

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
September 29, 2003
Charlotte County Airport, Punta Gorda

Members Present

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| Ken Heatherington | SWFRPC |
| Debra Highsmith | CAC |
| Jim Sampson | TAC |
| Lisa Beever | CHNEP |
| Susan Scott | City of Cape Coral |
| Mike Bauer | SFWMD |
| John Cassani | SWFWC |
| Jim Beever | FFWCC |
| Adam Cummings | Charlotte County |
| Ernie Estevez | TAC |
| Kaley Miller | CAC |
| John Ryan | Sarasota County |

Agenda Item 1- Call to Order by Lisa Beever at 9:33.

Agenda Item 2- Introductions. Members introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 3- Election of Co-Chairs

Kaley Miller volunteered for Co-chair. She nominated Susan Scott who accepted.

KEN HEATHERINGTON MOTIONED ACCEPTANCE OF KALEY MILLER AND SUSAN SCOTT FOR CO-CHAIRS. SECONDED BY ADAM CUMMINGS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 4- Kaley Miller called for Agenda Items and deletions. There were none.

Agenda Item 5- Subcommittee mission and methods.

Members requested that minutes be prepared for each Legislative Subcommittee meeting. Members discussed meeting locations and suggested that all meetings will be held at the Charlotte County Airport, as it is a central location.

Agenda Item 6- Partners Legislative Agendas

Lisa Beever said she would email conference members asking for their legislative agendas. Jim Beever described the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Tampa Bay Agency on Bay Management Legislative Subcommittee. They meet more frequently leading up to the Legislative Session. Lisa Beever agreed to collect information on their procedures and products.

Adam Cummings mentioned a possible special session to discuss water policy and possible water market. He further suggested urgent and important be separated from important.

Agenda Item 6a- CHNEP Legislative Agenda

Lisa Beever reviewed the draft NEP Legislative Agenda. Members made suggestions to update the draft.

John Cassani stated that partnering does not replace the one (NEP) voice that is recognized. Adam Cummings agreed and reiterated the stated NEP goal of advocacy. The conference should consider hiring a lobbyist. He further stated that an organization has a stronger role as advocate through the regulatory process and lobbying and is less effective as a walking wallet. The NEP should have one clear voice. Mike Bauer suggested hiring a part-time lobbyist.

Jim Beever suggested using the Tampa Bay ABM method of selecting four legislative priorities and lobby heavily when delegates are out of session. Consider providing them field trips. He suggested a small contract with an existing lobbyist covering similar issues for other agencies.

Ken Heatherington suggested looking for overlap of issues with Regional Planning Councils, APA, and others.

Adam Cummings discussed adding the Peace River to the Caloosahatchee and Estero Bay reservations request. Expanding the water source portfolio is preferable to expanding Peace River withdrawals.

Adam Cummings suggested adding maintaining water as a public resource in lieu of establishing water market should be one of our highest priorities.

MOTION BY DEBRA HIGSMITH THAT SOMEONE ON COMMITTEE DRAFTS A POSITION STATEMENT ON THE FLORIDA COUNCIL OF 100 SECONDED BY MIKE BAUER. (1:34)

Jim Beever suggested that there are some good ideas that predicate bad recommendations. Jim Sampson suggested that the response be cautionary, stating that there are some beneficial recommendations and some that are problematic in considering the interests of the environment.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
(1:46)**

Lisa Beever and Debra Highsmith agreed to write the position statement.

MOTION BY ADAM CUMMING, LATER AMENDED BY JIM BEEVER TO RECOMMEND A POSITION THAT WATER SHOULD REMAIN A PUBLIC RESOURCE AND ITS ALLOCATION ESTABLISHED BY PUBLIC POLICY. FURTHER RECOMMENDING LEGISLATION THAT PROTECT WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATION BY GUARANTEEING THAT WATER SUPPLY IS A PUBLIC REGULATED PROCESS AND NOT A MARKET DRIVEN PROCESS. SECONDED BY JOHN CASSANNI.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 7- Legislative Process by Lisa Beaver.

Members discussed a draft tentative list of legislative priorities based on the draft legislative agenda and discussion from the meeting. Lisa Beaver scribed the list on a large pad as follows:

Oppose Water Markets (State)

Support Reservations for Caloosahatchee, Peace River, and Estero Bay (State)

Support EIS of Peace River Basin, with DEP/WMD support (Federal)

Support Funding

- land acquisition (State/Federal)

- law enforcement (State)

- restoration (State)

- Lake Hancock

- SFWMD Initiatives

- Charlotte Harbor Research Funding Program by Mote (State)

Modify Maintenance Dredging Exemptions (State)

ADAM CUMMINGS MOTIONED THAT, CONTINGENT UPON LATER NEP REVIEW OF THE FINAL PRODUCT THAT WE ADD THE PROPOSED MOTE CHARLOTTE HARBOR FUNDING BILL AS A LEGISLATIVE ISSUE FOR NEP SUPPORT THAT WE ADD THAT ITEM TO THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA. SECONDED BY JIM BEEVER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (2:30)

Agenda Item 8- Upcoming Legislative Session

Members reviewed the legislative delegation meeting dates. Debra Highsmith suggested that although face to face meetings are more time effective, conference members could take a basic script to the delegation meetings. She would volunteer to do so. There was general consent that multiple methods should be used.

Agenda Item 9- Agenda Items for next subcommittee meeting.

Agenda items include partners' legislative agendas, the draft CHNEP legislative agenda, draft priorities, and draft "Improving Florida's Water Supply Management Structure" white paper.

Agenda Item 10- Member's Comments

John Cassanni requested that minutes be placed on the NEP website. Kaley Miller asked for links to the better legislative websites (such as Flsendate.org and 1000 Friends of Florida). Jim Beaver informed members of the Unified Westland Assessment Method training which will be provided to consultants first and agency members afterward.

Agenda Item 11- Public Comment on Agenda Items

Agenda Item 12- Next meeting's topics, location and date.
Next meeting will be Oct 13, 9:30- 12:30, at the Charlotte County Airport.

Agenda Item 13- Meeting Adjourned at 12:26

Minutes prepared by Darcy Bowen and Lisa Beever.