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## **SAV Partners' Summer 2007 Meeting**

Greenville Center at East Carolina University

Greenville, NC

August 22, 2007

### **Minutes**

#### **Those Attending:**

Joan Giordano	APNEP
Dean Carpenter	APNEP
Lucy Henry	APNEP
Chad Smith	APNEP
Jimmy Johnson	APNEP/DENR
Joe Luczkovich	ECU/IICSP
David Knowles	ECU
Tancred Miller	NCDCM
Jill Fegley	NCDCM - Coastal Reserve
Jaquie Ott	NCDCM - Coastal Reserve
Scott Chappell	NCDMF
Mike Street	NCDMF
Brian Conrad	NCDMF
Danielle Mir-Gonzalez	NCDWQ - Environmental Science
Rob Breeding	NCEEP
Joe Fuller	NCWRC
Kendall Smith	USFWS
John Stanton	USFWS-Columbia Migratory Bird Field Office
John Gallegos	USFWS-Back Bay

Dean Carpenter called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm and asked for any changes or additions to the meeting agenda. Mike Street expressed desire for an addition to the agenda, as did Dr. Carpenter. Mr. Street's request dealt with the possible need for securing "SAV collection" permits and Dr. Carpenter's with devising a protocol for interpreting SAV data.

#### **Monitoring/Mapping Discussion**

##### **APNEP-NOAA Aerial Imagery Update:**

Dr. Carpenter reported that he and APNEP Director, Bill Crowell, participated in a teleconference with the NOAA Coastal Services Center and a representative from

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the aerial flight contractor, Dewberry, on August 22. Their discussion dealt primarily with contract details: settling on a price for anticipated services, flight window dates, flight altitudes and areas to be flown, and subcontractor Aero-Metric responsibilities.

### Field Monitoring Protocols and Partner Commitments, Part 1:

Scott Chappell (for Anne Deaton) reported on the monitor training held at the DENR Washington Regional Office. There were 12 people present and they represented agencies of the Division of Marine Fisheries, Division of Water Quality, and the APNEP Citizens' Monitoring Network. He added that there was a need to redo the "cheat-sheet" for identifying SAV grasses. It was at this point that Mike Street mentioned the need for obtaining SAV collection permits. Mr. Street agreed to obtain a blanket permit and asked for an accurate listing of monitors and their respective affiliations. He further committed to making sure all monitors had letters available "in their hands" when monitoring. Jill Fegley added that she thought the data collection sheet was too complex and might prove difficult for monitors to use. It was agreed that monitoring would commence coincident with flight windows which were thought to be optimal between September 10 and October 20, 2007.

### Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) Mapping Project Update:

Neither Ms. Noble nor Ms. Noblitt was present to report.

### SAV Mapping of 2004 Pea Island Imagery:

Brian Conrad reported that in 2004 the NC Department of Transportation flew the area of Pea Island and subsequently made the images available to the SAV Partners. Of the 135 images Mr. Conrad downloaded, 27 are usable and, of those, 8 have already been rectified with no ground control points. One of the 8 has been delineated.

### Field Monitoring Protocols and Partner Commitments, Part 2:

Discussion returned to the topic of field monitoring protocols for the upcoming mapping exercise, particularly with respect to how many grabs per site were possible and how many sites were realistic to monitor; sending notice to the monitors apprising them of the optimal time to go out; and that ground-truthing should occur no earlier than September 10.

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### **Assessment & Restoration Discussion**

#### **Restoration Ad-Hoc Committee Report:**

John Gallegos reported that a summary (white paper) of information and techniques used for restoration in the Chesapeake Bay would be emailed to ad-hoc committee members. He said the summary was prepared by a number of his interns following a literature search.

#### **USFWS Restoration Grant:**

John Stanton offered a follow-up to the last SAV meeting regarding grant funding for restoration. He reported that he received a proposal from ECSU and one from East Carolina University (ECU). Unfortunately, the ECU proposal was received after the submittal deadline.

Discussion ensued regarding the ECSU proposal of making experimental plantings in Currituck Sound and Back Bay with John Stanton agreeing to get more details of the contract so further discussion could take place via email and conference calls. He asked if Ms. Noble should perhaps be included on the Restoration Ad-Hoc Committee. The issue of a private concern planting and harvesting SAV in public trust waters was raised. The question centered on the need of a harvesting permit to do the work and the efficacy of obtaining one. Lastly, it was mentioned that Chuck Wilson, USCOE, might make a good addition to the Restoration Ad-Hoc Committee because of his experience with the Currituck Sound Study and his knowledge of Back Bay [Editor's note: Mr. Wilson has been a member of the Restoration Ad-Hoc Committee].

#### **Planning for SAV Mapping:**

Dr. Carpenter broached his suggested addition to the agenda - how to interpret the data? He pointed out the need to devise an SAV mapping protocol, and determine the cost of data interpretation. Brian Conrad volunteered to take the lead on this effort, and asked for recommendations of organizations who had the capability to interpret the images recommendations besides those at ECSU and NCCGIA. It was mentioned that revenue accruing from the new recreational fishing licenses might be dedicated to this interpretation.

### **Policy & Outreach Discussion**

#### **Outreach Ad-Hoc Committee Report:**

Jacquie Ott reported that the Coastal Reserve Program has the task "to promote the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP)" and CRP staff propose that SAV

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outreach and education as fulfilling that responsibility. Ms. Ott and Jill Fegley presented a matrix poster (electronic version distributed prior to the meeting) for SAV Partners to share their opinion (via rank prioritization) on what outreach products (e.g., tangibles, pamphlets, newsletters, web sites) would be most effective to particular sectors of the stakeholder population. This feedback will be used by CRP staff to target their initial efforts at SAV outreach.

### Portal Update:

Dr. Carpenter reported that with APNEP posting their new web presence earlier this month came a portal for the SAV Partnership [www.apnep.org/pages/sav.html](http://www.apnep.org/pages/sav.html). So far only the portal's home page, the Memorandum of Understanding, and Partners list are posted.