



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

Members Present:

Alton Cheatham	Charlotte County Soil & Water Conservation
Wesley "Bo" Crum	USEPA, Region 4
Lizanne Garcia	SWFWMD, Resource Management Dept.
Rhonda Haag	SFWMD
Ken Heatherington	SWFRPC
Misty Nichols	Gasparilla Island Conservation & Improvement Assoc.
Joe Ortolona	City of Fort Myers Public Works Dept.
Judy Ott	FDEP/Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves/CHNEP TAC
Heather Stafford	FDEP
Stuart Stauss	Pine Island Sound/CHNEP CAC
Sam Stone	Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (alt. for Patrick Lehman)

Also Present:

Susan Sanders	SFWMD
Lisa Beever	CHNEP
Catherine Corbett	CHNEP
Liz Donley	CHNEP
Maran Hilgendorf	CHNEP
Nichole Gwinnett	SWFRPC

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order and Introductions – Meeting was called to order by Bo Crum, Chairman at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

Agenda Item #2. Agenda Additions or Deletions – Bo Crum, Chairman

No changes were made to the agenda, so the agenda was accepted as presented.

Agenda Item #3 – Management Committee November 3, 2006 Minutes

Mr. Stone noted that he was in attendance for Mr. Lehman and requested that the minutes be amended accordingly.

Ms. Nichols stated that she goes by Ms. Nichols and not Ms. Nabors-Nichols and requested that minutes be amended accordingly.

MS. NICHOLS MOVED AND MR. HEATHERINGTON SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2006 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

Agenda Item #4 – Florida Sunshine Law Discussion – Liz Donley

On November 20, 2006, the Policy Committee discussed the TAC and CAC and their compliance with the Florida Sunshine Law. The purpose of the Florida Sunshine Law is to give citizens access to government meetings and records. The law is equally applicable to elected and appointed boards and has been applied to any gathering of two or more members of the same board to discuss some matter which will foreseeably come before that board for action. There are three basic requirements of s. 286.011, F.S.:

- (1) meetings of public boards or commissions must be open to the public;
- (2) reasonable notice of such meetings must be given; and
- (3) minutes of the meetings must be taken.

Under the Florida Sunshine Law there is an exemption from the Sunshine Law requirements for “fact finding” advisory committees.

[A] limited exception to the applicability of the Sunshine Law to advisory committees has been recognized for advisory committees established for fact-finding only. When a committee has been established strictly for, and conducts only, fact-finding activities, i.e., strictly information gathering and reporting, the activities of that committee are not subject to s. 286.011, F.S. *Cape Publications, Inc. v. City of Palm Bay*, 473 So. 2d 222 (Fla. 5th DCA 1985). Accord, AGO 95-06 (when a group, on behalf of a public entity, functions solely as a fact-finder or information gatherer with no decision-making authority, no "board or commission" subject to the Sunshine Law is created).

...

And see, Lyon v. Lake County, 765 So. 2d 785 (Fla. 5th DCA 2000) (Sunshine Law did not apply to informal meetings of staff where the discussions were "merely informational," where none of the individuals attending the meetings had any decision-making authority during the meetings, and where no formal action was taken or could have been taken at the meetings). (Government-in-the-Sunshine Manual, 2006 Electronic Edition, p. 11, sec.b)

The advisory committees of the Sarasota and Tampa Bay Estuary Programs operate within the above exemption. That is, because the Sarasota Bay and Tampa Bay Estuary Programs’ advisory committees conduct only fact-finding and information gathering activities, the members are not restricted from discussing potential meeting topics outside the meetings. Based on discussions with Sarasota and Tampa Bay Estuary Programs’ staff, it appears that the CHNEP TAC and CAC can function within the exemption. This means the TAC and CAC can:

- Find that particular projects or proposals are consistent with the CCMP
- Find that an action or inaction by a partner organization is consistent or inconsistent with the CCMP



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

Find there are CCMP research needs and/or data gaps that can be resolved by certain projects
Review RFPs developed by staff for consistency with the CCMP and factual accuracy
Review proposals, score proposals using RFP criteria, and forward the results to the Management Committee

Under this exemption, the TAC and CAC do not make recommendations to the Management Committee; rather the TAC and CAC make determinations based on facts, and transmit the results of fact-finding activities to the Management Committee.

