

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Citizens Advisory Committee
Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, July 18, 2007 Meeting
Edison College ~ Punta Gorda, Florida

Attendance of Voting Members

Joan Bush	Lee FYN Master Gardener
Warren Bush	Lee FYN Master Gardener
Kim Cressman	Cape Coral ERD
Debra Highsmith	Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida
Carla Kappmeyer	FDEP Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park
Ernesto Lasso de la Vega	Lee County Hyacinth Control District
Kaley Miller	Mosaic Fertilizer
Kayton Nedza	Hardee County Outdoor Classroom
Kathleen Rohrer	Gasparilla Island Sea Turtle Patrol
Jean Srodes	Turtle Talks

Attendance

Karen Bickford	Lee County Natural Resources
Bill Byle	Charlotte County
Marty Daltry	Riverwatch-CRCA and Sierra Club-Calusa Group
Rene A. Janneman	Sarasota County
George Ruby	Peace River Audubon Society
Maran Hilgendorf	CHNEP
Lisa Beever	CHNEP

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 10:05 with people introducing themselves. Mr. Bush served as chair of the meeting. Parliamentarian Highsmith reported that a quorum was obtained.

Agenda Item 2: Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted with the addition of agenda 4c: consideration of appointment of new members.

Agenda Item 3: Consent Agenda

Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Highsmith, moved the approval of the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously. The agenda item includes:

- a. Approval of the minutes of the May 15, 2007 CAC meeting.**

Agenda Item 4: New Business (a) CAC bylaws

Ms. Highsmith explained why it was time to consider modifying the bylaws, which were last approved in 2003. Ms. Beever explained that Ms. Highsmith reviewed government sunshine requirements to be sure that the CAC continues to operate under the “sunshine.” Ms. Highsmith said also that the Policy Committee decided that CAC members should be appointed with voting privilege. She explained that more than 200 people are involved in the CAC while not all attend meetings and there is a need to simplify the process.

Mr. Nedza asked about the wording of the need for a quorum. An amendment to the motion was accepted to keep the sentence to what had been in the bylaws by changing ten to five. The friendly amendment was accepted by the motion makers.

Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Ms. Cressman, that Article V, Section 6 regarding quorum shall read “A minimum of five (5) Voting Members of the CAC shall constitute a quorum. Each member shall have one vote.” The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rohrer asked the CAC to consider if there are any negative consequences to reducing the number that constitute a quorum. After discussion, Mr. Bush said that there are always risks and the issue can be brought up again.

Ms. Beever recommended that Article III, Section 3a, provide that only voting members of the CAC shall nominate members.

Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Ms. Miller, changing Article III, Section 3a to read “Voting members are appointed by the Policy Committee with full voting rights. Nominations may be made by any voting member of the CAC.” The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cressman inquired as to why some of the committees state that appointments shall be made “no later than June 30.”

Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Ms. Cressman, to remove references as to when appointments are made. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Highsmith explained that the bylaws are currently silent regarding terminating membership.

Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Ms. Kressman, that Article III, Section 3 shall include “Voting members who have not attended CAC meetings during the previous 12 months will automatically lose their voting rights.” and that the points within that section be re-ordered. The motion carried unanimously.

Members discussed the consequences of voting members having alternates.

Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Ms. Miller, that the language regarding alternates in Article V, Section 6, be stricken. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Ms. Rohrer, the approval of the bylaws as amended. A hand count was then taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Highsmith reminded members that there are a huge number of CAC members who don't have voting rights.

Members applauded Ms. Highsmith for her hard work.

Agenda Item 4: New Business (c) CHNEP Support Organization Friends of Charlotte Harbor Estuary, Inc.

Ms. Rohrer provided an overview of this organization and asked the CAC to consider revitalizing this organization to help raise funds in support of CHNEP.

She suggested that the board be people not involved in the CAC since that hasn't worked. She suggested that the board should include those who work in the corporate world who are well connected, who are willing to give of their personal wealth, and who are able to strategize and implement efforts to raise funds. In general, 90 percent of donations are from individuals and 10 percent are from corporations so this group needs a mechanism to accept donations from people. She explained that corporations want to see a history of success.

Ms. Miller expressed support.

Ms. Kappmeyer suggested that the geographic area is so large and makes it difficult for this group to be successful. Ms. Rohrer said her goal would be to raise funds to create an endowment.

