

## **SAV Partners' Winter 2008 Meeting**

East Carolina University's Greenville Center

Greenville, NC

February 20, 2008

### **Meeting Notes**

#### **Those Attending:**

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| John Gallegos         | USFWS/Back Bay NWR |
| Jud Kenworthy         | NOAA/ CCFHR        |
| Scott Chappell        | NCDMF              |
| Anne Deaton           | NCDMF              |
| Jacquie Ott           | NCNERR             |
| Jill Fegley           | NCNERR             |
| Tancred Miller        | NCDCM              |
| Steve Mitchell        | NCDOT              |
| Maria Dunn            | NCWRC              |
| Jill Paxson           | NCDWQ/PRRT         |
| Tony Butz             | NCDWQ/NRRT         |
| Danielle Mir-Gonzalez | NCDWQ/ESS          |
| Rob Emens             | NCDWR              |
| Joan Giordano         | APNEP              |
| Chad Smith            | APNEP              |
| Rob Breeding          | NCEEP              |
| Joe Luczkovich        | ECU/IICSP          |
| Dean Carpenter        | APNEP              |

Dean Carpenter called the meeting to order at 12:35pm and asked for self-introductions around the table. He mentioned that there were two changes to the agenda:

- \*Don Field was unable to attend today's gathering

- \*John Stanton's presentation will be moved to the spring meeting

Hearing no other changes from the group, Dr. Carpenter asked if there were questions pertaining to the meeting notes from the fall meeting. Anne Deaton inquired if the appreciation certificates had been distributed to the volunteers who helped with SAV monitoring/ground-truthing during the fall imagery flights. Dr. Carpenter reported that those names have been determined and the

certificates are in the APNEP Raleigh office awaiting personalization. Hearing no further questions, additions, or deletions to the fall meeting notes, they were accepted into the record.

### **Monitoring & Mapping Discussion**

Dr. Carpenter provided an update on the APNEP-NOAA aerial imagery done in fall 2007: (1) a status inquiry pertaining to the imagery was requested of NOAA's contractor given that the product was scheduled for delivery to NOAA by December 31, (2) should the remaining 10% of flight lines (Core and Bogue Sounds) be done in spring, or should we wait until the fall, (3) discussion ensued with details describing the attributes and benefits of doing the remainder of flights in spring vs. fall timeframes. Dr. Carpenter suggested settling the question via a teleconference and he will send an email to those interested in being part of that effort.

Dr. Jud Kenworthy delivered a presentation dealing with field monitoring survey design. He emphasized the desirability of having a field component as part of the overall established framework for the design and implementation of a statewide benthic vegetation monitoring program. He illustrated examples of existing programs in Florida and Washington State. Much discussion ensued in terms of performance measures and program costs. When defending the cost of an adequate monitoring program, Dr. Kenworthy mentioned that an acre of SAV has a conservative value of ~ \$8K, therefore the value of SAV in NC approaches \$1.6 billion (\$8,000 X 200,000 acres).

It was decided that a subcommittee should be formed to document what has been done in North Carolina and to design a pilot program culminating in a 5-page report.

### **Assessment & Restoration Discussion**

Scheduled reporting by Don Field and John Stanton was postponed until the spring SAV Partners' meeting.

Prior to beginning his discussion on SAV restoration guidelines, John Gallegos mentioned that he was the bearer of a message from John Stanton, USFWS. Mr. Gallegos said the USFWS funding request process requires a better accounting/understanding of money spent through their grant transfers. That is,

they are interested in knowing the status of ongoing projects, e.g., Liz Noble's projects/staff.

Restoration Subcommittee Chair, Mr. Gallegos, began discussion on the restoration guidelines document by asking those present if they had time to critique it before coming to the meeting. He explained he was unsure if the document was what the SAV Partners had in mind when they tasked his ad-hoc group with writing a "white paper." Much discussion ensued with the determination being made that the guidelines document probably went beyond the scope of a white paper and a briefing paper perhaps could be teased out of it and used as tool to educate members of the NC Legislature. It had earlier been established that members of the General Assembly needed to be made aware of the value of SAV if ever there would be hope of receiving funding for its monitoring, protection, and restoration. It was also mentioned that the Restoration Subcommittee could do a position paper from Mr. Gallegos' work when it is complete for outreach purposes. A deadline of March 7 was determined for making comments back to Mr. Gallegos.

### **Policy & Outreach Discussion**

Outreach Subcommittee Chair, Jacquie Ott, reported that she will have the matrix she developed at a previous meeting distributed soon to the Partners group. She inquired about how vested the group was in sharing this information with others (NC Legislators, the general public, etc.) and felt, to do that, a larger outreach subcommittee was needed. Dr. Jill Fegley mentioned that the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) education plan will be in a tabloid format and will be widely distributed. Discussion ensued with suggestions for fleshing out the subcommittee with participation by Sea Grant, the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) volunteer program, NC Coastal Federation, and the NC Office of Environmental Education.

During public comment John Gallegos announced that the Back Bay Restoration Foundation was holding its 7<sup>th</sup> annual forum on March 13, 2008 at the Advanced Technology Center, VA Beach TCC Campus, in VA Beach, beginning at 8:30am. For further information go to: [bbrf@verizon.net](mailto:bbrf@verizon.net)

There being no other business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm with plans for the next meeting to be arranged at a later date.