, state and federal partners, EBM Tech Transfer Group, and APNEP staff; they have been meeting on a quarterly basis.
- Dean reviewed APNEP's seven steps to "EBM enlightenment": 1) Articulate program goals, 2) Develop system level model for goal attainment. 3) Assess current management efforts – identify gaps. 4) Develop management strategy. 5) Develop monitoring program. 6) Assess performance (what Dean will talk about today). 7) Manage adaptively.
- Dean mentioned that they are selecting provisional indicators, looking at status and trends from 1995 to present, and preparing the document in the style of the Heinz Center – the plan is to begin Phase 2 (a diagnosis) in 2012; Phase 3 (forecasting) in 2013.
- Dean presented several slides with tables that listed indicators and outcomes. Dean questioned the most difficult step being to manage adaptively. The cycle can be described as: Policy/Program Development –to- Management –to- Monitoring –to- Assessment. This cycle will be continuous as new ideas and needs arise (the center of the cycle being "research").
- Bill stressed that there was little to no monitoring in our sounds and many established programs were cut from the budget; he added that without monitoring there could be no assessment. Bill also added that we now have our first NC map of SAV and noted that Chesapeake Bay does this every year.
- There was continued discussion between members on priorities that may or may not be funded and the frustrations that come along with it.

- Dean passed out a handout listing the "table of contents" for the 2012 State of the Sounds: An Assessment of the Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem document. He briefed members on each content item. Dean pulled up a PDF file of Reide Corbett's chapter section on estuarine shoreline migration to show as an example. He reminded members that the writing may be a bit more technical but the first question would be why it is important, secondly, what does the indicator support? Thirdly, what does the data show plus any shortcomings? Dean continued through the chapter section showing members what other information and graphics would be included. The assessment would be a compilation of these different sections.

State of the Sounds Symposium [Jim Hawhee]:

- November 17th at 9AM for registration and networking at the New Bern Convention Center. Presentations will begin at 10AM and continue through 5PM.
- Jim added there would be a good lineup of speakers covering diverse topics.
- The plenary speaker will be Nancy White (lunchtime speaker).
- Bill added that if you are planning to come, that you go ahead and register online so space and lunch can be better accommodated; he also added that registration was free.
- Jimmy asked how registration was coming – Jim answered that it was at half capacity (averaging 10 registrants per day).

Round-table discussion (Current Issues) [Jim Hawhee]:

- Marjorie recommended a book titled, "The Battle for North Carolina's Coast" by Stan Riggs and other authors. She added that she loved seeing the pictures and how it gave a historical perspective on our coast.
- There was discussion about getting teachers involved. Kay added that it has been a challenge to get teachers on the committee due to the time of the meetings and their teaching schedules.
- Bill talked about the Teaching Institute that occurs every July at Pine Knoll Shores and that at one time it was hard to find participants but now there is a waiting list for attendance.
- Kay mentioned she was concerned about deforestation in this region; Christine provided a contact for her. Kay also mentioned her concern for surface mining. Members continued discussion on these topics.

Notice of next meeting [Kay Winn]:

- State of the Sounds, November 17th. Members were encouraged to register online and attend this conference.

Adjourn [Kay Winn]:

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:03PM.