



Agenda

Management Committee

Friday, February 29, 2008

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Edison College-Charlotte Campus

26300 Airport Road

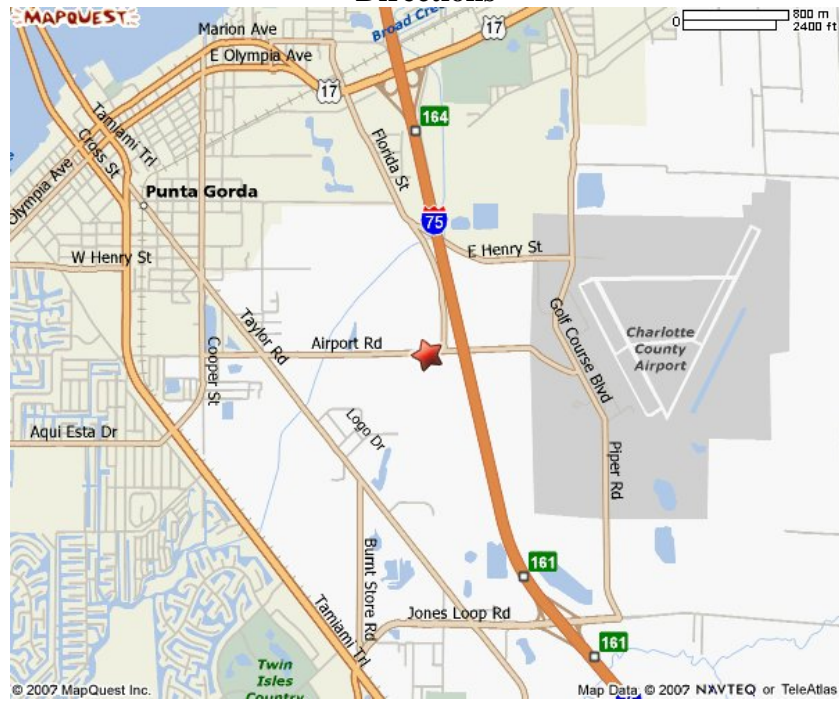
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

(941) 637-3551

1. Call to Order and Introductions— Bob Howard, Co-Chair
2. Agenda Additions or Deletions— Bob Howard, Co-Chair
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items— Bob Howard, Co-Chair
4. Meeting Minutes— Bob Howard, Co-Chair
Action Item—Approve minutes from November 2, 2007 meeting
5. CCMP Update—Lisa Beever
Action Item—Recommend approval of the CCMP Update
6. Compendium of Existing Monitoring Programs—Lisa Beever
Action Item— Motion to recommend approval of the Compendium of Existing Monitoring Programs update and hosting the database at www.CHNEP.org.
7. State of Estuaries and Watersheds and Conservancy Report Card—Lisa Beever
Action Item— Recommend preparing a State of the Estuaries and Watersheds dcoument through the Management Conference.
8. Research and Restoration Partners—Catherine Corbett
Action Item— Recommend project applications F, I, J, A and B for funding.
9. Pre-Development Vegetation Map—Catherine Corbett
Action Item: Approve project for funding.
10. Reservoir Workshop—Lisa Beever
Action Item— Recommend direction to staff to seek grant funding and plan workshop
11. FY 09 Workplan Discussion—Lisa Beever
12. Advocacy Update—Lisa Beever
13. TAC Report— Judy Ott or Greg Blanchard, Co-Chairs
14. CAC Report— Kayton Nedza or Warren Bush, Co-Chairs
15. ABM Report—Lisa Beever
16. NEP Program Report—NEP staff
17. Member Comments— Members announce upcoming events or current issues
18. Public Comments
19. Next Meeting's Topics, Location and Date- *Arcadia*, Friday, May 1, 2008
2009 Workplan
20. Adjourn

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Directions



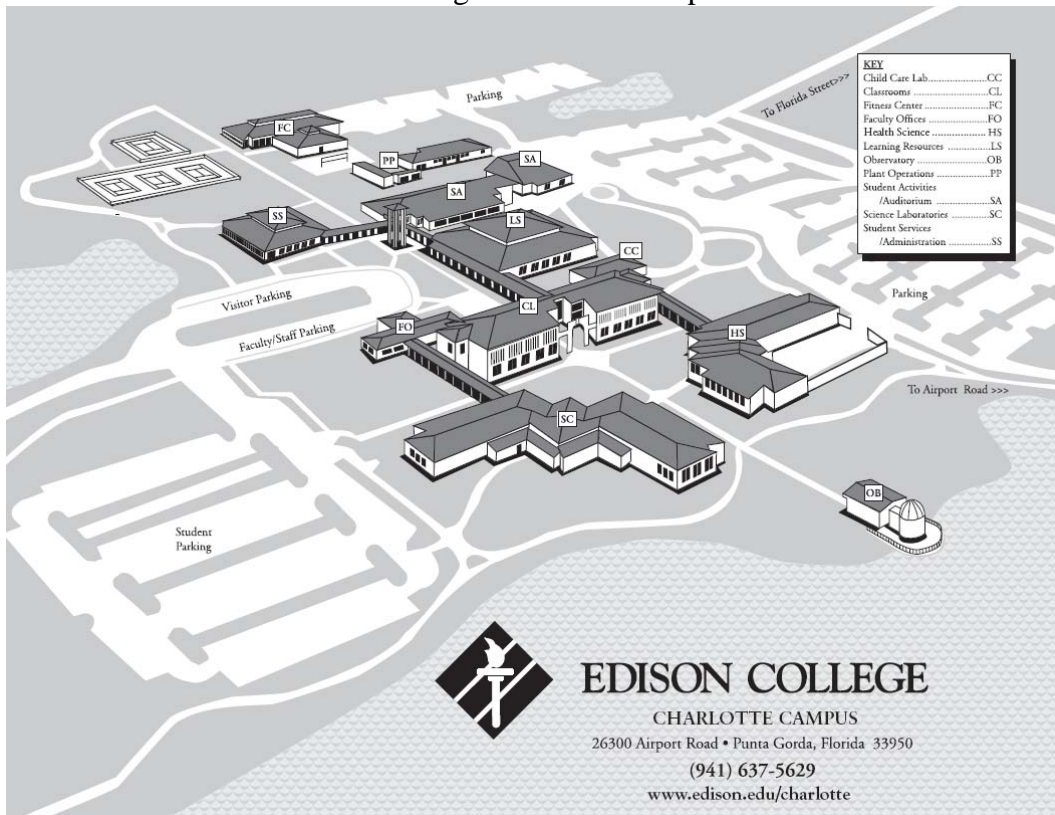
From I-75, exit 161 onto Jones Loop Road and head west.

