



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Management Committee
Approved Minutes
May 4, 2007
Venice, Florida**

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| David Dale | National Marine Fisheries Service SE |
| Lizanne Garcia | SFWMD, Resource Management Dept. |
| Ken Heatherington | SWFRPC |
| Charlie Hunsicker | Manatee County Conservation Lands Management Dept. |
| Robert Kollinger | Polk County Natural Resources |
| Peggy Morgan | FDEP SWD |
| Kayton Nedza | Hardee County Outdoor Classroom/CHNEP CAC |
| Joe Ortolona | City of Fort Myers Public Works Dept. |
| Judy Ott | FDEP/Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves/CHNEP TAC |
| Roland Ottolini | Lee County Natural Resources |
| Steve Sentes | SFWMD |
| Heather Stafford | FDEP |

Also Present:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lisa Beever | CHNEP |
| Catherine Corbett | CHNEP |
| Liz Donley | CHNEP |
| Maran Hilgendorf | CHNEP |
| Nichole Gwinnett | SWFRPC |
| Mike Wessel | Janicki Environmental, Inc. |

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order and Introductions – Meeting was called to order by Ken Heatherington, Co-Chairman at 9:36 a.m. Introductions were made.

Agenda Item #2. Agenda Additions or Deletions – Ken Heatherington, Co-Chairman

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

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments on Agenda Items – Ken Heatherington, Co-Chairman

No public comments were made at this time.

Agenda Item #4 – Management Committee March 2, 2007 Minutes

Ms. Garcia referred to the recommended action on page 5 and stated that it should be amended to read:



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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 referred to page 10 and indicated that it should be the SWFWMD and not SWWMD.

Ms. Garcia referred to page 12 and asked that the following be amended:

Ms. Garcia asked how ~~are~~ was the summary was prepared. Ms. Hilgendorf replied that Sarasota County staff volunteered and prepared the summary and contributors have reviewed the document; which will be located on the CHNEP website.

MS. GARCIA MOVED AND MR. SENTES SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2007 AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #5 – 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 Policy Committee directed CHNEP staff to draft an inquiry to the Florida Attorney General requesting an opinion regarding the CHNEP's Management Conference and compliance with the Sunshine Law. Prior to drafting the letter, input was sought from the other CHNEP committees, although the TAC was unable to discuss the issue in detail. However, Ms. Corbett was able to discuss the issue with several TAC members to glean some members' opinions. Ms. Donley then provided an overview of possible conference structure to the Policy Committee at their March 19, 2007 meeting. The Policy Committee chose the structure included below and passed a motion that the TAC should serve as a "fact finding" committee and the CAC should serve as an advisory committee. The Policy Committee determined that because the CAC performs the "audit function" for the CHNEP to ensure that the CHNEP is fulfilling its mission, the CAC operates fully "in the sunshine."

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.:



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



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Under this exemption, the TAC does not make recommendations to the Management Committee; rather the TAC makes determinations based on facts, and transmits the results of fact-finding activities to the Management Committee via program staff

Ms. Ott asked if the CAC was comfortable with the change. Mr. Nedza explained that at the time of the vote there was some opposition; however, the majority of the membership agreed to the change. Ms. Hilgendorf explained that because of the change one member did resign from the CAC.

Dr. Beever explained that both management and policy members are welcome to attend the TAC meetings; however, they are not able to participate in making recommendations.

Agenda Item #6 – Committee Duties Discussion – Lisa Beever

At its last meeting, the Policy Committee requested a summary of the Management Conference Committee duties, especially as they relate to Sunshine Law modifications.

Four committees comprise the management conference of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. Each serves a specialized role but all support the program goals and activities. Over 500 people have participated on one or more committees. They have dedicated thousands of volunteer hours to building consensus for the actions in this management plan. The committees and their members are described in the following sections.