Mr. Cheatham noted that Ms. Ott is a member of the Management Committee as a representative for the CHNEP TAC and Ms. Stafford is a member of the Management Committee and they both work for FDEP; so he doesn't see how that issue could be resolved that in that situation because the Management Committee is governed by the Sunshine Law. Ms. Donley explained that the members of the both the Management and Policy Committees are appointed members and the members of the TAC and CAC are self-appointed.

Mr. Heatherington noted that the CHNEP TAC and CAC committees are fact finding committees and do not make recommendations.

Ms. Garcia explained that she is currently a member of both the CHNEP and Sarasota Bay Management Committees and just recently she has been attending the TAC meetings; she then asked if she is allowed to vote on the TAC. Dr. Beever explained that if TAC is voting on an upcoming project then Ms. Garcia would not be able to vote or discuss the project with other members, i.e. Ms. Ott. However, if the project has already been accepted and is moving forward then discussions among members would not be in violation of the Sunshine Law.

Ms. Nichols requested that whatever proposal the Policy Committee accepts that staff notify the other committees so the members are aware of what is considered a violation under the Sunshine Law.

Agenda Item #5 – Research and Restoration Partners Grants Projects – Catherine Corbett

The program office received 9 Research and Restoration Partners Grants applications by the deadline of October 27, 2006. A Review Subcommittee met all day Friday, December 8, 2006 Lemon Bay Park in Englewood, FL to review and prioritize applications. Thanks to the following for their invaluable efforts:

Kristen Kaufman, SWFWMD;
Jason Hale, Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center;
Gary Raulerson, Sarasota Bay EP;
Stuart Strauss, CAC; and
Ken Heatherington, SWFRPC and Management Committee Co-Chair.



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

The subcommittee first discussed the meeting agenda and then issues for consideration in their funding recommendations, most of which are included in the evaluation matrix within the Request for Proposals. The subcommittee then discussed each project proposal individually along with their questions or concerns with each. Next, each of the applicants was allotted 5 minutes to give a description of their project before then answering questions from the review subcommittee for another 10 minutes. Finally, each review subcommittee member completed an evaluation matrix for each project proposal, circling either "high," "medium," "low" or "do not fund." Program staff then multiplied each "high" vote by 3; each "medium" vote by 2; each "low" vote by 1; and each "do not fund" vote by 0. The median and mean values for each proposal were then determined, giving the group's prioritization. This prioritization is then listed in order of preference on a Summary sheet included within this packet. The project proposals are available electronically from the CHNEP website at:

http://www.chnep.org/grants/R&R_fy07proposals/r&r_fy07proposals.htm. If you have questions or would like further information about these proposals or the recommendations, please contact the program office at ccorbett@swfrpc.org or (239) 338-2556 ext. 241. The Review Subcommittee had a very difficult time with prioritization this year, as they wished to fund almost every application. The TAC reviewed and discussed the Review Subcommittee's rankings as well as several project applications at the February 14th meeting. The committee found the Review Subcommittee's prioritization technically sound and appropriate and requested that staff convey to the Management Committee that they wished to fund more R&RP applications than the \$45,000 within the FY07 Workplan allows. The CAC concurred. Funding the 1st tier of projects would equal \$33,057 while funding the second tier (1st 4 projects) would total \$70,912. However, the program may wish to consider funding a project within SWFWMD's region, and thus, it is staff recommendation to follow the ranking below and fund the first 5 projects (projects B, C, F, G and E), equaling \$89,003.

Unfortunately, SWFWMD funding cannot be used to support the recommended projects so funding cannot be pulled from environmental indicators research because it is 50% SWFWMD funding.

Dr. Beever explained the funding issues. She then recommended that the CHNEP approve funding for Projects B and C and possibly one more project within the second tier.

MR. CHEATHAM MOVED AND MR. STONE SECONDED TO RECOMMEND APPROVING FUNDING FOR PROJECTS B, C AND F OF THE RESEARCH AND RESTORATION PARTNERS GRANTS TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE IF CONSISTENT WITH FLORIDA'S SUNSHINE LAW. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Garcia recommended that staff place a description of funding to the Policy Committee for their review.