Turn right at the first stoplight, Taylor Road.

Turn right at the next stoplight, Airport Road.

Heading east, turn left at the Edison College Campus. This will be before the bridge over I-75.

Proceed to the Student Activities Building shown in the map below.



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Members Present:

Joan Bush	CHNEP CAC
Warren Bush	CHNEP CAC
Alton Cheatham	Charlotte County Soil & Water
Lizanne Garcia	SWFWMD, Resource Management Dept.
Bob Howard	USEPA, Region 4
Robert Kollinger	Polk County Natural Resources
Judy Ott	FDEP/Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves/CHNEP TAC
Heather Stafford	FDEP
Andy Stevens	Charlotte County Natural Resources Division
Sam Stone	PRMRWSA

Also Present:

Lisa Beever	CHNEP
Liz Donley	CHNEP
Jaime Boswell	CHNEP
Nichole Gwinnett	SWFRPC

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order and Introductions – Meeting was called to order by Bob Howard, Co-Chairman at 9:35 a.m. Introductions were made.

Co-Chairman Howard announced that Co-Chairman Bo Crum will be retiring from EPA in June 2008 and he has also taken a temporary promotion until his retirement as a Division Director so he will no longer be able to attend the CHNEP meetings due to his new responsibilities.

Dr. Beever introduced Mr. Andy Stevens of the Charlotte County Natural Resources Division as the Management Committee's newest member.

Agenda Item #2. Agenda Additions or Deletions – Bob Howard, Co-Chairman

No changes were made to the agenda, so the agenda was accepted as presented.

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments on Agenda Items – Bob Howard, Co-Chairman

No public comments were made at this time.

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Agenda Item #4 – Management Committee August 3, 2007 Minutes

**MR. STONE MOVED AND MR. BUSH SECONDED TO APPROVE THE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2007. THE MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

Agenda Item #5 – CCMP Update – Lisa Beaver

During their meeting on August 3, the Management Committee recommended the following schedule for adoption of the CCMP Update:

- Request member agencies and interested parties to send comments on the 8/1/07 draft by 10/10/07.
- Issue revised draft by 10/12/07 for conference review.
- Policy Committee first reading and conceptual approval 11/19/07.
- Policy Committee second reading and formal adoption 3/17/08.
- Signing Ceremony 3/25/08 or 3/26/08 (during Watershed Summit).

Over 125 individual comments were received and most were incorporated into the CCMP. Each comment and the staff response are documented in the Draft Official CCMP Comments and Response Document.

The 13 meg CCMP update (color edition) is on our FTP site at: <ftp://ftp.swfrpc.org>

Enter user name: chnep

Password for account is: chnepaccess

The PDF document is under CCMP Update.

Note: for IE7, the user should click Page, and then click Open FTP Site in Windows Explorer.

Mr. Cheatham asked what the next step is. Dr. Beaver explained that the next step is conceptual approval of the CCMP by the Policy Committee and then in March staff will be looking for adoption approval.

Ms. Garcia thanked staff for all of their efforts in getting the CCMP to this point.

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MS. GARCIA MOVED AND MR. CHEATHAM SECONDED TO RECOMMEND CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF THE *DRAFT CCMP UPDATE*. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #6 – Environmental Indicators Report – Lisa Beaver

On May 16, 2005, the Environmental Indicators Technical Report was adopted. The environmental indicators and targets were established following the quantifiable objectives. With the draft CCMP, the TAC subcommittees worked to update the environmental indicators and targets to reflect the refinements of policy the CHNEP was pursuing. Staff took the opportunity to collect the available data and present some initial maps and charts within the report. In addition, the pages were reformatted so that each indicator is reflected on one page. Finally, an EPA-required document was added which provides a summary of environmental indicators and questions which the indicators answer. This report will serve as a beginning point to develop the State of the Watersheds and Estuaries report.

Ms. Garcia stated that she had attended that TAC meeting where they conceptually approved the document and when she returned to her office she noted that on page 28 the targets for Myakka River are not consistent with SWFWMD's minimum levels for the Myakka River. Dr. Beaver explained that she will be happy to work with SWFWMD to get those targets for the Myakka River consistent between the two documents.

Co-Chairman Howard asked what is the relationship between the Environmental Indicators Report and the CCMP. Dr. Beaver explained that the Environmental Indicators Report was based on the CCMP the end result indicators pretty much walk down the quantifiable objectives where they make a specific reference to a target and then that target is what is used to for the environmental indicators.

MS. GARCIA MOVED AND MS. BUSH SECONDED TO RECOMMEND CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS REPORT PENDING REVIEW OF THE FINAL CCMP ALSO PENDING ON THAT THE CHNEP STAFF WORK WITH THE SWFWMD STAFF ON THE MYAKKA RIVER TARGETS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #7 – Comment Letter FDEP Stormwater Design Report – Lisa Beaver

At the September 12 Science Forum, Jennifer Hecker of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida presented information related to "Evaluation of Current Stormwater Design Criteria within the State of Florida," a 2007 report written Harvey H. Harper and David B. Baker. Based on discussion at the Science Forum, staff drafted a review letter. TAC

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and CAC recommend sending the draft letter.

In addition, the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management has used the draft CHNEP letter to draft their letter.

Co-Chairman Howard asked if it is current practice by FDEP. Dr. Beever replied no it is not. Co-Chairman Howard then asked if this does go through does it have the potential to affect other entities such as the water management districts. Dr. Beever replies that she believes that it would affect other entities.

Mr. Cheatham stated that the report will be used and the current discussions within the water management districts that DEP is going to re-write the rules that will come into play where the Districts will have to implement with respect to whatever types of developments. Is there an economic analysis or an impact analysis done whenever that level of change occurs in rule making or does someone at the State level determine what the impact to the permits based on any type of economic analysis. Ms. Donley explained that when a statute is changed an analysis is done, but she is not sure if an analysis is done when there is a rule change but she can look into it.

Dr. Beever stated that a comment had come up since the letter was drafted was EPA's comment regarding the BMP nutrient removal document and in the document it reviews different types of nutrient efficiency for different kinds of BMP and that is something that can be added to the letter if the committee wishes. Co-Chairman Howard stated that he feels that it would help because it would emphasize one of the first points which is to look at a broader region.

Ms. Garcia stated that will abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest.

Ms. Ott stated that she would like see an emphasis on the nitrogen component.

