



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
November 2, 2007
Bartow, Florida**

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 Beever

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. Beever 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.

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



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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 were 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 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.



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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 Beever

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.



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Co-Chairman Howard asked what kind of involvement has there been outside of Florida. Dr. Beever 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 Beever

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 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.



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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.

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



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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 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.



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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 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 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.



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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 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.



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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
- 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.



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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.