

MINUTES
ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO ESTUARINE PROJECT
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 1986
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

The Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Project Technical Committee met at 10:00 AM in the Archdale Building, Raleigh, North Carolina. The open meeting was attended by several observers from various state and federal agencies and the general public.

LIST OF ATTENDEES

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SUMMARY OF MINUTES

FISHERIES IN THE ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO STUDY AREA

Terry Sholar of the Division of Marine Fisheries, NC Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD), gave a report and slide presentation on the fisheries of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study area.

INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT COORDINATOR

Secretary of NRCD Thomas Rhodes welcomed everyone. He announced that Dr. Douglas Rader of the Division of Environmental Management of NRCD had been offered, and had accepted, the position of project coordinator, and he introduced Dr. Rader to the group.

EPA'S FUNDING SCHEDULES FOR RESEARCH - 1987

Michelle Hiller gave a presentation on EPA's funding schedule for research for fiscal year 1987. She reported that in the appropriations bill for FY 87, signed by President Reagan, the National Estuarine Program would receive \$6 million for the national program, plus up to \$1 million for NOAA's research work under the Long Island Sound project. She noted that it is not yet known whether the funds will be given in a lump sum or on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Hiller went on to say that the Agency will soon decide how the total funds will be divided among the six programs nationwide, and that this information should be out in about one month. Each program will be given a target amount for FY 87 funding.

A potential impact on project funding lies in the Clean Water Act, recently approved by both the Senate and the House and sent to the President for signature. If the bill is signed, the agency will prepare a supplemental budget request, as funding for the National Estuary Program is provided for in Sections 317, 320 and 210. Sections 317 and 320 provide \$12 million annually, and up to \$5 million annually is provided to NOAA for research under the program. Section 210, Construction Grants, for the first time allocates funds specifically for studies of combined sewer overflow impacts on estuaries and marine waters. The total allocation under the bill is \$24 million, 2/3 for studies and 1/3 for implementation.

Complete and final applications for funds must be made to the Agency no later than July 15, 1987, in order that grant awards may be made by the end of the fiscal year. This deadline applies to all grants, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements, not just research.

Ms. Hiller requested that draft applications be received in the Washington office by June 15, so that the Agency can review them and begin to determine funding needs and priorities nationwide. Experience with other programs has shown that this means the 5-year work plan should be completed in February. If some of the work is to be done by outside parties, Requests for Proposals should be sent out by March 15, in order that draft applications can be submitted to the Agency by June 15.

REPORT ON WORK PLAN AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT MATERIAL

Dave Owens (for Dr. Lynn Muchmore) gave a report on the current status of the five-year work plan. He noted that NRCDD's timetable in preparing it is consistent with the deadlines noted by Ms. Hiller.

Mr. Owens described the framework of the chapters in the rough draft that had been mailed to the committee members, and solicited their reactions to the work so far and suggestions for improvements.

Committee members remarked that they hadn't had much time to review the draft document as yet. There was discussion of the "use-oriented" approach to the work plan.

It was suggested that a "critical issues" section be added to each of the sections of Chapter III, "Societal Uses - Trends and Profiles", to provide a tie-in to Chapter IV, "Conflict and Competition Among Societal Uses". It was also suggested that committee members with expertise in the subject areas of these sections be responsible for reviewing them in detail and providing comments to the authors or to Dr. Rader. These two suggestions were accepted by consensus.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 26 MEETING

Larry Saunders noted that he had been permanently delegated the responsibility of membership on the Technical Committee by Colonel Woodbury, so he should be listed as a member in the minutes rather than an observer. With that correction, the minutes were accepted.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION COMMITTEES

Dr. Mike Orbach, referencing his October 22 memorandum to committee members, reviewed his recommendations concerning citizen advisory committees. He then made the recommendations in the form of motions which were voted upon. He noted that he had been assisted in formulating these recommendations by an ad hoc committee including Larry Saunders, Jim Stewart, and Dave Owens, and by input from Policy Committee members and members of the general public.