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

**Agenda Item #6 – 2007 Research/Monitoring Needs and Environmental Indicator Gaps
Project Survey – Lisa Beaver**

In order to prioritize our research needs and projects to fill our indicators gaps, staff has prepared the following survey. Research needs are rendered from our 2004 Research Needs Inventory, the 2005 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Survey results, and the Draft CCMP currently undergoing review.

The survey is presented by priority problem area: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Loss, Hydrologic Alterations, and Water Quality. For each priority problem, two lists have been prepared. The first list is of research needs. Each comprehensive list of research needs is sorted by draft CCMP action. If the research need is synonymous with one of the CCMP priority actions, the title is in bold font. The second list includes projects that are displayed in our draft environmental indicators report update. A copy of this report is also attached for your reference. Each project is directly linked to either a draft CCMP action or a draft Environmental Indicator gap, using these associations, unique codes have been created to identify each project and are located in the second column. The codes for those projects associated with CCMP actions include the priority problem area and action (upper case letter) code plus a number (e.g., FW-A1, FW-A2). The codes for those projects associated with Environmental Indicators gaps include the priority problem area and indicator code (lower case letter) plus the gap number (e.g., FW-a1, WQ-b1).

The pre-requisite column shows links between projects, and may link Environmental Indicator gaps to CCMP action projects. If the column is marked “no” it neither is nor needs a prerequisite. If the column is marked with an action or indicator number then the project associated with that number needs to be done first. The number points to the prerequisite using the unique project code. If the column is marked “yes,” then the project is a prerequisite to some other work. We recommend that anything marked with “yes” be given extra consideration for funding if it is a prerequisite to an important project, study, or action. You may also consider how much you think the prerequisite is needed in order to proceed.

For each list, mark 5-10 you think are most important to accomplish to implement the CCMP and improve the natural resources of the Charlotte Harbor NEP Study Area. Do not consider who might accomplish the project. It would be just most important to do. Finally, for each list, mark 5-10 that you think the Charlotte Harbor NEP should fund through its workplan budget. Basically, staff would work on the top ranked projects under this category to get it implemented as quickly as possible. What is most important and what we should do most quickly are slightly different questions, for example some gaps may need to be filled or projects completed in order to adequately implement other important projects as indicated by the pre-requisite column.

To date, we have received 15 completed surveys and distributed surveys at the most recent CAC meeting. **Complete the questionnaire by noon on March 8, 2007 and**



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

send to ccorbett@swfrpc.org, for presentation to the Policy Committee on March 19, 2007. Surveys completed after this date will be accepted.

Agenda Item #7 – Shoreline Mapping Project – Catherine Corbett & Jamie Boswell

In the Research Section of the Fiscal Year 2007 Workplan, the Management Conference approved concentrating on the following projects, amongst others:

1. Project(s) to address knowledge or monitoring gaps of Environmental Indicators and/or new CCMP Objectives and Actions
2. Developing and refining water quality targets for chlorophyll *a* and dissolved and suspended matter based on seagrass light requirements
3. Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network support
4. Technical Intern position

To determine specific projects for the first 2 items, program staff are surveying Management Conference members to prioritize projects included within the CCMP Priority Actions, Environmental Indicators knowledge gaps and Research Needs Inventory. As of the TAC meeting, only 7 completed surveys had been received; thus, the process is still on-going. In the interim, the program is kicking off a volunteer based program to classify shoreline type (e.g. mangroves, hedged mangroves, hurricane damaged mangroves, hardened shoreline, and exotics) throughout the coastal program study area. The goal of the program is to collect the data needed for the development of a GIS map. The map will be used for assessing the Quantifiable Objective FW-1c (extent and quality of mangrove habitat) and can be used to assess FW-3 (managing exotic invasive plants). This project would also directly implement Strategy 2 of Priority Action FW-F (Map shoreline treatments including hedged mangrove, windowed mangrove, uplifted mangrove, vertical seawall, riprap revetment, lawn, herbaceous wetlands, etc.) and provide the data for Strategy 1 of FW-F (Compile data and study the cumulative impacts of boat docks and hardened shorelines on SAV, oyster bar, intertidal, unvegetated and other habitats). Aside from addressing these key Quantifiable Objectives and Strategies, the map would be available for public use and may aid in modeling fish habitat, hurricane effects and effects of sea-level rise. Contractual help with these tasks would allow NEP staff to expand the project into Lee County from the initial on-going Charlotte County pilot project. To expand this project into Lee County and complete the project in a timely manner, the program will need to contract for aid in GIS data management. Funding would go towards data input, validation/photointerpretation of field data in relation to recent aerial photography, and development of the final GIS map product. It is this project that program staff recommends for support to address item #1 above. Attached is a draft scope of work for your review before the meeting.

