



Virginia Coastal Zone MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Coastal Policy Team Meeting February 17, 2010

Meeting Summary

Draft CZMA Section 309 Assessment

Virginia CZM Program Manager Laura McKay and Institute for Environmental Negotiation (IEN) Associate Director, Tanya Denckla Cobb gave an overview of the meeting agenda and the 309 Assessment process. Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), known as the Coastal Zone Enhancement Program, is a voluntary grant program through which federal (NOAA) funds are made available to coastal states with approved coastal management programs. To receive funds, state CZM programs must assess nine specified topics of coastal zone management every five years and identify which are priorities. The nine topics are: public access, coastal hazards, ocean resources, wetlands, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts (CSI), special area management planning (SAMPs), energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture. The IEN staff has developed a draft 309 Assessment by contacting members of the Coastal Policy Team (CPT), along with others with expertise in the various subject areas.

IEN staff provided an overview of each of the 309 Assessment topics by characterizing the resources involved and the threats they face, the management programs in place and any recent changes to these programs, and priority needs and information gaps related to each topic. Members of the Coastal Policy Team discussed the Assessment and provided input on areas that need to be revised or need more research. Based on these comments, IEN staff will revise the Assessment by March 31.

In the afternoon, CPT members were asked to vote on nine Assessment topics based on their importance, appropriateness and feasibility. Issues were ranked on a scale of 1 to 15. All issues ranked between 9 and 12 points and therefore are all considered high or moderately high priorities and are eligible for strategy development. The results, in order of priority and with their score in parentheses, were:

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| 1. CSI (12.20) | 6. Energy and Government Facility Siting (11.11) |
| 2. SAMPs (12.12) | 7. Public Access (10.88) |
| 3. Coastal Hazards (12.04) | 8. Ocean Resources (10.41) |
| 4. Aquaculture (11.54) | 9. Marine Debris (9.20) |
| 5. Wetlands (11.50) | |

The next phase of the Section 309 process is to develop strategies for the next five years (October 2011 – September 2016) for new enforceable policies to address the highest priority areas. Each strategy will include objectives, as well as descriptions of CZM-funded projects designed to meet those objectives.

To begin development of these strategies the CPT decided to hold two “focus group” meetings for interested members and others contacted through the 309 Assessment process. The meetings will be facilitated by IEN and Virginia CZM staff. The first meeting on March 31 will focus on coastal lands and waters. It was decided that this

“Coastal Focus Group” will consider issues identified in the first five assessment areas: CSI (Cumulative and Secondary Impacts), SAMPs (Special Area Management Plans), Coastal Hazards, Aquaculture and Wetlands.

The second group will held on March 24th and will work on developing strategies related to ocean issues. This “Ocean Focus Group” will consider issues identified in the Ocean Resources, Energy Facility Siting and Marine Debris assessment areas. This group will consider how 309 funding could be used to address Virginia’s commitments made through the Mid Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) agreement. The Ocean Conservation Agreement addresses four topics: Habitat protection, renewable offshore energy development, water quality improvement (including marine debris issues) and climate change preparedness. The Action plan identifies multiple strategies to be pursued, many of which are appropriate for Section 309 policy development. The concept of marine spatial planning will be a key topic in this discussion

FY 10 Grant Application Schedule

Laura McKay reported that Virginia would receive roughly level funding from NOAA for FY 2010 except that Congress did not appropriate funds for the Coastal Nonpoint Program. [Note: soon after the meeting, draft allocations were received from NOAA and we expect to receive \$2,030,000 in Section 306 funds and \$536,000 in Section 309 funds for a total of \$2,566,000. The grant application process and schedule was reviewed. She noted that funding levels for continuing grants will remain the same and CZM project managers would be contacting Focal Area and Section 309 grantees to discuss budgets and scopes of work. The key grant process dates are:

- Application template delivered to grantees by February 25, 2010.
- Applications due to VA CZM Program by March 25, 2010
- Draft application to NOAA on April 15, 2010
- Final application due to NOAA on May 20, 2010

CELCP Discretionary Points

Laura McKay led a discussion of how to best allocate five discretionary points for evaluating proposals for NOAA’s competitive Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) grant application. Only three applications can be submitted. She noted that in recent years, Virginia had based its discretionary points on coastal resiliency, especially with respect to sea level rise. Parcels having land that allows wetlands to migrate inland were credited these additional points. She noted that NOAA generally prioritizes more pristine areas with high ecological significance for conservation versus restoration sites. Some CPT members expressed an interest in allocating discretionary points to parcels that could positively affect Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements or meet healthy watershed protection goals. John Kuriawa from NOAA noted, however, that Virginia would be at a distinct disadvantage compared to other states if water quality is emphasized instead of resiliency as the criteria for these points. [Note: only two CELCP applications were received by the March 1 deadline thus no state level competition was necessary.]

Draft Revised Virginia CZM Executive Order

Laura McKay summarized the changes the CPT recommended to the existing CZM Executive Order (EO) which is set to expire June 30, 2010. A new draft EO with the CPT’s recommended changes will be forwarded to the Secretary of Natural Resources for consideration by Governor McDonnell. She explained that beaches were added to

the list of coastal resources to be protected and restored in Goal #1, that sea level rise was added to the list of coastal hazards in Goal #4, and that marine spatial planning was added to the list of methods for promoting informed decision making in Goal #10. She also noted that the draft EO clarified that the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department is now a division of the Department of Conservation and Recreation and that the responsibility for coastal lands management had been moved to that agency. Lastly she noted that the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy has been added to the list of agencies responsible for assisting with the program in light of recent important activities dealing with offshore energy.

Attendees

Bahen, April (DEQ, VACZM)	McKay, Laura (DEQ, VACZM)
Baxter, Sharon (DEQ/PP)	McKenzie, Stuart (NNPDC)
Byrnes, Kevin (GWRC)	Meade, Nick (DEQ, VACZM)
Croonenberghs, Bob (VDH)	Moon, Shep (DEQ, VACZM)
Davy, John (DCR/PRR)	Polak, Beth (DEQ, VACZM)
Fernald, Ray (DGIF)	Reay, Willy (VIMS/NERRS)
Gilinsky, Ellen (DEQ/Water)	Regn, Ann (DEQ, EE Office)
Grape, Laura (NVPDC)	Salkovitz, Dan (DEQ, Air Division)
Harmon, Tracey (VDOT)	Salvati, Joan (DCR, CBLA)
Hartley, Troy (VIMS, Virginia Sea Grant)	Smith, Curtis (ANPDC)
Hill, Rick (DCR/S&W)	Smith, Sarah (RRPDC)
Irons, Ellie, (DEQ/EIR)	Smith, Tom (DCR, DNH)
Janeski, Todd (DCR/S&W)	Stewart, Jackie (RRPDC)
Jenkins, Ron (DOF)	Varnell, Lyle (VIMS)
Jurman, Ken (DMME)	Walberg, Eric (HRPDC)
Kuriawa, John (NOAA, OCRM)	Watkinson, Tony (VMRC)
Lawrence, Lewie (MPPDC)	Wesson, Jim (MRC)
Mason, Pam (VIMS)	Witmer, Virginia (DEQ, VACZM)

From UVA:

Dales, Phillip
Denkla, Tanya
Gyovai, Christine
Proebsting, Robin