



## Virginia Coastal Zone MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Coastal Policy Team Meeting September 30, 2009

#### Meeting Summary

##### **Welcome and Intros**

Two new CZM staff were introduced, Beth Polak, Coastal Planner, who started in May and April Bahen, Grants Coordinator/Public Outreach Specialist, who started at the end of August.

##### **Wind Energy Development within VA Waters (Tony Watkinson)**

Tony Watkinson described progress to date and future plans for how the Marine Resources Commission will address reporting requirements under Senate Bill 1350, which gives MRC the Renewable Energy Authority to lease subaqueous lands. The State Submerged Minerals Management Plan will be amended to include Renewable Energy. The MRC report in March to the General Assembly will lay out the potential sites with the fewest use conflicts that could be available for leasing for wind energy projects. In the current analysis, the sole focus is on the development of wind energy sites at the commercial level of 3-4 turbines or above, not on the private, individual level. There is also another permit process being worked on by DEQ for a permit by rule for wind energy projects less than 100 MW.

##### **Wind Energy Development within Federal Waters Offshore of Virginia (Tim Ryan and Eamon Perrell)**

APEX Offshore Wind of Charlottesville, Virginia is a private company that is part of Greenlight Energy Resources (which is the parent company to Axio Power, Greenlight Biofuels, and Columbia). Tim Ryan is the President of APEX, and they are developing a project offshore of Virginia Beach which would cover about 116,000 acres near Chesapeake lighthouse. The site assessment happens 5 years before construction, but it could be closer to 8-10 years from January 2010 before energy comes ashore. Currently there is no supply chain established for wind energy in Virginia, but APEX would like to create one. While speaking of the technical aspect of the project, Eamon Perrell stated that high voltage DC cable is preferred over AC cable because transmission loss is less, there is less electromagnetic radiation, and it can be buried. It was also mentioned that Clipper Turbines could possibly be more financially feasible. When asked about the project's avian impact, Bryan Watts of the Center for Conservation Biology noted that impacts are expected to be minimal when turbines are that far (12 miles) offshore. Most birds stay closer to shore.

##### **Executive Order Update**

A number of changes were suggested for the new Executive Order needed for the next Governor to sign in 2010. The first was to add a more complete subtitle for the first heading (not just "Coastal Zone Management"); second add "beaches" to the list in Goal #1; add another goal about climate change or put it under Goal #4 with CZM staff drafting the language; add language about Marine Spatial Planning under Goal #9;

include the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME) as a partner agency; move CBLAD under DCR; and finally take out the word “consistency” where conflict resolution is going to happen and think about different wording to insert.

### **Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Subcommittee**

Mike Murphy and Ann Regn discussed the need to set up a subcommittee of the CPT to address Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases so that all partners and agencies are saying the same thing and working together. The decision was made to try to hold a meeting first of CPT participants, then create a subcommittee of the CPT to address the issues. The idea will be to start generally, then focus on individual agencies and groups and what they can do. Two things to focus on at first are to carry out a needs assessment for local governments and to review the products that are already out there. One good resource for addressing Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases is George Mason’s Center for Climate Change Communication. It was also noted that it may be important to wait for results of the November 2009 gubernatorial election before proceeding too far in a particular direction.

### **Upcoming Program Change**

Shep Moon reported that FY 2009, Task 91.02 has \$29,433 for a contract with the Environmental Law Institute to work on a Routine Program Change or a Program Amendment. The issue decided upon was to include Threatened and Endangered Species state enforceable policies under the Program Change because there are 20+ state-listed species that are currently not covered by Federal protection. DGIF and DCR reps supported this. VDOT objected to this because too many agencies would be involved and another permit would be required. Mike Murphy noted that if a permit is not required, some state-listed species will fall through the cracks.