MR. BUSH MOVED AND MS. OTT SECONDED TO RECOMMEND SENDING THE DRAFT LETTER REVIEWING THE "EVALUATION OF CURRENT STORMWATER DESIGN CRITERIA WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA" AS AMENDED WITH THE INCORPORATION OF APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE AND ADDING A TABLE FROM EPA RECOMMENDING A DIFFERENT NUTRIENT REMOVAL AND ALSO ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE RELATED TO SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ON HIGH WATER TABLE AND LINKS BETWEEN GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER PONDS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH MS. GARCIA, MS. STAFFORD, AND MS. OTT ABSTAINING.

Agenda Item #8 – CDOM Workshop Summary – Lisa Beaver

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The CDOM Workshop Summary document synthesizes the workshop presentations and discussions. This report was drafted by NEP staff and reviewed and modified by workshop presenters and participants. The report has a section that summarizes each workshop presentation including key graphics and points and then includes a synthesis of facilitated group discussions. If a general consensus was reached by participants, this consensus is included in that session description as well as the Executive Summary. Additional history about the workshop and its development are in the report itself.

Co-Chairman Howard asked what kind of involvement has there been outside of Florida. Dr. Beaver explained that there has been involvement from the Mid-Atlantic States, Texas, and California.

MS. STAFFORD MOVED AND MR. STONE SECONDED TO RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF THE *CDOM WORKSHOP SUMMARY*. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #9 – Historic Coastal Benthic Habitat Map – Lisa Beaver

This is a joint SWFWMD, SFWMD and Charlotte Harbor NEP project to map historic seagrass, oyster bar and intertidal unvegetated areal extent. Draft deliverables were presented to SWFWMD, SFWMD, FDEP, Lee County and Sarasota County staff on August 21, 2007. The draft deliverables were also presented to the science forum on September 12, 2007 for review and comment. The objectives for this project were as follows:

- Locate consistent historic aerial photography (1940-1950 era);
- Scan and orthorectify diapositives to produce digital images with 0.5m pixels;
- Create a historic shoreline layer;
- Photointerpret the aerial images;
- Produce a GIS data layer of historic seagrass, oyster bars, and intertidal unvegetated habitats;

The program contracted with Photo Science Inc to undertake this project. Photo Science subcontracted with a National Archives vendor to purchase the diapositives from the Archives. The vendor located 1948 photos for Sarasota County, images for Charlotte County taken in 1951-1952 and images for Lee County taken in 1953 (there were 1940s images for Lee county, but they were of poorer quality). These images were then scanned by Photo Science at 25 microns (1016 dpi), orthorectified, aeriotriangulated and mosaiked into a GIS-based product. The images were then interpreted for historic seagrass, oyster and intertidal unvegetated habitats using Florida FLUCCS codes. Historic navigation charts were used as supplemental evidence, especially for oyster bars. One researcher did all the

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photointerpretation for this project for consistency, while a second photointerpreter then reviewed the linework and benthic codes for accuracy, consistency, and topology (no gaps & no overlaps). Next, GIS staff checked for correct codes, ran adjacent polygon check, verified acreage calculation for polygons. Through a peer review process, the project manager updated the polygon delineation based on feedback. For areas around passes and inlets that were un-interpretable, such as San Carlos Bay, due to an incoming tide occluding the bay bottom type, Photo Science delineated “9999” or “un-interpretable” polygons.

The final deliverables for this project include:

- diapositives for the 3 counties to be housed at CHNEP office;
- geodatabase of historic coastal benthic habitats;
- scanned, orthorectified individual images, images mosaiked by USGS quadrangle and images mosaiked by County (~150GB);
- bay by bay segment data table listing habitat acreages by FLUCCs code;
- 1950-1960s navigation charts scanned and orthorectified; and
- metadata describing the methods used in this project

The final geodatabase is available in UTM and Albers projections from our ftp site under the file named “historic coastal benthic habitat”.

Co-Chairman Howard asked how it compares to the CCMP and coastal indicators. Dr. Beever explained that they both have a seagrass vision and earlier we used the water quality targets from our interim goals for light attenuation and water clarity, essentially now the historic benthic resources map can display the historic seagrasses minus the permanent losses in causeways and intercostals waterways.

MS. OTT MOVED AND MS. BUSH SECONDED TO APPROVE THE HISTORIC COASTAL BENTHIC HABITAT MAP PROJECT DELIVERABLES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #10 – FY09 Public Outreach Grant Guidance Document – Lisa Beever

The guidance document prepared for those who wish to submit a Public Outreach Grant application for funding consideration in fiscal year 2009 is provided for Management Conference review. Members of the CAC Grants Committee provided thoughtful comments and improvements to the Guidance Document. See 3c for additional information.

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This guidance document is very similar to the last one approved. Because the FY09 workplan is not yet approved, the budget for public outreach grants as stated in this guidance document is that it is “anticipated to be \$30,000.”

<u>Action Items</u>	<u>FY09 Schedule</u>
Approve grant guidance document	October-November 2007
Post guidance and promote grants and announce in <i>Florida Administrative Weekly</i>	December 2007
Deadline for 1 copy of draft application for staff review	September 3, 2008
Deadline for final application to committee members’ review	September 15, 2008
Grant Committee meeting	by October 2, 2008
CAC meeting	October 15, 2008

With the change in the procedure as of FY06, applications are considered by the CAC Grants Committee then by the CAC then by the Program Director. Projects may begin once a contract is signed and notarized by both the applicant and SWFRPC, the CHNEP’s host agency.

See next page for information on the number of applications received and supported each year.

Mr. Bush explained that it has been a learning curve and he believes that a workable document has come out of it.

MS. GARCIA MOVED AND MR. STONE SECONDED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE FY09 PUBLIC OUTREACH GRANT GUIDANCE DOCUMENT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH MR. CHEATHAM ABSTAINING.

Agenda Item #11 – Hendry Creek On-Site Treatment and Disposal System Pilot Project – Jaime Boswell

Onsite treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS; aka septic systems) are common in Southwest Florida, one of the most rapidly developing areas in the country. In Lee County alone 114,800 septic system permits have been issued, 8675 permits were issued in 2006 alone. Trends of increasing nutrients and elevated fecal coliform levels have been identified in the area, and draw attention the fact that failing septic systems may be contributing to the problem. The USEPA recognizes failing septic systems as one of the

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top forms of non-point source pollution. Management of septic systems is one tool that could be used to reduce pollutant loading. The CHNEP initiated a pilot education program in partnership with the SFWMD and Crews Environmental, a privately owned and operated service provider. A free pump-out and inspection was offered to select homeowners, and resulted in 18% participation. Participants voiced concern about how repairs would be financed, and the uncertainty of whether they would continue to utilize onsite systems or if they would be forced to hook-up to centralized sewer. These and other issues were discussed in an OSTDS management workshop with over 40 participants representing state, regional and county agencies, not-for-profits and septic system professionals. One of the key recommendations from the workshop was that an OSTDS management program should be implemented regionally. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Lower West Coast Watershed subcommittee is planning to draft a resolution in regards to OSTDS management.

