

4. Meeting Minutes

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Harbor
October 13, 2003
Charlotte County Airport,
Punta Gorda, Florida

Members Present

Commissioner Adam Cummings	Charlotte County
Mike Bauer	SFWMD
Jim Beever	FFWCC
Matt Bixler	Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Barbara Carlton	PRVCGA
John Cassani	SWFWC
Carolyn Haworth	Mote Marine
Kaley Miller	CAC
John Ryan	Sarasota County
Commissioner Jon Thaxton	Sarasota County

Staff Present

Lisa Beever	CHNEP
Liz Donley	CHNEP

(Recording of the meeting is available and of moderate quality.)

Agenda Item 1- Call to Order by Kaley Miller at 9:37.

Agenda Item 2- Welcome and Introductions. Members introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 3- Agenda Items and Deletions

There were no Agenda Item additions or deletions.

Agenda Item 4- Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the September 29, 2003 were accepted without change.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2003, LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AS WRITTEN. SECONDED BY MIKE BAUER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (2:20)

Agenda Item 5- White Paper – Council of 100 Report.

The Legislative Subcommittee requested that a position statement be developed in response to the Council of 100 report entitled “Improving Florida’s Water Supply Management Structure.” Ms. Highsmith and Dr. Beever had written the DRAFT White Paper. Dr. Beever introduced the paper and suggested it be designated “A Response” rather than a “White Paper.”

Dr. Beever will verify the volume of water comprising the net loss to the Floridian Aquifer.

Dr. Beever explained that the position statement was constructed by the Subcommittee at the previous meeting. The document is a draft, as at present it is a recommendation to the Management Conference. If and when it is approved the "Draft" will be removed.

Commissioner Thaxton voiced his concerns about endorsing the Water Commission as set forth in the Report. He also discussed the Senate Bill pre-filed by Senator Burt Saunders, SB 152 – 2020 Water Study Commission in the context of the Report and the Draft Response. Com. Thaxton explained the potential composition of the Water Board and that it may have only one environmental voice on it, the requirement of a two-thirds majority is difficult to overcome. He stated that he is reluctant to endorse the Water Board.

He suggested that the language of the response state that the conference opposes but if it is going to happen, there needs to be more of a local government involvement.

Com. Cummings stated that different basins have different issues, which the current WMD seem to address. Dr. Bauer also had some reservations about the report and bill.

Ms. Carlton stated that water is a very regional issue.

Dr. Beever will revise the text based on the discussion among the Subcommittee members.

Com. Cummings raised a question about the Scientific Advisory Committee. After discussion, Dr. Beever stated that the draft response will be mute on the issue of establishing a Scientific Advisory Committee.

The Subcommittee discussed additional matters raised within the Report.

There was no motion on this matter. Dr. Beever will revise the text and circulate it among Subcommittee members prior to submitting the document to the Management Conference.

Mr. Beever suggested that a preamble be developed for inclusion that delineates the CHNEP's CCMP and its stake in this matter, that the CHNEP is a stakeholder. Dr. Beever will add reference to CWA section 320 .

MOTION BY MR. BEEVER MADE THE TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE REPOSNE PAPER AS DISCUSSED AND FORWARD THE DOCUMENT ON IN THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE. COM. CUMMINGS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (22:00)

Com. Thaxton stated that Sarasota County Commission passed a resolution against the Report of 100 recommendations. He offered to send the resolution to Dr. Beever who would forward a copy to Comm. Cummings.

Agenda Item 6- Partners Legislative Agendas

The legislative agenda submitted by Lee County was presented. Subcommittee members were encouraged to forward their agency legislative agendas for discussion within the Subcommittee.

Dr. Beever agreed to email conference members for copies of their legislative agendas for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 7- Draft CHNEP Legislative Agenda

The Draft Legislative Agenda had been revised based on recommendations of the Subcommittee at the previous meeting.

The SWFWC has developed Draft legislative agenda that will be available soon.

The Subcommittee anticipates treating the Legislative Agenda as a working document in order to incorporate legislative agendas of the partners when available for review and incorporation and because the legislative session can be dynamic. The CHNEP staff will review the Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties.

The Legislative Agenda will be amended to include: full funding of Florida Forever and keeping the funding for land acquisition, addressing internal and external “raids; ” OFW designation for Horse Creek; and reservations for Caloosahatchee, Estero Bay, and Peace River. A preamble and introduction will be drafted.

The subcommittee recommended that the Draft document be given to the next conference cycle for review.

MOTION BY COM. CUMMINGS TO TRANSMIT REVISED LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA TO MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE SECOND BY COM.
THAXTON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (38+)

Agenda Item 8- Subcommittee Draft Priorities

This item is a list of draft priorities that were discussed at the previous meeting.

The Subcommittee discussed the merits of developing one-page sheets presenting the priorities of the CHNEP legislative Agenda in bullet format (less is better). CHNEP staff will develop and appendix that may consist of single page presentation pieces for State matters and one for Federal matters for use by Conference members, a PowerPoint presentation to forward the Priorities of the CHNEP.

Agenda Item 9- Update on Upcoming Legislative Session

The Agenda packet included all current information about bills and committee actions.

The Subcommittee discussed that members of the legislature have expressed that this will be a “Big Water” year.

Mr. Beever mentioned that mineral exploration on the Coastal Shelf to generate funds for the State will be proposed, and rescinding the class size and high-speed rail.

Agenda Item 10- Website Enhancements

CHNEP staff identified websites that met the criteria set forth at the previous meeting to assist Subcommittee members in accessing information about the upcoming Legislative sessions. The Subcommittee members did not have any additions to list at this time. CHNEP staff will upload these links to the CHNEP website.

Commissioner Adams suggested that the Subcommittee Agenda materials be made available on the CHNEP website prior to the meetings so that members can access the information. He also suggested that meeting minutes be posted.

A "hot topics" button linked to fast moving matters partnered with email message out to Conference members when revised.

Agenda Item 11- Agenda Items for Next Subcommittee Meeting

The Subcommittee discussed inviting legislative aides for the State Legislators to the next meeting. CHNEP staff will make calls to determine the availability of the aides on the date of the next Subcommittee meeting. It was proposed that the PowerPoint presentation could be show to the Aides.

Agenda Item 12- Member's Comments

Com. Cummings introduced Alyson Gonzalez of the Charlotte Sun.

Dr. Bauer mentioned Mr. Beever's participation in a documentary airing on WGPU, public television.

Ms. Haworth stated she will be in Tallahassee next week and offered her assistance. There are several legislators that are planning on introducing bills that will affect Charlotte Harbor.

Agenda Item 13- Staff Comments

There were no comments.

Agenda Item 14- Public Comment

There were no comments.

Agenda Item 15- Next Meetings Topics, Location and Date

The next subcommittee meeting will be held on November 19, 2003, at 9:30 am at a location to be determined. CHNEP staff will try to obtain meeting space that is convenient to the members and to the legislative ides that are invited to attend. Subcommittee members will be notified of the meeting location as soon as it is reserved.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 11:20 am. (16:39 – second file).