

SAV All-Hands Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth City State University

Elizabeth City, NC

March 15, 2006

Attendees

Dean Carpenter – APNEP

Liz Noble – ECSU

John Stanton, John Gallegos – USFWS

Kevin Dockendorf, Joe Fuller, Maria Tripp – NCWRC

Rob Breeding – EEP

Scott Chappell – NCDMF

Gloria Putnam – NCDWQ (via phone)

Don Field – NOAA, Beaufort

Kathleen Angione – NC Sea Grant

Joe Luczkovich, David Knowles – ECU

Jeff Deblieu TNC

DC - Introduction

Four discussion sessions today

Mapping & Monitoring

Assessment

Restoration

Policy & Outreach

Propose update of Goals, Strategies, and Tasks (current version is 1.03)

MOU is mostly finalized with NCDENR attorney review, signatures are forthcoming

Session 1: Mapping & Monitoring

LN - Mapping & Monitoring presentation

Discussion of Phase I, II, and III

Method and technology

SAV portal via ECSU soon to be available on web

JG - Ground truthing standards should be established

Water testing, post-hole digger plugs, species analysis – five samples from each area

Percent coverage, depth, clarity, spatial accuracy assessment (5' buffer to interpreted edge)

Occurred one year after aerials

LN - ECSU's SAV website overview and presentation - includes forums, downloads, file sharing.

ECSU research position has been funded, soon to be posted

JS - Presentation / discussion of USFWS funding methods

Region 4 (includes NC) / Region 5 (includes VA) have ecoteam to allocate funds – SAV is a priority

Monetary cap on FWS ecoregion proposals -- \$300,000 – 400,000 (For entire Southeast). Ecoteam proposals are usually for 10-25K)

Get mapping proposals to FWS ecoteams to get higher priority than going through regular channels

Some overlap in funding cycles may occur (this one ends September 30)

Likely to request funds again July 2006 for a new cycle (five years to spend allocated fund)

New agreement needs to define next area to be surveyed

JL - Pamlico River?

- LN - Southern estuaries below New River – DMF / CHPP request
- JL - Areas with rapid change in land use – blue crab studies exist in Pungo area
- SC - Suggest Pungo River area
- LN - Maps for southern Albemarle are almost done – ground truthing for Alligator River
Bulls Bay is nearing completion
David Eggleston (NCSU) is completing the work and is a new partner
- JS - Propose agreement for regions not done south Pea Island, Salvo, Oregon Inlet and send draft out to the group to review
- JD - Suggest spend current \$45K for rest of Albemarle, south of Salvo areas
next round come back up to Tar / Pamlico then Croatan Sound

Group: Need to add ECSU data to SAV inventory coverage (see Session 2). 2002 Albemarle Sound shape files not available. Propose redo of Albemarle Sound due to different methods used – aerial imagery. Where and how to continue mapping? Considered prioritizing based on record of grass beds in rapidly developing areas – discarded in favor of systematic north to south approach. LN conveyed that digital aerial photography of Albemarle Sound was taken. Suggestion to continue mapping in eastern Pamlico, then Tar-Pamlico, and southward.

Session 2: Assessment

- KD - Historical Accounts Ad-Hoc Committee – Presentation and handouts
time line and review of available literature have been presented
- DF - New fields for spreadsheets for new digital imagery
Mark Finkbeiner at NOAA-CSC (Coastal Services Center) can provide assistance
- LN - Availability field (i.e. is it on the portal?)
- JL - Specify water quality – depth, turbidity
- KD - May subcategorize, but should keep the table modest
- SC - Computer demonstrations of available data on abbreviated table of studies
- DC - Asked Steve Mitchell for NCDOT aeriels to discern if data from Whalehead could be used as historical reference
SAV transcripts from Whalehead were forwarded by SM (year 1 data)

Group: Mentioned need to incorporate SAV mapping by Dave Eggleston with NCSU. Group informed that DOQ CIRs and DCM air photos probably not useful for SAV mapping due to timing issues. Need to inform JS about areas being mapped by others – so we don't duplicate efforts. Questions arose about what constitutes baseline data? Is it only aerial photos? Consensus was that only remotely sensed and ground verified data counts.

Session 3: Restoration

General discussion concerning a restoration committee.

DK, JD, RB, and JG on committee with DK as contact leader.

- JD - Suggest a model to look at places that meet habitat criteria
- JG - Historical accounts with current overlap to define good restoration areas

Contact should be made with VIMS, Judd Kenworthy, Mark Fonseca, Florida for possible contact

SC - Watershed restoration monitoring – bad watershed area would lead to poor success

JG - Turbidity is biggest issue in SAV return to Back Bay

SC - Conduct / review “restoration feasibility”

Session 4: Policy & Outreach

LN - Restoration and outreach could be mixed with schools and communities

DC - Sea Grant and NERR to assist with outreach – committee should be formed next meeting

GP - General education posters for CHPP includes SAV (2,000 printed)

DC - Review of APNEP website and STAC info as model

Final Comments & Action Items

DF - April through third week in May are proposed flights from Bogue north (Straights)
using 1/3 meter resolution – Digital Mapping Camera (corrects plane movement in data)

RB - Want to use SAV beds for restoration / mitigation (Mark Brinson / EEP) find a site in the
Bogue Sound area

JL - Will be working in Core Sound area and will offer acoustic instrumental data

DC - Action Items for next meeting

LN - Mapping / Monitoring
Overview of Bogue / Core Sound transects
GIS database – Pea Island, northern Albemarle are finishing

KD - Historical
Continued update of spread sheets
Overlap of field areas – link to restoration committee work

DC - NCDOT aerials

SC - Should be a clearing house for keeping all data

DN - Restoration criteria to prioritize sites, list techniques for sites / species

DC - Outreach committee to be formed next meeting

LN – suggest barrier island / SAV education for developers etc.

SC- Report from DWQ Rapid Response on their SAV monitoring work
Internet map server for SAV mapping inventory on DMF's website

JF - Suggest flying between Kitty Hawk Bay and Pea Island

JS - Will add to proposal