Ms. Boswell explained that one of the problems that she found is that Lee County hasn't caught up with putting everything into a computer system so many of the records are still in a paper system so the utilities are not aware of the exact location of every septic system, onsite system, etc.

Co-Chairman Howard asked if the pump out companies gave any type of discount. Ms. Boswell explained that they gave a \$50 discount per pump out (CHNEP paid \$350 where regular price \$400) and there were 7 homes which participated. Co-Chairman Howard suggested returning next year and asking those same residents if they are having any problems or are they still happy and maybe some of their neighbors who didn't join the first time would like to have their systems pumped out.

Ms. Bush asked if most of the homes were built before 1983. Ms. Boswell replied yes.

Mr. Stone asked how you would describe the socio-economic in the area. Ms. Boswell explained that it was upper middle class, large lot size (over an acre), with the average house having four bedrooms.

Mr. Stevens asked if any of the seven systems were found to be damaged in any way. Ms. Boswell replied no.

Co-Chairman Howard asked if core samples were taken. Ms. Boswell replied no.

Ms. Boswell continued with her presentation and stated that one of the problems that municipalities are facing is the rising costs in disposing of the pump out waste. She explained that approximately 40 people attended the workshop with 15 represented agencies and two issues of concern were to have some form of management and wastewater treatment planning for the

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future, but they really stressed that education and intergovernmental coordination were the most important issues.

Co-Chairman Howard explained that he and other EPA representatives had gone on Hendry Creek in kayaks and it is not a unique problem for Hendry Creek or Charlotte Harbor and this whole area of trying to target of where the pollutants are coming from. He feels that this is really beginning to be recognized that we are not really doing a good job at this as we should be doing with our limited resources to fix the problem.

Ms. Ott gave a brief overview of the study in Port Charlotte on viruses and nutrients that was done approximately 10 years ago.

Mr. Cheatham explained that part of the problem is it is very expensive to run tests for viruses.

Co-Chairman Howard stated that there needs to be more research and applications of the technologies.

Mr. Cheatham stated that people know when their system is failing and/or need repair but can't afford to repair it. There needs to be the resources to help those people.

Ms. Boswell explained that there are other states that have programs to help people with such problems. They offer low interest loans or grants.

Co-Chairman Howard noted that some of the other NEPs (New England) have developed programs with low interest loans (FRS) to provide resources.

Agenda Item #12 – Coastal Shoreline Mapping: Photo-Interpretation and Volunteers – Jaime Boswell

Global shoreline degradation as a result of the combined influence of natural disasters and anthropogenic impacts calls for a “doable” complete methodology for assessing changes on large and small scales. Hurricane damage to shorelines in the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program region in addition to exotic vegetation infestation, sea-level rise, and rapid development highlighted the need for a shoreline condition map. The map will provide data necessary to the programs environmental indicators assessment. Two methods are being used to create a detailed shoreline map of the coastal area. Photo-interpreters are using recent high resolution photography to delineate the shoreline and assign shoreline type classification, including mangrove, exotic vegetation, rip rap, seawall, beach, other vegetation and other hardened features. Additionally, volunteer boaters are collecting on-the-ground quality of habitat assessments in developed areas of the region. Pairing the volunteer data with the photo-interpreted shoreline GIS files will

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allow for detailed spatial analysis of shoreline features. Spatial analyses will determine “hotspots” of exotic vegetation, key restoration locations, and estimates of lost mangrove habitat. Analyses in conjunction with other large scale region-wide datasets will be used to answer important questions about the role of the land-water interface in providing habitat and protecting water quality.

Co-Chairman Howard asked if there was any interest from any of the other NEPs. Ms. Boswell replied yes, Mobile Bay NEP.

Agenda Item #13 – Science Forum Report & TAC Report

Ms. Ott gave the Science Forum Report and announced that the next meeting is scheduled for the second Wednesday in January.

Ms. Ott gave the TAC report of the October 24th meeting and announced that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for February 13th.

Agenda Item #14 – CAC Report

Mr. Bush gave the CAC Report of the October 17th meeting which the CAC recommended approval of 11 community outreach grants and the next CAC meeting is scheduled for November 14th.

Mr. Stone asked if the TAC’s bylaws changed. Ms. Donley explained that the only change that was made was the designation of alternates needed to be made by email or hard copy.

Agenda Item #15 – ABM Report

Dr. Beever gave the ABM report.

Agenda Item #16 – NEP Program Report

Dr. Beever announced the release of the CHNEP’s 2008 Calendar and the Nature Festival scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd.

Ms. Donley gave a brief overview of the following issues:

- Coastal Partners Initiative Grant from DEP for Florida Friendly Yards
- SWFRPC Lower West Coast Watersheds Subcommittee FDEP Section 319 Grant

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- NOAA/ANEP Partnership Grant for Coastal Restoration Projects
- Babcock Preservation Partnership Annual Meeting - November 29th

Mr. Stone asked what is the goal of the Babcock Preservation Partnership at their annual meeting on November 29th. Ms. Donley explained that they are planning on dissolving the organization to preserve its legacy. She also explained that they will be discussing what to do with the remaining funds (approx. \$70,000).

Agenda Item #17 – Member Comments

Ms. Ott announced that the Ten Year Charlotte Harbor Water Quality Report is complete. Ms. Donley announced that the CHNEP had purchased a new DVD/CD copy printer which able to make multiple DVD/CD copies at a reasonable cost.

Co-Chairman Howard asked if the Ten Year Charlotte Harbor Water Quality Report is available on the CHNEP's website. Ms. Ott replied no. Ms. Donley stated that she will send a copy to him. Co-Chairman Howard stated that he would like to have a copy to give to his staff that does the water quality assessment work.

Co-Chairman Howard stated that he has been assigned to look into climate change and what it has to do with water and how the NEPs are strategically located and that they maybe recipients of some of the larger effects that will occur from climate changes from sea level rise, changes in eco systems, etc. He will be looking to the NEPs to look into the future to see what can be done in the future that can be done better as far as reducing the impacts of climate change.