The TAC and CAC reviewed and discussed this project and the draft scope of work. Several committee members recommended that projects addressing #2 above (numeric water quality targets) should be a priority for program funding, and staff suggested developing a draft scope of work for the next TAC meeting for this item. The committee then recommended to staff that in the interim the staff recommendation of the Shoreline Survey project be supported through the FY07 Workplan



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

to address #1 above. The committee also found the methods within the draft scope of work for technically sound and appropriate for advertisement with several minor modifications.

Ms. Boswell explained that she has formed a steering committee and have had various volunteers from different organizations to help formulate the methodology. Volunteers include individuals from Charlotte, Manatee, Sarasota, and Lee Counties.

Chairman Crum asked who are the volunteers and how will they be trained. Ms. Boswell explained that currently the primary volunteers are from various boating organizations throughout Charlotte County and they have attended a couple of presentations and stated that they would feel comfortable going out in the field to conduct the work.

Ms. Garcia asked if the funding is coming from the Environmental Indicators fund. Dr. Beever replied yes. Ms. Garcia asked where the funding come from for the water quality indicators would. Dr. Beever explained that by the end of the contract both would be coming from the FY07/08 funding.

MS. STAFFORD MOVED AND MR. CHEATHAM SECONDED TO RECOMMEND SHORELINE SURVEY PROJECT TOP PRIORITY FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT IN THE FY07 WORKPLAN TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #8 – FY 07/08 Workplan – Lisa Beever

CHNEP staff has prepared a draft of the FY 08 Workplan, due to be adopted by the Policy Committee on May 21, 2007. Staff has improved the version by adding the following:

A Close-out of the previous completed year (FY06) to show precisely where we are at financially at a point in time, including continuing project commitments and funding.

An amendment for the current year (FY07) to show previous amendments and make staff time adjustments based on better information than could be predicted the previous year.

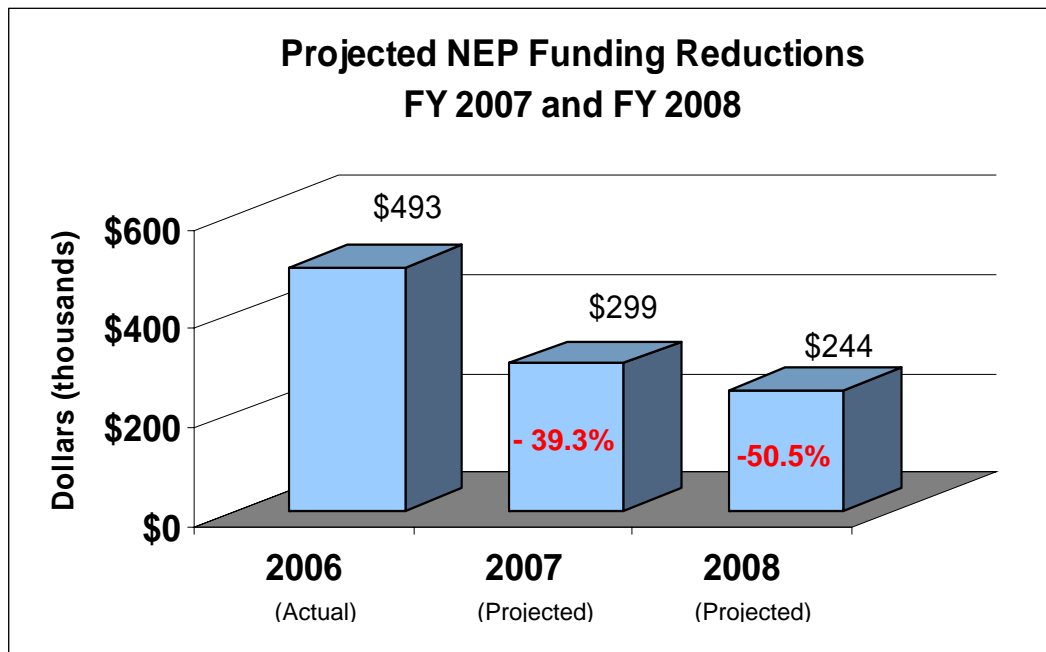
A graph that shows the history of cash receivables to the program.

