

**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

*Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, October 17, 2007 Meeting
Fazzini Property ~ Zolfo Springs, Florida*

Attendance of Voting Members

Joan Bush	Lee FYN Master Gardener
Warren Bush	Lee FYN Master Gardener
Roger DeBruler Jr.	Sea Grant – Charlotte
Debra Highsmith	ECOSWF: Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida
Rene A. Janneman	Sarasota County
Ernesto Lasso de la Vega	Lee County Hyacinth Control District
Kayton Nedza	Hardee County Outdoor Classroom
Fran Reimondo	San Marco Waterways
Bobbi Rodgers	CHEC
Kathleen Rohrer	Lemon Bay Conservancy

Attendance

Debbie Daggett	Hardee County School District
Edie Driest	Harbour Heights
Diane Herron	PEER Center, Polk County School District
Stefan Katzaras	CFI Industries
Jackson Mosley	Paynes Creek Historic State Park
Forest Reynolds	DeSoto County
John Reynolds	DeSoto County
Maran Hilgendorf	CHNEP
Lisa Beever	CHNEP
Jaime Boswell	CHNEP

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 10:00 with all in attendance introducing themselves. Mr. Nedza provided a brief overview of the Fazzini Wilderness Center where students in grades 3 to 8 participate in programs.

Ms. Highsmith reported that there is a quorum of appointed members. Mr. Nedza provided an overview of the Management Conference and explained that members may receive voting status after they are appointed by the Policy Committee based on nominations by the CAC. He encouraged people who are new to the CAC to consider joining the committee.

Agenda Item 2: Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted.

Dr. Beever asked that items e-g be pulled from the consent agenda.

Agenda Item 3: Consent Agenda

Ms. Rohrer moved, seconded by Ms. Rodgers, that agenda items a-d and h-j on the consent agenda be accepted. The motion carried unanimously. Agenda items approved include:

- a. Minutes of the August 15, 2007 CAC meeting.**
- b. FY08 Public Outreach Grants Funding Recommendation (1)**
- c. Public Outreach Grants Funding Recommendation (2)**
- d. Public Conference: Everglades Coalition Conference (3)**
- g. Letter written in response to Harper report**
- h. CDOM report**
- i. Historic Coastal Benthic Habitat Map**

Dr. Beever asked that the CAC recommend conceptual approval of items e-g. One of the 100 or so changes to the CCMP SWFWMD provided was to change the verb from “improve and enhance” the hydrologic alterations to “improve.” The CAC believed that the words are different and should remain.

The environmental indicators report is being considered by the Management Conference at this cycle but it was omitted from the CAC meeting packet.

Mr. Bush moved to recommend the conceptual approval, seconded by Ms. Rohrer, of items f and g on the consent agenda. The motion was amended to include approval of agenda item e. The motion carried unanimously.

- e. Public Outreach Grant Guidance Document for FY09**
- f. CCMP Update**
- j. Environmental Indicators Report**

Ms. Hilgendorf reported that with the consent agenda, 14 of the public outreach grants recommended for approval by the CAC Grants Committee were approved as was the guidance document for FY09 public outreach grants.

Diane Herron, Stefan Kazaras and Jaime Boswell introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 4: New Business (a) Nomination of members for appointment by the Policy Committee

Six people in attendance at the meeting are not yet nominated and therefore do not have voting rights. After discussion, Ms. Highsmith said the new bylaws are specifically loose. It was decided that people who are interested should indicate their interest to be nominated at the CAC meeting.

Mr. Kazaras, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Herron and Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds then indicated their interest in being considered for nomination.

Ms. Hilgendorf said she'll create a packet of relevant information for those interested in the CAC so that they have an idea of the purpose and commitment.

Ms. Highsmith nominated Mr. Kataras, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Herron and Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Bush. The motion was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 5: Report from Officers

Ms. Bush reported that Mr. Bush accepted a proclamation from Lee County Board of County Commissions for CHNEP National Estuaries Days.