Agenda Item #18 – Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #19 – Next Meeting's Topics, Location and Date – Friday, February 29, 2008

Dr. Beever stated that the location will be in Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte and topics of discussions will include the CCMP Update Adoption and Advocacy Tracking.

Agenda Item #20 – Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

5. COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

During their last meeting on November 2, the Management Committee recommended conceptual approval of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The Policy Committee conceptually approved the CCMP Update on November 19, with the addition of a policy action concerning climate change.

The most recent CCMP update (color edition) is on our FTP site at: <ftp://ftp.swfrpc.org>

Enter user name: chnep

Password for account is: chnepaccess

The PDF document is under CCMP Update.

Note: for IE7, the user should click Page, and then click Open FTP Site in Windows Explorer.

The conceptual approval of the CCMP Update was significant because the document became the guidance for the program. The new language has become very useful, allowing staff in early 2008 to:

- Complete a questionnaire by ICF International is working under a contract from EPA's Office of Atmospheric Programs, Climate Change Division, in cooperation with the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Oceans and Coastal Protection Division to support their work to design and implement a *Climate Ready Estuaries* program to support National Estuary Programs (NEPs) as they address climate change in their estuaries. (SG-Q)
- Send information and letter of support for Battelle to seek funds from the Department of Defense to develop a climate change decision support to aid local governments. (SG-Q)
- Send a letter requesting more additional information on the CF Industry's South Pasture Mine permit modification to include a reservoir. (HA-K)
- Respond with more certainty to the CAC as they recommended a Workshop on Reservoirs. (HA-K)

TAC asked that Map 25-Sea Level Rise be moved from the Vision section to the appropriate priority action (SG-Q), that the maps level be tied to underlying land use rather than likely human response, and vision language be modified accordingly.

TAC and CAC recommended approval of the CCMP update.

Recommendation: Motion to recommend adoption of the *CCMP Update*

Attachment: CCMP Update pages addressing climate change.

6. COMPENDIUM OF EXISTING MONITORING PROGRAMS

In 1997, CHNEP published its *Compendium of Existing Monitoring Programs in the Greater Charlotte Harbor Watershed*. Tom Fraser and Ralph Montgomery were contracted to prepare the report. Because the Compendium pre-dated the original CCMP, several monitoring programs that are not closely tied to the final (and updated) CCMP are included. In addition, several programs that were established since that time to implement the CCMP were (of course) not included.

Staff reviewed the draft Environmental Indicators Report update and identified key monitoring programs that the CHNEP relies upon. Janicki Environmental, under contract with Sarasota County, developed a structure to catalog monitoring programs that is similar to but goes beyond the CHNEP 1997 Compendium. Staff used this structure to prepare a database of critical monitoring programs to track CCMP implementation and to update the Compendium.

This database may be an excellent start to serving databases over our website because it is relatively small.

TAC and CAC recommended approval of the compendium and hosting the database on our website.

Recommendation: Motion to recommend approval of the Compendium of Existing Monitoring Programs update and hosting the database at www.CHNEP.org.

Attachment: Monitoring Programs Database printout

7. STATE OF THE ESTUARIES AND WATERSHEDS AND CONSERVANCY REPORT CARD

In 2005, CHNEP contributed \$5,000 to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida for an *Estuaries Report Card*. The funding helped to expand the scope of the Report Card to include all of the CHNEP study area, including Lemon Bay and Dona & Roberts Bays. The issuance of the *Estuaries Report Card* also helped CHNEP to meet its obligations to the EPA prior to its 2006 Triennial Implementation Review. The report rated each watershed estuary in Southwest Florida with a grade on a scale of A+ to F- for two categories: water quality and wildlife habitat. The analysis graded the health of 10 estuary watersheds: Coastal Venice, Lemon Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Pine Island Sound, Caloosahatchee River, Estero Day, which are all located within the CHNEP study area, and the Wiggins Pass/Cocohatchee River, Naples Bay, Rookery Bay and Ten Thousand Islands, which are located south of the CHNEP study area. The Conservancy anticipates conducting an evaluation every three years and publishing a new report card to determine whether the health of these estuary watersheds is improving or declining. Two versions of the report are available as PDF files: a 203-page full report at www.chnep.org/info/EstuariesReportCard2005.pdf and the 16-page summary at www.chnep.org/info/EstuariesReportCard200516pg.pdf.

With the CCMP update, Environmental Indicators Report update, collection of data related to the performance measures, and update of desktop publishing to Adobe InDesign, staff is ready to begin drafting the *State of the Estuaries and Watersheds*. Using recommendations from the CAC Environmental Indicators Subcommittee which convened in 2003, staff designed an initial spread for discussion with the Management Conference. Significant recommendations which are exhibited include:

- Make the document a keepsake rather than a throw-away.
- Follow formatting similar to the CCMP Summary.
- Use excellent examples from other NEPs including Puget Sound and Delaware Estuary.
- Include a “What You can Do” section.

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida is planning to update its Report Card and has requested CHNEP providing funding toward the effort. The request is \$10,000 to fund half of the Report Card. TAC recommended against funding the Conservancy effort and recommended developing a State of the Estuaries and Watersheds document through a Management Conference effort. The CAC plans to hold Environmental Indicators Subcommittee meetings to develop the document, inviting other conference members. Both the CAC and TAC favor developing a companion website with more data and analysis available to interested people.

Recommendation: Motion to recommend preparing a State of the Estuaries and Watersheds document through the Management Conference.

Attachment: *State of the Estuaries and Watersheds*, first spread.

8. RESEARCH AND RESTORATION PARTNERS PROJECTS

The program office received 11 Research and Restoration Partners Grants applications by the deadline of October 26, 2007. A Review Subcommittee met all day Friday, December 7, 2007 at Lemon Bay Park in Englewood, FL to review and prioritize applications for the full TAC.

Thanks to the following for their invaluable efforts:

Peter Doering, SFWMD/TAC;
Kristen Kaufman, SFWMD/TAC;
Gary Raulerson, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program;
Bob Day Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program;
Jason Utley, SWFRPC/TAC;
Kathi Rader-Gibson, Sarasota County/CAC and
Ernesto Lasso de la Vega, CAC.

The subcommittee first discussed the meeting agenda and then issues for consideration in their funding recommendations. The subcommittee then discussed each project proposal individually along with their questions or concerns with each. Next, each of the applicants was allotted 5 minutes to give a description of their project before then answering questions from the review subcommittee for another 10 minutes. Finally, each review subcommittee member completed an evaluation matrix for each project proposal, circling either "high," "medium," "low" or "do not fund." Program staff then multiplied each "high" vote by 3; each "medium" vote by 2; each "low" vote by 1; and each "do not fund" vote by 0. The mean and median values for each proposal were then determined, giving the group's prioritization. This prioritization is then listed in order of preference on a Summary sheet included within this packet.