Policy Committee: The Policy Committee establishes general policy for the Charlotte Harbor NEP and has ultimate authority in program administration. The Policy Committee appoints members to the Management Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee. It also approves budgets. This committee is the bridge between the *management conference* and local governments of the region. In fact, all but three of the 24 members of the Policy Committee represent city, county, or regional governing bodies in Southwest Florida. Policy Committee members reflect the citizenry of the Greater Charlotte Harbor Watershed

Management Committee: The Management Committee provides strong institutional support for the Charlotte Harbor NEP by staffing, funding, or otherwise facilitating projects. This committee reviews work plans, contracts and proposals, work schedules and products. It also ensures that program milestones and objectives are accomplished. Each member of the Policy Committee has one or more appointed representatives on the Management Committee.



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Citizens Advisory Committee: The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) represents public concerns and transfers information back to the local communities. The CAC provides a mechanism for citizens to advise the Charlotte Harbor NEP, as well as distributing relevant information to the public. It works closely with staff to reinforce and maintain public support for the NEP, develop public participation strategies, and provide input on public education programs. This committee also helps develop public workshops, provides a forum for public comment, and directs public concerns to the Policy Committee and the rest of the Management Conference. The CAC chair is a voting member of the Management Committee.

Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides technical support and fact-finding to the NEP staff. During the planning and interpretive stages of the NEP program, the TAC identified scientific problems facing the Greater Charlotte Harbor Watershed. The TAC helps develop work plans, develops requests for proposals, and reviews the responding proposals. It also assists with information management and coordinates agency research.

Agenda Item #7 – 2008 Meeting Schedule – Lisa Beaver

The draft FY08 workplan calls for preparation of a 2008 calendar with beautiful images of the NEP study area to distribute to citizens. In the past, we have included conference meeting dates in this calendar and conference members have reported that this inclusion is helpful.

Setting dates have become a routine matter for the Conference. In order to expedite the development in the calendar later this autumn, the Conference is being asked to consider the 2008 dates now.

Finally, the CHNEP Director has been asked by Policy Committee members' assistants for meeting locations for their calendars. In order to be responsive to our members, draft locations for the remainder of 2007 and for 2008 have been proposed.

Dr. Beaver noted that the date for the Watershed Summit was changed from March 10th to March 24th through to March 28th.

Ms. Ott asked if the October 8th TAC meeting date should be changed? Both Dr. Beaver and Ms. Corbett stated that they will review the issue and make any necessary changes.

MR. HUNSICKER MOVED AND MR. OTTOLINI SECONDED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2008 COMMITTEE SCHEDULE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



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Agenda Item #8 – FY08 Workplan – Lisa Beever & Catherine Corbett

The draft FY 08 Workplan includes the following:

- A close-out of the previous completed year (FY06) to show precisely where we are financially, 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. This is also where we show carry-over funding and projects.
- A budget for the next fiscal year (FY08) that displays new funding and new projects only.
- 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. Because of the continuing resolution, EPA administration was given more flexibility in where funding cuts would be taken. Originally, administration estimated NEP funding at \$299,000. Through our efforts and the efforts of our colleagues, the allocation is now \$418,000 per NEP. For the first time, SFWMD is processing funding for CHNEP in a routine way and meeting with staff to identify workplan projects for additional funding.

A survey of research and monitoring needs and environmental indicator gaps has been issued to the Management Conference and included 25 respondents. The survey was issued to help identify priority projects for the work plan. The top 3 projects included:

- Coordinating the Biennial Seagrass Mapping for total study area consistency.
- Assess the economic, social, and environmental benefits of protected land in the CHNEP study area.
- Identify gaps in water quality data needed to assess impairments and streamflow/stage gages needed to determine natural variation and subbasin water budgets.

Ms. Donley explained that there maybe additional federal funding under Table 22 on page 66 of the Workplan.

Mr. Hunsicker explained that Manatee County will be reviewing its upcoming budget and depending on what the legislature does with the property tax reform it will be making cut backs on various programs.



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Ms. Garcia referred to Table 21 on page 66 of the Workplan and explained that she and Dr. Beever agreed that the SWFWMD will not be funding Task 3: Research and Monitoring Priority and would take those funds and put into the Random-Sample Survey.

Ms. Garcia referred to the blue summary sheet and explained that she agrees with the first two bullets within the last section but on the third bullet she doesn't see it as a priority. She explained that after discussions with Dr. Beever it was discussed that the SWFWMD would hope that the CHNEP would put together a plan to identify on how they are going to finalize the water quality targets that were identified last September because those were interim targets.