Ms. Hilgendorf raised three concerns that had been brought up when the organization was first created: name (similar to existing organizations), competition with existing environmental fundraising entities, and duplication of work of CHNEP in implementing programs. Mr. Rohrer said that the funds raised would be used to help execute CHNEP programs. Ms. Miller suggested that it be clear how the funds will be used.

Mr. Bush suggested that the CAC table it for members to consider in more detail.

Ms. Beever said she is thrilled that Ms. Rohrer is willing to take this action. It is part of the CHNEP long-range financial strategy and that it might release Ms. Hilgendorf from the need to raise funds. She would like the friends to focus on outreach projects.

Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Ms. Cressman, that Ms. Rohrer and Ms. Miller become chairs of a committee to review and update the Friends bylaws and to create a structure for a fund-raising strategy of CHNEP. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: New Business (c) Nomination and Election of Honorary Members

Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Rohrer, that the CAC nominate Mr. Stuart Stauss, Mr. George Ruby and Mr. Rene Janneman to the Policy Committee for appointment as voting members of the CAC.

Agenda Item 5: Committee Report (a) CCMP Update

Ms. Highsmith reported that nearly every member has been involved in the very long process and wished to sincerely thanks. Ms. Beever provided an overview of the CCMP update process and the CCMP.

Agenda Item 5: Committee Reports (b) Membership

Ms. Kappmeyer suggested that membership be considered both regionally and by organization.

Agenda Item 5: Report from Officers

Mr. Nedza said the CDOM workshop was very successful.

Agenda Item 7: Program Report

Ms. Beever met with Leesa Souto from Storm water Academy to discuss the CHNEP random sample survey to get baseline information for priority action SG-1. After discussion, it was decided that a mailed survey instrument would be used and mailed to a random sample of houses in the study area. A self-mail, postage paid self-returned straw man survey was distributed. The survey will not be ready until late in 2009 so allow for time to develop the survey, pre-tests and focus groups.

Due to the length of the meeting, Ms. Hilgendorf summarized projects she's involved with by stating that all is progressing well.

Agenda Item 8: Partners Reports

Ms. Miller said that the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council will be preparing a report at the Legislature's request regarding expanding the Myakka River Wild & Scenic Designation to Manatee and Charlotte counties.

Agenda Item 9: Member Comments

Ms. Miller distributed CDs on phosphate mining for members to take. There are three mining permits under review and she is preparing website links with information on these permits at phosphateflorida.com.

Ms. Kappmeyer held a second paddle for Boys & Girls Clubs with funding from CHNEP micro-grant. Boy Scouts also paddled as a thanks for collecting the invasive rosary pea. She then showed a media article on another paddle.

Mr. Ruby expressed his interest in children working on archeological issues in Charlotte County.

Agenda Item 10: Public Comments

Mr. Byle introduced himself and said that the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) will be considering strip mining of another 100,000-square-miles in the CHNEP study area. He said that downstream impacts are not considered but that no actions of a federal agency can conflict with the work of another agency. He then asked the CAC to consider a motion that a letter be sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and ACOE that the outcome of the project include a mandate to be made consistent with the goals and objectives of the CCMP.

Ms. Highsmith said that because this is such a large issue she asked that both sides be presented. Ms. Beever recommended that the CHNEP hold a workshop. Ms. Rohrer says that there is nothing in this request that is controversial. After discussion, Ms. Beever suggested that a letter be drafted and emailed to the CAC for their input before it is included in the Policy Packet. Ms. Miller asked that the letter be fair, reasonable and accurate.

Mr. Nedza asked Mr. Byle how long he knew about this. Mr. Byle explained that it has been underway for a year but that the process isn't obvious. Mr. Nedza said that he thinks that this request should have been requested earlier so that the CAC could more carefully consider it.

Ms. Rohrer moved, seconded by Ms. Highsmith, that the CAC draft a letter that any actions taken by DEP be consistent with the CHNEP CCMP and site the federal consistency review. The letter should not reference a position but the goals of the CCMP. Ms. Miller abstained.

Mr. Ruby said that ads on CNN regarding phosphate don't mention what happens with water. Ms. Miller said she can discuss this further with him.

Ms. Rohrer, seconded by Ms. Highsmith, that the meeting adjourn at 12:25.