We budgeted \$60,000 for the Research and Restoration Partners Grant Program in the FY08 Workplan. In addition, the SFWMD offered to provide \$20,000 towards project F of the R&RP Grant applications. Thus, the budget is \$70-80,000 for this item. Staff recommends following the Review Subcommittee rankings to fund in order of priority: Projects F, I, J, A, and B. The TAC recommended approval of funding projects F, I, J, A and B.

The project proposals are available electronically from the CHNEP ftp site. If you have questions or would like further information about these proposals or the Review Subcommittee's recommendations, please contact the program office at ccorbett@swfrpc.org or (239) 338-2556 ext. 241.

Our FTP site at: <ftp://ftp.swfrpc.org>

Enter user name: chnep

Password for account is: chnepaccess

The applications are within the February 13 TAC meeting folder. Note: for IE7, the user should click Page, and then click Open FTP Site in Windows Explorer.

TAC and CAC recommended approval of the 5 projects.

Recommendation: Recommend project applications F, I, J, A and B for funding.

Attachment: Review Subcommittee Rankings; Summary Sheets

10. PRE-DEVELOPMENT VEGETATION MAP

Within the technical section of the Fiscal Year 2008 Workplan is the item “Research or Monitoring Priority,” for TAC to recommend a project addressing a priority research need or knowledge gap for our environmental indicators. The FY08 workplan budgeted \$50,000 for this item. In addition, the program has \$40,000 unencumbered for this same item in the FY07 Workplan. (The “tidal shoreline condition map” project was funded with the remaining allocation towards this item in the FY07 Workplan.) Program staff recommend funding the completion of the pre-development vegetation map (PDVM) using these funds. Completion of the PDVM would allow us to determine the extent, type and quantity of habitat loss since pre-settlement. Most of the study area has been completed by SFWMD, SWFMWD, and CHNEP. Only Charlotte County and Manatee County remain.

CHNEP developed the PDVM for Sarasota in 2004 but has not been able to work on the effort in over 2 years.

Staff recommends funding the existing SFWMD contractor to undertake this effort for consistency and economy of scale. A draft summary of the proposed project, including a budget is enclosed.

TAC and CAC recommended approval of the project.

Recommendation: Recommend approval of project for funding.

Attachment: Draft project summary

10. RESERVOIR WORKSHOP

At its January 16 meeting near Wauchula, the Citizens Advisory Committee voted to recommend CHNEP host a workshop on Reservoirs. The workshop would help to implement Priority Action HA-K.

Drainage projects have changed flows to the estuaries by reducing water storage on the landscape. Because of development in areas that used to hold water, re-hydration of the landscape is not an option in many areas. Construction and management of off-stream reservoirs is one technique to hold excess water back during the wet season and deliver needed water to the estuaries in the dry season. Reservoirs may also be a component of future water supply, reducing demands on groundwater and diminishing likelihood for conductivity water quality impairments.

Both the Southwest Florida Water Management District (Regional Water Supply Plan, 12/06) and the South Florida Water Management District (Southwest Florida Feasibility Study) have identified dozens of general locations for reservoirs and other surface water storage features. In addition, SWFWMD and Hardee County are working with phosphate companies to include reservoirs in the post-reclamation landscape. Most proposals include a water quality treatment component.

This increasing emphasis on using reservoirs represents a change in public water infrastructure policy. Public concerns regarding changes in water chemistry, water budgets, habitats, and development patterns should be addressed prior to wholesale investments in reservoirs. To that end, the Citizens Advisory Committee has recommended that CHNEP conduct a Reservoirs Workshop to investigate this issue. They have requested scientific experts from outside the CHNEP area who have no investment in final decisions related to reservoirs and experts who may know most about area and existing proposals.

In preparation, CHNEP staff has begun assembling a geographic information systems shape file displaying proposed reservoirs and relative size.

TAC and CAC recommended approval of the workshop.

Recommendation: Motion to recommend direction to staff to seek grant funding and plan workshop.

Attachment: Map of Reservoirs proposed in the SWFWMD Regional Water Supply Plan, December 1, 2006.

11. FY 09 WORKPLAN DISCUSSION

In preparation for the May 2008 adoption of the Workplan, staff drafted the FY09 Workplan and FY08 Amendments for discussion.

Recommendation: No motion recommended.

Attachment: Draft FY09 Workplan and FY08 Amendments.

12. ADVOCACY TRACKING AND UPDATE

On February 21, 2003, the Policy Committee adopted its Advocacy and Review Procedures.

However, CHNEP's advocacy began four years earlier with a letter to request designation of Horse Creek as an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW). In its history, CHNEP has issued 52 letters in support of various advocacy stances. Seventeen (33%) have yielded successful results and 26 (50%) have been unsuccessful. Partial successes account for 12% and pending or unknown accounts for the remaining 18% of occurrences. Some of the unsuccessful letters have been released multiple times. For example, CHNEP has requested a region-wide programmatic EIS four times before receiving an answer on January 11, 2008. By reducing duplicate requests, our rate of non-success is 45%.

In year 2007, we issued 14 requests, more than any other previous year. Seven requests (50%) were successful with one a partial success. Over time, we have gotten better at advocating our positions and working with our partners to achieve results.

Periods of many successful letters correspond to the 2006 and 2007 State Legislative seasons as well as the recent the conceptual adoption of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) update.

Recommendation: None requested

Attachment: Advocacy Summary

13. TAC REPORT

Judy Ott or Greg Blanchard, TAC Co-Chairs, will present the TAC Report. The TAC adopted a resolution regarding Green Meetings and asks that other committees consider their own green meeting procedures.

Recommendation: No Motion Requested.

Attachment: Resolution regarding Green meetings. For further information, such as subcommittee agendas and meeting minutes, please see the NEP web site at <http://www.chnep.org/NEP/committees/MgtConf.htm>.

14. CAC REPORT

Kayton Nedza or Warren Bush, CAC Co-Chairs, will present the CAC Report.

Recommendation: No Motion Requested.

Attachment: Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the NEP web site at <http://www.chnep.org/NEP/committees/MgtConf.htm>.

15. ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT (ABM) REPORT

Lisa Beever will present the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management (ABM) Report.

Recommendation: No Motion Requested.

Attachment: ABM Agenda 2-11-08
ABM Minutes 1-14-08
ABM Minutes 12-10-07
ABM Minutes 11-19-07

18. **PROGRAM REPORT**

The following deliverables have been completed between 10-1-07 to 12-30-07.