Dr. Beever clarified that the third bullet consists of two different projects.

MS. GARCIA MOVED AND MS. STAFFORD SECONDED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT FY08 WORKPLAN AS AMENDED INCLUDING SWFWMD'S RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #9 – Tidal Shoreline Condition Map Project – Catherine Corbett & Jamie Boswell

The Policy Committee approved funding the project "Tidal Charlotte Harbor Shoreline Condition Map" in the FY07 Workplan at their last meeting on March 19, 2007. The goal of the project is to map the type and quality of shoreline throughout the tidal portion of the Charlotte Harbor NEP study area. The project will use a unique approach by utilizing volunteers for on the ground data collection and contractors for the technical mapping skills (e.g. photo-interpretation, accuracy assessment, data analyses). The Charlotte Harbor NEP staff is currently organizing volunteers to collect quality of shoreline data in Charlotte County.

A Request for Proposals was advertised, and 9 proposals were submitted on time for the submittal date of April 9, 2007. At the April 11, 2007 TAC meeting, volunteers were requested for reviewing and ranking the proposals, and a special TAC meeting was held on April 27, 2007. Representatives from both water management districts, FDEP, Lee County, Sarasota County, and Manatee County volunteered to participate in the scoring the proposals, based on the evaluation matrix sent with the agenda packet.

The evaluation matrix shows the criteria used to score the 9 proposals; one evaluation matrix was completed for each proposal by each committee member. CHNEP staff then determined the average and median scores for each applicant and listed the applicants in order from low to high based upon the median and mean scores. This list was sent to the Management Committee before the meeting. Those proposals with the lowest scores are those that best fit the evaluation criteria of the project Request for Proposals. Staff recommends that they follow the order of this



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list in project contract negotiations, starting with the applicant with the lowest score and moving down the list until a successful contract can be negotiated.

The RFP and clarification memo for the project “Tidal Charlotte Harbor Shoreline Condition Map” and the nine proposals can be accessed via the CHNEP ftp site. To access the site go to: <ftp://ftp.swfrcp.org> and enter the user name **chnep** and password **chnepaccess**.

For further information please contact program staff at ccorbett@swfrcp.org or 239-338-2556 ext 241.

Ms. Corbett noted that Mr. Wessel abstains from the discussion.

Mr. Ottolini asked what the primary goals of the project are. Ms. Boswell replied that the goal is to have a map of the shoreline showing information on seawalls, rip-rap, mangroves, exotic vegetation, etc. and we may negotiate other categories as well. She explained that it was paired with a volunteer program where they will collect data on trimming of mangroves, type of mangroves, hurricane damage, etc. which will also be incorporated.

Co-Chairman Heatherington asked what the geographical limits of the study are. Ms. Boswell explained that it consists of the entire tidal coastline for the CHNEP.

MR. HUNSICKER MOVED AND MS. STAFFORD SECONDED TO RECOMMEND PROPOSAL RANKINGS TO POLICY COMMITTEE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT CHNEP STAFF FOLLOW THESE RANKINGS IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #10 – CHNEP Water Quality Status and Trends Project – Mike Wessel

Mike Wessel of Janicki Environmental, Inc. will present the draft deliverables for the Comprehensive Surface and Groundwater Quality Analysis for the Charlotte Harbor NEP project.

At this time, the draft report and results of the rainfall, streamflow and surface water trends are available from our FTP site in PDF format. An update from the 2003 report is that this report is linked to the appendices and trend analysis results. The trends are summarized in tables and then there are individual graphs for each trend for each station and parameter. Also, there are 2 time periods for the analyses—1995-2005 and then entire station period of record.

Staff has asked TAC members to review the analyses and to concentrate their review to those areas under their jurisdiction. In this way, we should have the Charlotte Harbor NEP study area encompassed by at least 1 person. We have asked for their review and concerns but by no later than May 18, 2007.



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To access our ftp site, in the address bar of a web browser please type:

<ftp://ftp.swfrpc.org>

Enter the user name: chnep

Password for the account is: chnepaccess

Go to CHNEP folder and then folder "CHNEP Status and Trends Draft Report".