Agenda Item 6: Program Reports (a) Coastal Shoreline Mapping

Ms. Boswell said a gap in knowledge was identified of the status of shoreline. The program started as a volunteer project in Lee and Charlotte but then expanded to include a GIS map that can classify exotic species, shoreline structure and status of mangroves (healthy versus damaged, most damage caused by hurricanes) in Lee, Charlotte and Sarasota counties. (The volunteer program was modeled after an existing Sarasota County program.) The aerial photography used in the GIS project was taken in 2005, after Hurricane Charley. More than \$50,000 of match has been provided by more than 100 volunteers in their boat who surveyed shoreline property privately owned. Their survey included height identification of mangroves, trimming and additional damage classifications (severe, moderate, light).

Agenda Item 6: Program Reports (b) Hendry Creek On-Site Treatment and Disposal System Management Pilot Project

Ms. Boswell explained that these OSTDS include septic and aerobic treatment systems as well as more advanced treatment. EPA guidelines were used for this project. EPA believes on-site systems can be cost- and environmentally-effective. If systems are not maintained, costs may go from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

The Hendry Creek Watershed is impaired, indicating that wastewater may not be adequately treated. These waters flow into Estero Bay Buffer Preserve. One site had extremely high bacteria levels. The site included older septic systems and sewage treatment. Of 40 homeowners targeted in several ways, seven homeowners participated even with a \$400 septic system evaluation and pump out gift. Those who participated already had a general understanding of their septic system and their systems had been pumped out in last five years. Based on this project, it will be recommended that regulators be involved in any future effort.

The information on this project was presented to several others including Lee County Natural Resources and Utilities. SWFPRC is expected to pass a resolution on how septic systems should be managed. Lee County has expanded the project to include more sites. The water draining from Lakes Park is okay but waterways south of the park have high bacteria levels. Scope of work will allow the county to hire a contractor to identify sources of levels.

Mr. Bush asked about the status of septic systems in highly urbanized areas and if there are any plans to expand the sewer system. Ms. Boswell said that those with septic tend to

be larger lots and that perhaps that's why they were exempted from hooking up to sewage.

Mr. Jenneman asked if TMDL would be driving the need to fix the problem.

Ms. Hilgendorf will place additional information on the website at www.CHNEP.org.

Agenda Item 6: Program Reports – Outreach projects

Ms. Hilgendorf said that all outreach projects listed in the agenda are progressing well, including the calendar, children's book, National Estuaries Days, Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival, Neighbor-to-neighbor Florida-friendly videos and interstitials, and professional development workshop on December 4 and 5. The packet for the next CAC meeting will include the text of the children's book. The next Watershed Summit will be held the last week of March in 2008.

Agenda Item 7: Partners Report

Ms. Hilgendorf ported that the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council is holding public hearings to discuss expanding the wild and scenic river designation into Manatee and Charlotte counties. Ms. Highsmith reported that the Charlotte County BCC voted not to support expanding the designation and Ms. Ramando reported that the Manatee County BCC also voted against the designation.

Ms. Highsmith reported that Charlotte County purchased 1,200 acres in the Shell Creek Basin.

Agenda Item 8: Partners Report

Ms. Highsmith reported that Charlotte County is negotiating a global settlement with Mosaic with a vote expected to occur on October 23. The settlement includes Sarasota and Lee counties and others, including Sierra Club.

Ms. Hilgendorf reported that Ms. Peterson is having surgery on Friday and Ms. Kappmeyer's position was abolished. She had little time to accept another position but took a ranger position with Highlands Hammock State Park.

Mr. Reynolds reported he heard an optimistic report from SWFMWD that water will be available for residents, even with development and drought. He reported that he is less optimistic. The Taylors are involved in creating a park/preserve in DeSoto County.

Ms. Herron reported that water was also a topic at the Lakes Conference in Polk County.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50. Several members then either toured the property or canoed the river.

Minutes were prepared by Maran Hilgendorf.