

SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION (SAV) WORK GROUP

Boyd Lee Park Complex
Greenville, NC

June 13, 2005

Those Present:

Joan Giordano	Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program
Dean Carpenter	Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program
John Stanton	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Bob Glennon	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Bill Crowell	Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program
Shannon Deaton	NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Scott Chappell	NC Division of Marine Fisheries
Tancred Miller	NC Division of Coastal Management
Guy Stefanski	NC Division of Coastal Management
Rob Breeding	NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program
Mitch Hall	US Corps of Engineers
Chuck Wilson	US Corps of Engineers
Michelle Baker	US Fish & Wildlife Service
John Gallegos	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Kyle Hall	by phone from Elizabeth City State University

Dr. Carpenter, APNEP Science Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 1:15pm. He explained the purpose of the meeting to be a discussion of funding possibilities by the various SAV project partners present, and that the meeting was essentially a continuation of the February meeting held in Raleigh. He also reported that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the partners is being developed, the goal of which is to comprehensively map the SAV located along the NC coast and that of southeastern Virginia.

Bill Crowell, APNEP Director, explained that the APNEP was acting as project facilitator and it was intended that any data gathered would be available for use by all. He added, as project facilitator, the APNEP would be the receiving and dispersing agent of funds contributed by the partners. He pointed out that because of this role, and the need to efficiently track

not only funds, but also who was doing what, it was necessary to be aware of any partners independently contracting to have SAV work done. He cited the example of \$4K the Division of Marine Fisheries paid to Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) for work in mapping the area south of Currituck Sound. Lastly he reported that the APNEP had \$20K for SAV mapping, but that the money was not necessarily targeted for ECSU.

John Stanton asked if this was consistent with the implementation plan submitted by Liz Noble from ECSU. Mr. Crowell answered that mapping was being done according to where money to do it was coming from. As an example, it referenced money coming from NOAA to map Core and Bogue Sounds.

At this point, self-introductions were made to accommodate Kyle Hall from ECSU, who was being patched-in to the meeting via telephone. Mr. Hall, who works closely with Ms. Noble, commented on the SAV maps of Currituck Sound that Ms. Noble prepared, and which were arrayed for meeting attendees to view.

Discussion ensued with Mr. Glennon inquiring how the maps being shown compared with the ones developed by NOAA in the past. Mr. Crowell commented that there was not that much to compare, as the work done by NOAA essentially did not include Back Bay. He added that there needed to be a distinction between SAV habitat and SAV presence.

Scott Chappell inquired about the existence of any ancillary data associated with the mapped polygons, in answer to which Mr. Hall suggested that Mr. Chappell phone him at ECSU.

Bob Glennon asked about aerial photography for Pea Island to which Mr. Hall responded that he had worked with the NC Department of Transportation and that there were digitized images available.

It was mentioned that Mr. Hall would soon be leaving ECSU (7/6) to pursue graduate studies at Virginia Tech.

Mr. Crowell then posed the question of where the project was next going. He said he was told by Ms. Noble that the USFWS had funds established

for mapping (\$47K) and that Pea Island photos flown last spring were in digital format, but needed to be rectified and undergo ground-truthing.

Mr. Crowell mentioned that the Chesapeake Bay program does aerial photography every year, but that flying every two years, and doing it section by section, was more in keeping with our project's financial reality. Elaborating the point, Dr. Carpenter added that the cost to the Chesapeake Bay program is approximately \$400K yearly for the flights, digitizing, and manually or digitally geo-rectifying the imagery to be converted into maps. He added that the Chesapeake Bay Program also does ground-truthing.

Chuck Wilson, COE, suggested that the Currituck Sound portion of the project be accepted as done and that attention should next be drawn to points beginning below that on the coast. Both Dr. Carpenter and Mr. Crowell concurred adding that an APNEP proposal for funding to Smithfield Foods for SAV mapping has been submitted.

At this point, Mr. Crowell suggested that a comprehensive mapping strategy needed to be developed along with mechanisms for funding it. He mentioned that the NC Division of Coastal Management (DCM) was interested in SAV and Tancred Miller, from DCM, distributed a map of areas covered by digital orthophotography, as well as a listing of digital orthophoto data DCM has in-house pertaining to the 20 coastal counties.

Mr. Miller interpreted the map he had distributed saying that DCM could provide financial support of the areas depicted by the black polygons, and those areas that were left on the map could be paid for by partners in the APNEP working group, Smithfield Foods, etc.

To this Mr. Crowell replied that it was important to make sure that DCM's specs were the same as what were needed by the SAV project. Mr. Stefanski, DCM, said that his agency wants to do more in the estuarine shoreline area, and that they map the ocean shoreline every 5 years to determine erosion rates. He added that the September/October period is ideal for their work.

ACTION ITEM: DCM should look at the specifications and constraints under which Ms. Noble conducted her work, and before the next meeting

should get back with Mr. Crowell and Dr. Carpenter relative to their proposed estuarine shoreline activities.

At this point direction was turned to budgetary needs with Mr. Crowell asking each agency representative what they perceived their financial contribution to the SAV project to be.

John Stanton, USFWS, said there was \$47K available from their regions 4 & 5. He referenced a 2-page financial strategy document prepared by Bob Noffsinger prior to his retirement, adding that these funds needed to be obligated by October 1, 2005, the beginning of the new federal fiscal year. It was brought to everyone's attention that these funds needed to be matched at a 1:1 rate (either by in-kind services or money) and the match had to be non-federal funds. The importance of knowing who paid for the DOT photos of Pea Island (?) was emphasized because of this requirement.

The contribution figures attributable to other partners were:

Division of Marine Fisheries	\$5K
ECSU	\$18K
NC Division of Water Quality	\$7.8K
APNEP	\$15K
Wildlife Resources Commission	\$20K + \$5K (in-kind)

It was again mentioned that the Pea Island photography was done, but that it needed to be rectified, and that NOAA was paying ECSU for polygon development.

Mr. Crowell said given the complexities of the SAV project that having a person dedicate part of their job time to being a SAV Project Administrator was not outside the realm of possibility.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Carpenter, John Stanton and Liz Noble should meet soon to determine where current funding stands and what she sees as needed for the future.

Mr. Crowell outlined the 2 options available for continuing the SAV project:

1.) Partner contracts individually with entities to accomplish various aspects of SAV work; or

2.) APNEP, as SAV project facilitator, becomes receiving/dispersing agent for funds.

John Stanton inquired how the latter arrangement would work. In answering, Mr. Crowell said that the APNEP would initiate a contract with (for example) the USFWS to receive their funds and then APNEP would enter into contractual agreement with those accomplishing the actual work (for example), universities, etc.

ACTION ITEM: John Stanton will consult with Dr. Carpenter and Ms. Noble and get the results of their consultations out to the group by next week (6/20/05).

ACTION ITEM: A Scope of Work needs to be done for Pea Island.