A list of projects (by fiscal year) including on-going projects from previous years, the current year, and the new year (FY08) at the end of the workplan.

Since 2004, the National Estuary Programs have annually received an average of \$500,000 for CCMP implementation. The Administration's 2007 and 2008 budget projections for the National Estuary Program, if enacted, will reduce funding for CCMP and NEP community-sponsored projects by over 50%, seriously impacting our ability to fund future lagoon protection and restoration efforts. The 28 NEPs are working with our delegations to ensure continued funding at the \$500,000 level.



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**



Ms. Stafford asked if the projected decrease in funding for FY08 is due to SFWMD funding. Dr. Beever replied yes and explained that there were three projects funded through the SFWMD in FY07 and currently only one project for FY08.

Ms. Haag explained that SFWMD will be increasing its funding.

Ms. Garcia asked what the deadline for comments is. Dr. Beever replied the third week of April.

Ms. Garcia asked what the projected funding amount for the RRP projects is. Dr. Beever replied \$45,000 which is located under Task 3.3 on page 93.

Ms. Garcia referred to page 128 and asked how it compares to the other NEPs, with percentages. Dr. Beever explained that she doesn't believe that the other NEPs don't conduct a task based budget.

Ms. Garcia asked what the random sample survey is. Dr. Beever explained that it is conducted by contacting the registered voters throughout the study area asking what they feel are priorities for water quality issues.

Mr. Stauss suggested creating a Spanish survey in order to reach out to the Spanish speaking population.



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

Agenda Item #9 – Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Protection Act – Lisa Beever

Last year, the Florida Legislature created the Caloosahatchee/St. Lucie Rivers Corridor Advisory Committee. The committee recommended amendment to the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act to include an additional focus on estuaries to which Lake Okeechobee has been artificially connected. This amendment is entitled the “Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Protection Act.” State Representative Trudi Williams introduced the proposed amendment as House Bill 535, the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program. The amendment includes a focus on improving water quality and estuarine habitat within the Caloosahatchee estuary. The committee is to determine if House Bill 535 helps to implement Charlotte Harbor NEP’s Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

The CAC and TAC discussed the Act at their meeting and found that NEP support of the Act is appropriate and would help implement the CCMP objectives and actions.

Dr. Beever reviewed the item and distributed letter addressed to Representative Trudi Williams.

MS. STAFFORD MOVED AND MS. NICHOLS SECONDED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE DRAFT LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND ESTUARY PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENTS, HOUSE BILL 535 BE FORWARDED TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #10 – Peace River Cumulative Impact Study Update – Lisa Beever

The Peace River Cumulative Impact Study was funded through an Act of the Florida Legislature in 2003. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, in coordination with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, contracted with PBS&J to conduct the study. The final report, without appendices, is 383 pages and 368 megs in size. The program office will be happy to provide a CD with the final report to any committee member who requests it.

The recommendations are centered around:

- General Issues
- Stopping Wetland and Stream Losses
- Protecting and Enhancing Public Water Supply
- Phosphate Industry Regulation and Reclamation
- Restoring Wetlands to Increase Low Flows
- Floodplain Protection
- Additional Studies that are needed.