Note: for IE7, the user should click Page, and then click Open FTP Site in Windows Explorer.

In order to illustrate the initial deliverables, a station with a long period of record was selected. Cape Coral has been conducting surface water quality monitoring since 1988. The first station listed for Tidal Caloosahatchee (210) was selected. TSS had a trend (and a story to tell—text boxes were provided by Charlotte Harbor NEP staff) so that was selected. A map with the associated charts is included as an example.

In addition to basic station statistics deliverables will include:

- maps of water quality trends by parameter for period-of-record and for 95-05,
- a validation of the optical model that was recently accepted by the conference, and
- an assessment of the Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network data (the probabilistic water quality sampling program supporting the Charlotte Harbor NEP's long-term monitoring strategy).

Mr. Mike Wessel gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Co-Chairman Heatherington asked what the depth is when the study refers to "shallow water" in regards to light attenuation. Mr. Wessel replied that the depth is less than one meter of water.

Ms. Garcia stated that she was under the understanding that the project was based on "status and trends" and when she read the executive summary she didn't notice the discussion on the status. She also noted that she didn't see anything in the executive summary about the random sampling evaluation and the optical model validation exercise with results and feels that those should be included within the executive summary along with the status. Both Mr. Wessel and Ms. Corbett explained that they were still in the process of trying to decide where the correct place for the random sampling evaluation and optical model validation information.

Ms. Corbett announced that for those individuals who are not able to download the document that it is also available on CDs.



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MS. STAFFORD MOVED AND MR. OTTOLINI SECONDED TO RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRAFT DELIVERABLES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SURFACE AND GROUND WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS AS IDENTIFIED BY STAFF AND COMMENTS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #11 – Caloosahatchee Back-pumping Letter – Lisa Beever

Policy Committee alternate Wayne Daltry has requested that the CHNEP Management Conference consider sending a letter addressing the issue of back-pumping water from the Caloosahatchee to Lake Okeechobee.

Ms. Morgan stated that with the current drought conditions in and around Lake Okeechobee and the current levels of the lake she feels that there will be much opposition to the letter in regards to the back-pumping.

Mr. Ottolini explained that current CERP practices and operational practices show that the natural gravity of the river flows back into the lake.

Mr. Nedza asked if the current practices being performed of draining of the lake has anything to do with the anticipation of the El Nino floods. Mr. Ottolini explained that it has more to do with the structural integrity of the dike around the lake.

Mr. Ottolini suggested that the letter be amended to reflect his comment in regards to the current CERP practices.

MR. OTTOLINI MOVED AND MR. DALE SECONDED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT LETTER AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH MS. GARCIA, MR. SENTES, AND MS. MORGAN ABSTAINED.

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



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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 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 costs of the workshop include staff time, travel for invited speakers and staff, venue and food. Staff estimates costs of approximately \$25,000, depending if support from sponsors can be found. A draft agenda and sponsor letter is enclosed.

Ms. Stafford asked what the current amount of sponsorships received is. Ms. Corbett replied \$3,500 has been received to date.

Agenda Item #13 – Designated Uses Changes – Lisa Beaver

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has initiated a review of Florida's current designated uses and associated [water body classification system](#) to determine if revisions are needed. An expert Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) was formed to help DEP determine the need for revisions to Florida's current surface water body classification system. Their last meeting was held on January 30, 2007, hosted by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.



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The Clean Water Act requires that the surface waters of each state be classified according to designated uses. Florida has five classes with associated designated uses, which are arranged in order of degree of protection required:

Class I - Potable Water Supplies

Fourteen general areas throughout the state including: impoundments and associated tributaries, certain lakes, rivers, or portions of rivers, used as a drinking water supply.

Class II - Shellfish Propagation or Harvesting

Generally coastal waters where shellfish harvesting occurs.

Class III - Recreation, Propagation and Maintenance of a Healthy, Well-Balanced Population of Fish and Wildlife

The surface waters of the state are Class III unless described in rule [62-302.400 F.A.C.](#)

Class IV - Agricultural Water Supplies

Generally located in agriculture areas around Lake Okeechobee.