Deliverables			
Task Number	Task	Date	Deliverable Complete
1.1	Management Conference	9/27/2007	FY08 Time and Deliverables Tracking Database
1.1	Management Conference	10/17/2007	CAC met in Hardee County to discuss several issues being considered by the entire Management Conference. Several members stayed for a walk in the Frazzini Wilderness property and others for a paddle on the Peace River.
1.1	Management Conference	10/23/2007	Draft CCMP Update for Conceptual Approval
1.1	Management Conference	10/24/2007	TAC meeting
1.1	Management Conference	11/2/2007	Management Committee meeting
1.1	Management Conference	11/13/2007	Presentation to International Estuary Conference on Mangrove Monitoring and Restoration
1.1	Management Conference	11/14/2007	CAC met at SWFPRC in Fort Myers to discuss several issues being considered by the entire Management Conference. Among other things they passed a motion to request a letter be sent to ACOE to again request an AEIS be conducted of the phosphate region.
1.1	Management Conference	11/19/2007	Conceptual Approval of CCMP Update
1.1	Management Conference	11/19/2007	Policy Committee Meeting
1.1	Management Conference	1/16/2008	CAC met in Hardee County where they heard a presentation on reservoirs and tour various aspects of the phosphate industry, including mining and reclamation sites.
1.3	Grants & Contracts Admin	9/26/2007	Revised final invoice - FY2004 contract with SWFWMD
1.3	Grants & Contracts Admin	10/30/2007	4thQ FY07 EPA report and WBE/MBE report
2.2	Events/Outreach	10/1/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center at Cedar Point offered "Explore Your Estuary" on September 22 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Twenty-seven people participated in guided walks, games, crafts, scavenger hunts, lecture and video.
2.2	Events/Outreach	10/7/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, Lemon Bay Conservancy held Coral Creek Kayak/Canoe Adventure and Picnic on October 7. Twenty-eight people learned about the history of Coral Creek by narration, enjoyed a paddle and picnic which promoted interest in the preservation of the area.
2.2	Events/Outreach	10/13/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, the Friends of Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves held a "mucking about" wading trip in Pine Island Sound on October 13. Seventeen people learned about the estuary first hand on this guided adventure.

Deliverables

Task Number	Task	Date	Deliverable Complete
2.2	Events/Outreach	10/15/2007	Approximately 40 to 60 people, primarily from DeSoto County, attended the Florida Friendly Plant Workshop on October 13, 2007 at SFCC in Arcadia. The agenda covered Florida friendly plant principles, an overview of native plants, designing your landscape, a native plant sale and more. The workshop was sponsored by SWFWMD Peace River Basin Board, CHNEP and SFCC in cooperation with Deluxe Trees and Shrubs, Pine Lily Nursery, DeSoto County Parks & Rec, and others. Lunch was sponsored by Peace River-Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority.
2.2	Events/Outreach	10/21/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, the Friends of Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves held a Coral Creek-Cape Haze Paddle on October 21. With the assistance of seven volunteers, 17 people learned about the estuary first hand on this guided adventure.
2.2	Events/Outreach	10/25/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, the Peace River Center for Writers offered "Literary passage to Charlotte Harbor and Cabbage Key." Sixty people enjoyed the day while learning about Charlotte Harbor from Missy Christy of Charlotte County, and reciting poetry. CHNEP sponsored this event.
2.2	Events/Outreach	10/25/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days Celebration, DeSoto County Parks & Recreation offered a guided canoe trip on the Peace River. Twenty-nine people participated and there was a waiting list of 12 more! CHNEP sponsored this event.
2.2	Events/Outreach	10/25/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, CHEC held "Southwest Florida's Native Peoples" on September 29 at the Alligator Creek Preserve with 38 people participating. The program from 9 to 1 included a tour of the site, visit of the Animal Clubhouse and Butterfly Garden and viewing of the film "The Domain of the Calusa" (which emphasizes the wise use of estuarine resources). Butterfly plant seedlings were available along with CHNEP information packets. CHNEP sponsored this event.
2.2	Events/Outreach	10/25/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, Manatee County Conservation Lands Management led 41 4-H club members on a Conifer Celebration on Duette Preserve on October 6. The volunteers donated 164 hours while planting 700 longleaf pine trees. CHNEP sponsored this event.
2.2	Events/Outreach	10/26/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, Charlotte County led 36 people on one of two guided boat tours of Lemon Bay. Participants learned about estuaries, watersheds and actions that deteriorate water quality and ways to reduce harmful impacts. They identified flora and fauna along the way and received information about CHNEP. CHNEP sponsored this event.
2.2	Events/Outreach	11/3/2007	Charlotte Harbor Regional Nature Festival sponsored by CHNEP with more than 50 exhibitors, guided walks and rides, talks, children's zone. Approximately 1,800 attended.
2.2	Events/Outreach	11/17/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, the Peace River Audubon Society held a 30th anniversary program on November 17, 2007. The 50 people who braved the cold weather at Ponce de Leon Park took part in a wading trip and learned about the local environment through talks and displays, including a photographic display of flora and fauna and a conservation display to help people think about steps to take to protect the environment.