### **Section 309 Coastal Needs Assessment and Strategy**

Tanya Denckla Cobb of UVA/IEN will be working with graduate students Sandra Bottom, Philip Dales, and Robin Proebsting, as well as former IEN graduate student Christine Gyovai to carry out interviews and write the draft Section 309 Assessment & Strategy document. Five year grant strategies will be developed for “High Priority” coastal and ocean needs. The initial draft of the Assessment will be completed by the end of December. Review of the draft will occur in January. Another CPT Meeting will be scheduled in February to rank the nine issues. Up to four Focus Groups will be held by the end of April (or March). Federal Coastal Zone Management Performance Measures (especially State Contextual Measures) will provide some information for the Assessment and Strategy. John Kuriawa will look for parallels between the 309 Assessment and Strategy and the NOAA CZMP Performance Measures.

### **FY 2007 and 2008 Reprogrammed Grants**

An update on seven new grants was presented by Laura McKay. Three deal with the creation of priority estuarine conservation area mapping in the Chesapeake Bay, Back Bay, and the Seaside. These will complement the recently completed Priority Land Conservation Area map created through a CZM grant to DGIF/DCR/VCU. The Priority

Land Conservation Area map was presented to the CPT. It is expected that the new PCA map will be included in the final CELCP Plan which Beth Polak is working on for submission to NOAA.

### **MARCO News**

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean website address was given to the CPT: [www.midatlanticocean.org](http://www.midatlanticocean.org) so they can view and hopefully track progress on the “action items” that were agreed to at the June 2009 Governors’ Summit in New York. Laura McKay reported that the President’s Ocean Policy Task Force will be releasing a draft Framework for Marine Spatial Planning document and soliciting public comments. Several parties are working with OMB in hopes of getting substantial funding for Regional Ocean Partnerships and Marine Spatial Plans in the President’s FY 2011 budget which should be released by February 2010.

### **CZM Winter 2010 Open House**

At the time of this CPT meeting, CZM was considering holding the Coastal Partners Workshop the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February, possibly the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. Virginia Witmer asked to get a group together to flesh out the details of the workshop, including a theme and groups to have at discussion tables. The possibility of combining it with a Climate Change Outreach meeting or with the Sea Grant Partners’ Symposium was discussed briefly. [NOTE: Subsequently, CZM staff decided not to go ahead with the event given travel and other budget restrictions.]

### **CZM Electronic Newsletter**

The CZM program suggested creating and distributing an e-newsletter if the CPT is interested in contributing to it. There was initial interest from the CPT to have CZM develop an e-newsletter. So CZM will draft an e-newsletter and send it to CPT members to see if there is enough interest and contributions from the group to continue development and distribution.

### **Agency Updates**

Joan Salvati noted that CBLAD’s Phase III code and ordinance review had begun. DCR will be looking at all 84 coastal localities using a code & ordinance worksheet checklist.

#### **ATTENDEES:**

Bahen, April (DEQ, VACZM)  
Carlock, John (HRPDC)  
Erdle, Sandra (VIMS, CBNERRS)  
Fernald, Ray (DGIF)  
Grape, Laura (NVPDC)  
Harmon, Tracey (VDOT)  
Hartley, Troy (VIMS, Virginia Sea Grant)  
Henichak, Michelle (DEQ, Water Division)  
Jenkins, Ron (DOF)  
Jurman, Ken (DMME)  
Kuriawa, John (NOAA, OCRM)  
Lawrence, Lewie (MPPDC)  
Mason, Pam (VIMS)

McKay, Laura (DEQ, VACZM)  
McKenzie, Stuart (NNPDC)  
Meade, Nick (DEQ, VACZM)  
Moon, Shep (DEQ, VACZM)  
  
Murphy, Mike (DEQ)  
Perrel, Eamon (Apex Wind Energy, Inc.)  
Polak, Beth (DEQ, VACZM)  
Regn, Ann (DEQ, EE Office)  
Rovner, Nikki (Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources)  
Ryan, Tim (Apex Wind Energy, Inc.)  
Salkovitz, Dan (DEQ, Air Division)  
Salvati, Joan (DCR, CBLA)

Smith, Curtis (ANPDC)  
Smith, Sarah (RRPDC)  
Smith, Tom (DCR, DNH)  
Stewart, Jackie (RRPDC)  
Murphy, Elizabeth (VMRC)

Varnell, Lyle (VIMS)  
Walz, Steve (DMME)  
Watkinson, Tony (VMRC)  
Witmer, Virginia (DEQ, VACZM)