Recommendation 1 was that only two citizen committees of 15 members each be formed, rather than 8 committees of 15 members each as had been originally proposed. One committee would serve the Albemarle Sound area, the other the Pamlico Sound area. Each of the two committees would appoint a chairman, who would sit on the Technical Committee as a voting member. After some discussion, the motion was voted on and carried.

Recommendation 2 was that the categories of individuals appointed to these committees would be the same as those originally proposed, as described in the October 22 memo. After discussion, the motion was voted on and carried, with the clarification that the category "public official" is to be interpreted as "local government official". It was also agreed that members of the citizen committees need not be residents of the study area.

Recommendation 3 was that the nomination process be as described in the October 22 memo. It was agreed that non-committee members may submit nominations in writing to Dr. Rader, and that the deadline for receipt of nominations would be two weeks prior to the date of the next technical committee meeting. The motion carried.

Recommendation 4 was that the committee charge Dr. Orbach's ad hoc committee with developing recommendations for (a) the charge to the citizens' advisory committees, and (b) a means of providing staff support to these committees. It was agreed that someone from Bruce Barrett's staff would also be on the ad hoc committee, and that EPA would prepare a report for the ad hoc committee on citizen participation programs in other estuarine study areas. The motion carried.

Dr. Carl noted that the Policy Committee would be notified of these recommendations for its approval.

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES FOR CHAPTER V OF THE WORK PLAN

Dave Owens reported that NRCDC has contracted with the UNC - Chapel Hill Center for Urban and Regional Studies to prepare the material for Chapter V of the work plan, "Existing Resource Management Systems and Subsystems". It was voted to recommend to the Policy Committee that NRCDC be reimbursed the \$5,000 cost as a necessary part of the Albemarle-Pamlico study.

COMMITTEE ON DATA BASES - REPORT

Sharon Shutler, chairman of the Committee on Data Bases, reported that her committee and the Committee on Data Storage and Retrieval had found it helpful to have a member of each other's committees attend each other's meetings, since their areas of inquiry are so closely related.

Ms. Shutler introduced Don Hoss, who discussed the committee's assigned tasks, data base identification and data evaluation and reliability scoring. He outlined the following recommendations of the committee:

- (1) With respect to data base identification, it is recommended that a contractor be charged with producing an annotated bibliography dealing with the existing Albemarle-Pamlico area data, that in addition to normal citations and abstracts the bibliography include a detailed data set description for each citation, and that the contractor also deliver a directory of experts in this area.
- (2) With respect to data evaluation and reliability scoring, the committee proposes to attempt to develop such an evaluation system.

Ms. Shutler introduced John Sylvester, who gave a report on efforts so far in the data identification process for the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds.

In order to keep this task manageable, Ms. Shutler asked the Technical Committee for guidance concerning the limits and priority subject areas of the data identification effort.

There was discussion of this request, and whether efforts should be made at this point to begin entering data into a system or to simply catalog data content and availability. Dr. Carl asked the data base committee to report on a "solution" to this problem, including cost estimates, at the next Technical Committee meeting. Ms. Hiller will report to the data base committee on experience gained in other programs, to assist it in this effort.

COMMITTEE ON DATA STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL - REPORT

Karen Siderelis, chairman of the Committee on Data Storage and Retrieval, outlined the five areas of investigation of her committee:

- (1) Identification of existing computer systems, both hardware and software.
- (2) Determination of characteristics of systems needed for the study.
- (3) Identification of current and needed interfaces between the systems.
- (4) Technical expertise available from participating agencies.
- (5) Recommendation of a scheme for utilizing these systems.

Ms. Siderelis distributed and discussed a memorandum outlining ten recommendations related to accomplishing these tasks. Dr. Carl noted that recommendations 1, 9, and 10 of the memorandum are those requiring a choice by the Technical Committee. He asked that the committee prepare reports on those three items for presentation at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE SET; ADJOURNMENT

The Technical Committee agreed to meet again in the same location at 10:00 a.m. on December 2, 1986. The meeting was adjourned.

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