Deliverables

Task Number	Task	Date	Deliverable Complete
2.2	Events/Outreach	11/18/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, the Friends of Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves held a Matlacha Pass Paddle on November 18. With the assistance of eight volunteers, 26 people learned about the estuary first hand on this guided adventure.
2.2	Events/Outreach	11/20/2007	Exhibited at "Ding" Darling Family Fund Days on October 14 at the National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island. Approximately 1,500 attended this event, which culminated a series of public programs.
2.2	Events/Outreach	11/21/2007	Exhibited at WGPU Nature Day on October 27 that was part of FGCU's 10th anniversary celebration. An estimated 100 families visited the WGPU building during the day.
2.2	Events/Outreach	12/5/2007	A professional development course, Coastal Community Planning and Development Training, was held for CHNEP partners. Twenty-one people attended the 2 day course from December 4 to 5 that was taught by NOAA Coastal Services Center.
2.2	Events/Outreach	12/6/2007	The fall quarterly meeting of the Peace River Environmental Education Network (PREEN) was held December 6, 2007. The meeting was hosted by Dennis Guenther of the City of Fort Meade and held at the Fort Meade Recreation Center.
2.2	Events/Outreach	12/19/2007	As part of CHNEP National Estuaries Days celebration, Keep Lee Beautiful held its annual Monofilament Madness AKA Marine Cleanup on October 28. Volunteers totalling 110 used their marine vessels to remove debris from the watershed, including monofilament fishing line. More than 3,000 points of debris were dropped off at four staging areas.
2.2	Events/Outreach	1/11/2008	Participated in Myakka River Management Coordinating Council meeting.
2.2	Events/Outreach	1/15/2008	Attended FYN Builder-Developer meeting in Sarasota.
2.2	Events/Outreach	1/24/2008	Exhibited at Discovery Day at Lee County's Manatee Park. Gave children who learned about estuaries the CHNEP binoculars and encouraged adults to subscribe to Harbor Happenings.
2.3	Data Management	10/30/2007	April-June 2007 Quarterly Environmental Summary
2.3	Data Management	10/31/2007	2006 Quarterly Environmental Summaries; Jan-Mar 2007 Quarterly Environmental Summary
2.4	Public Outreach Grants	10/25/2007	Students in 31 third-grade classrooms in Lee County enjoyed the Manatee Fantasea Roadshow. The program begins with the students learning about the estuary then they take on the roles of news reporters attending a press conference for the famous marine mammal Trichechus manatus latirostis, a large manatee puppet. A student sound technician circulates with a prop microphone, prompting the student reporters to ask questions. Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center is able to offer these programs because of funding from a CHNEP grant.
2.4	Public Outreach Grants	12/19/2007	The Gopher Tortoise children's activity book was developed and 5,000 copies were printed. Turtle Talk Zander Srodes will distribute to children throughout the CHNEP study area.
2.4	Public Outreach Grants	1/10/2008	Students in the Polk County learned about the importance of water conservation and how using rain barrels can help conserve water in the landscape. Seven programs were held at the Polk Environmental Education Resource (PEER) Center and five at individual schools. The 974 students and 106 adults decorated rain barrels for use in school gardens. This program has led to other conservation activities taken by the students and

Deliverables

Task Number	Task	Date	Deliverable Complete
			schools.
2.5	Micro Grants	10/1/2007	Pilot Club of Fort Myers Beach involved 288 volunteers, including many students, to "think globally, act local" during the 2006 International Coastal Cleanup on September 15 when they picked up 1,484 pounds of debris, including 4,163 cigarette butts and 792 food wrappers and 954 straws. Volunteers included area families and students from Beach Elementary, Lehigh Middle, Franklin Park, Fort Myers High, and Mirror Lake Elementary Schools.
2.5	Micro Grants	10/25/2007	Native plants were installed By Natural Resource Consulting and All Native Garden Center on the west side of the SWFRPC building where the CHNEP office is located.
2.5	Micro Grants	11/17/2007	Artists Roseline Young and Ricki Howie prepared banners for others to paint during the Art Royale event at Alliance for the Art on November 17. The Blue Watters banners depict the estuary and wildlife habitat and will be displayed throughout the study area to encourage residents to become better environment stewards.
2.5	Micro Grants	12/8/2007	The Charlotte Harbor Sierra Club distributed 166 5-minute shower timers at the El Jobean Christmas Parade on December 8.
2.5	Micro Grants	12/19/2007	The Myakka River Management Coordinating Council website (www.MyakkaRiverManagement.org) was updated and maintained from April to December 2007. The site has helped the council communicate with council members, the public, media and interested others. During this time, 1,061 visits to the site were made in an average month.
2.5	Micro Grants	12/19/2007	The Bob Riley Method encasements was used to plant mangroves as an experiment in establishing mangroves along hardened shoreline in Cape Coral. Within the month, the popagules were sprouting leaves and establishing themselves in this harsh environment.
2.5	Micro Grants	1/5/2008	Artists Roseline Young and Ricki Howie prepared banners for others to paint at the Cape Coral Library. The Blue Watters banners depict the estuary and wildlife habitat and will be displayed throughout the study area to encourage residents to become better environment stewards. Banners have been displayed at CHNEP's Smart Growth workshop.
2.5	Micro Grants	1/10/2008	Four classes of fourth grade students at Englewood Elementary School learned about their local estuary through a hands-on wading in Lemon Bay as well as poetry and art created based on their experience.
2.5	Micro Grants	1/10/2008	Each of the six 4th grade classes at Taylor Ranch School in Venice discovered the wonders of Lemon Bay estuary and watershed during CHEC-led wading trips. The students netted exciting finds such as jellyfish and pipefish while wading and observed an eagle's nest and native Florida flora while hiking during the trips that occurred on October 3, 4 and 5, 2007. These trips helped the students time in labs, centers and readings develop an understanding of how living things interact with each other and the environment and how humans impact the fragile ecosystem.
3.1	Research Coordination	11/6/2007	Estuarine Research Federation conference presentation
3.3	Research & Restoration Partners	12/7/2007	FY08 Research and Restoration Partners Grants application review meeting
4.1	Watershed	9/28/2007	City of Fort Myers List of Restoration Projects

Deliverables

Task Number	Task	Date	Deliverable Complete
	Coordination		
4.1	Watershed Coordination	10/11/2007	Numerous students and boaters volunteered to participate in a mangrove restoration event which took place on the east and west walls of Charlotte Harbor. The group planted and dispersed approximately 10,000 propagues in an attempt to restore the red mangrove fringing shoreline which was damaged during Hurricane Charley.
4.1	Watershed Coordination	10/19/2007	Quote in Charlotte Sun-Herald regarding SWIM 20th Anniversary
4.1	Watershed Coordination	12/6/2007	For both the CHNEP study area and the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study area, we have 1,730,465 acres under public management and identified needs totaling 871,995 acres. The needs were defined by multiple agencies. This is a 33% increase over current levels.
4.2	Everglades Restoration	1/23/2008	Presentation on CHNEP and SWFFS water quality targets to Caloosahatchee TMDL Working Group
4.4	Hendry Creek Septic Project	10/9/2007	Final Report to the South Florida Water Management District on the Hendry Creek Basin Onsite Treatment and Disposal System Voluntary Homeowner Management Program.
4.4	Hendry Creek Septic Project	10/10/2007	Staff completed and delivered the "Hendry Creek Basin Onsite Treatment & Disposal Systems: Implementing a Voluntary Homeowner Management Program" to the SFWMD along with the final invoice.
4.4	Hendry Creek Septic Project	1/17/2008	Presentation on OSTDS management and Hendry Creek Pilot Project results to SWFRPC subcommittee considering developing resolution on OSTDS management.
5.2	Advocacy and Review Procedures	1/25/2008	Letter to FDEP requesting additional information related to CFI South Pasture Mine modifications which would add a reservoir and water quality treatment cells