The report was issued January 2007. It will for the basis of a Watershed Management Plan being currently developed. Website for the project is at:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/mines/prcis.htm>



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

The report is quite readable and graphic. The call-outs are useful. Maps and tables should have used the same color codes and better represented intensity of use. Most of the recommendations from the study will serve to implement the CCMP. Of particular merit are:

FDEP, in coordination with SWFWMD, should audit wetland losses since 1979 to understand how more than 4,000 acres of wetlands were lost to urban development, and over 13,000 acres were lost each to mining and agriculture and should also audit losses in stream channels to understand the dynamics that have allowed 343 miles of loss during a period of increasing regulation.

Develop land planning options to combine mine permits with post-mining land use approvals.

Identify Nonmandatory parcels within the Integrated Habitat Network (IHN), and develop a plan for the strategic acquisition of critical parcels.

Acquire flowage easements and fund restoration of wetland hydrology on private lands.

Identify and prioritize opportunities to restore hydrology (reverse drainage) and reconnect wetlands to the Peace River.

Acquire flowage easements and fund restoration of wetland hydrology on private lands.

Develop criteria for the protection of uplands within the 100-year floodplain based on the size of the stream protected, the width of wetlands adjacent to the stream, the cover type of the uplands, and the land use context.

Work with Florida Forever program to apply severance tax funds to floodplain acquisition.

Mr. Cheatham stated that he did not support the EIS. He then noted that at a recent Charlotte County BOCC meeting they discussed those funds to be used for the next level. He stated that he would like to see all the efforts of SWFWMD and DEP put all of their efforts together and help to improve the quality of both the Myakka and Peace rivers and estuaries.

Dr. Beever clarified that the funds that are being referred to be funds from Charlotte, Lee, and Sarasota Counties have dedicated to conduct a regional EIS.

Mr. Stone explained that all of the consultants lost money and all of the original funding for the EIS was used to conduct the EIS study and not the management plan.

Agenda Item #11 – SFWMD Water Quality Model (CDM Report) – Lisa Beever

South Florida Water Management District contracted with CDM to develop a Nutrient Load Assessment for Estero Bay and Caloosahatchee River Watersheds. The report presents valuable information that was collected to develop the watershed model, including estimated septic coverage, estimated WWTP service areas, and estimated impervious coverage. For example, existing Tidal Caloosahatchee and Estero Bay



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

impervious percentage is 16% and by 2050 it is predicted to be 28%. These data are presented by waterbody ID area.

Based on the evaluations, a combination of the following BMPs and actions will be necessary to manage and improve water quality in the Estero Bay-Caloosahatchee River Watershed.

Enhanced stormwater criteria and LID practices, including:

- higher efficiency BMPs,
- retention where practicable,
- increased stormwater recycling, and
- LID practices such as reduced directly connected (also called “effective”) imperviousness.

Retrofit BMP projects and strategies;

Consideration of potential water quality benefits from the C-43 Reservoir; and

Eventual re-direction of treated flows from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades as CERP projects are implemented with

The full assessment report is 168 megs in size and is available at:

https://my.sfwmd.gov/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PG_GRP_SFWMD_WATERSHED/PORTLET%20-%20STORMWATER%20MANAGEMENT/TAB8996095/WMM%20FINAL%20REPORT.PDF

. The Program office will be happy to provide any committee member a CD of the report.

Agenda Item #12 – CDOM Workshop Status Report – Catherine Corbett

On September 13, 2006, the TAC recommended approval of a workshop on colored dissolved organic matter as a first step in implementation of the numeric water quality targets. Dissolved organic matter (or DOM) is the largest reservoir of organic carbon in the aquatic environment. Colored DOM (or CDOM) contributes to light absorption, and may also fuel bacterial respiration while carrying large quantities of carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorous to estuaries, which may contribute to eutrophication. In a recent article in *Estuaries and Coasts*, a study found that in one Danish estuary, land use was found to have significant impacts on the quality and quantity of dissolved organic matter loadings to receiving waters. Forested subbasins of the watershed contributed significant dissolved organic matter throughout the year, but especially during the rainy season. Areas characterized by agricultural land use contributed a smaller, more constant flow of dissolved organic matter to the estuary throughout the year. The study found also that while forested lands provide more dissolved organic matter than agriculture, the nutrients bound in this material may be less bio-available than those from agricultural lands. Results of the study suggest that reducing the agricultural area of the watershed to about 50% of the watershed’s total area could lead to a substantial decrease in eutrophication risk to the receiving waterbodies.

In Charlotte Harbor, Florida, CDOM can account for 13-66% of light attenuation in the water column. Recent analyses by PBS&J for FDEP on the Peace River Cumulative



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

Impact Assessment found that landuse changes and different mining practices in the Peace River have changed colored dissolved organic matter concentrations in the Peace River since water quality monitoring began. Also, analyses by SFWMD staff have found significant trends in color concentrations in the Caloosahatchee River in recent years. Thus, it is apparent that landuse changes as well as other factors may be changing color concentrations within the Charlotte Harbor watershed. Therefore, understanding the sources, sinks, and processes that affect CDOM is important for aquatic resource management. An approach for setting numeric water quality targets for chlorophyll *a*, turbidity and CDOM was recently established for the Lemon Bay, Charlotte Harbor and Estero Bay region. This workshop on colored dissolved organic matter is an imperative first step in the implementation of these water quality targets.

The workshop is scheduled to be held May 29-31, 2007 at Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda, FL. Staff is organizing the workshop with a steering committee of interested TAC members and others. The total costs of the workshop include staff time, travel for invited speakers and staff, venue and food. Staff estimates costs of approximately \$25,000, and sponsors are beginning to commit funding for the workshop. A draft agenda and sponsor letter is enclosed.

Agenda Item #13 – Keeping the Peace October 5, 2006 Conference Report – Maran Hilgendorf

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program sponsored the conference “Keeping the Peace: Translating Management Plans into Action” that was held October 5, 2006 in Bartow. Additional details about the conference are included in the report itself.

Ms. Garcia asked how was the summary prepared. Ms. Hilgendorf replied that Sarasota County staff have volunteered and will be preparing the summaries and contributors will be reviewing the summaries; which will be located on the CHNEP website and also copies will be made available.

MS. GARCIA MOVED AND MS. NICHOLS SECONDED TO APPROVE DRAFT REPORT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #14 –TAC report

Judy Ott gave the TAC report. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for April 11th.

Agenda Item #15 – CAC Report

Stuart Stauss gave the CAC Report.

It was announced the Mr. Stauss will be moving out of the area and will be resigning as Chairman and from the CHNEP CAC.



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

Dr. Beever thanked Mr. Stauss for his efforts and being a wonderful Chairman for the CAC.

Agenda Item #16 – ABM Report

Lisa Beever gave the ABM report.

Agenda Item #17 – NEP Program Report

Dr. Beever gave a status report on the CCMP and briefly reviewed the deliverables within the packet.

Ms. Hilgendorf stated that the CAC's April meeting will be focusing on growth management and the May meeting is scheduled to be held in Winter Haven and have boat tours. She then explained the professional development opportunities and the survey which is located on the CHNEP's website.

Ms. Corbett announced that Dr. Aswani Volety was receiving the "Coastal America" award in April. She also announced that SFWMD and SWFWMD are coordinating efforts and compiling a monitoring system on turbidity, CDOMS, and Chlorophyll and other pollutants within the watershed.

Ms. Donley stated that she has been working on submitting various grant applications for various funding sources and one looks pretty good which Ms. Boswell helped put together for Fish America. The Babcock Ranch Partnership has decided to become the citizen participants for the Babcock Ranch Preserve.

Agenda Item #18 – Member Comments

Mr. Heatherington gave a brief overview of the Council's Lower West Coast Watersheds Subcommittee and its efforts to clean up the region's waterbodies and estuaries.

Ms. Nichols announced that a workshop has been scheduled within the Charlotte County BOCC chambers on March 13 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm to discuss transfer development units (TDUs).

Mr. Stauss congratulated the CHNEP staff on its brochure.

Ms. Stafford announced that a celebration is scheduled for March 24th on the Little Pine Island Mitigation Bank and also the Lemon Bay Conference.

Mr. Cheatham announced that CHEC will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary beginning March 19th.

Agenda Item #19 – Public Comments



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida**

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #20 – Next Meeting’s Topics, Location and Date – *Friday, May 4, 2007*

Dr. Beever stated that the location is to be determined at a later date.

Agenda Item #21 – Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 am.

Prepared by Nicole Gwinnett