Class V - Navigation, Utility and Industrial Use.

Currently, there are not any designated Class V bodies of water. The Fenholloway River was reclassified as Class III in 1998.

The current draft proposal includes 7 Human Use Designations and 4 Aquatic Life Uses.

Agenda Item #14 – National Estuary Day Proclamations – Maran Hilgendorf

Thanks to the many people who made seven years of Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program's National Estuaries Days celebrations such great successes.

This year the official National Estuary Day is expected to be Saturday, September 29, 2007. Our local celebrations frequently have lasted more than a month and we anticipate the same to happen this year. As a result, we tweaked the name to National Estuaries Days to be more accurate for promotional purposes.

Program partners are asked to consider hosting an event -- or several events -- *that support the program's efforts to increase residents' and visitors' awareness of the estuary, the Charlotte Harbor watershed and program goals and plans.* CHNEP is again offering to provide up to \$300 to those who wish to organize an event that is open to the public but who need some assistance in covering expenses. Event information received by June 29 will be included in promotion offered by CHNEP. (This is also the deadline to request financial assistance.) Events received after that date will be added but will miss some promotional opportunities.



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Request for proclamations: This year we again ask the cities, counties and agencies participating in the CHNEP to pass resolutions/proclamations of support. We are asking for this action to occur now rather than closer to the actual celebrations so that the support received can be used to help promote the events. A sample proclamation is provided.

Members of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) would personally like to accept this support. Communications Manager Maran Hilgendorf (mhilgendorf@swfrpc.org, 239/338-2556 x 240) will coordinate between CAC members and those issuing proclamations. *Thank you.*

Ms. Ott asked Ms. Hilgendorf how many individuals participated in the past. Ms. Hilgendorf replied approximately 4,500.

Ms. Stafford asked Ms. Hilgendorf how she coordinates the events around the other events that are being held by other organizations. Ms. Hilgendorf explained that she had contacted the other agencies and organizations and tried to coordinate with them on the best schedule so it didn't interfere with any other big events.

Ms. Garcia stated that she will work on having a proclamation submitted by the SWFWMD.

Agenda Item #15 –TAC report

Judy Ott gave the TAC report and announced that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for July 11th.

Dr. Beever stated that she had received many compliments on the presentations given at the TAC meeting.

Ms. Ott stated that one of the reasons that the TAC is so successful is because the members feel very comfortable with their discussions on the various issues that are brought before them.

Ms. Stafford asked for more information on the aerial photography which was presented to the TAC. Ms. Ott explained that staff from both Water Management Districts presented the results from the 2006 seagrass maps and that NEP staff gave an overview of status and trends of seagrass coverage for the study area.

Ms. Garcia asked if a seagrass presentation could be given to the Management Committee. Both Ms. Corbett and Dr. Beever replied yes and staff will work on preparing a presentation at the next Management Committee meeting in August.



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Agenda Item #16 – CAC Report

Mr. Nedza gave the CAC Report and noted that Mr. Jason Utley from the SWFRPC gave a presentation on Florida's growth management process and they also discussed the Sunshine Law issue. He also announced that May 16th will be the CAC's annual meeting which will consist of a boat trip on the Chain of Lakes.

Ms. Hilgendorf gave a brief overview of the CAC's Annual Meeting which is scheduled to be held on May 16th. She also announced that the CAC will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary and also the 25th Anniversary of the creation of the NEPs.

Agenda Item #17 – ABM Report

Lisa Beever gave the ABM report.

Agenda Item #18 – NEP Program Report

Dr. Beever distributed copies of the draft CCMP and briefly explained that changes that have been made in formatting.

Ms. Hilgendorf explained that the first CCMP had quotes from various members and she would like to have quotes included again so she asked that if anyone wishes to submit quotes to please send them to her.

Dr. Beever reviewed the list of deliverables.

Ms. Boswell gave an overview of the septic tank management project.

Ms. Donley gave an overview of the Coastal Partnership Grant from DEP. She also stated that there are two grant proposals that she is waiting for a reply on in June: 1. Mangrove Proposal; and 2. Restoration on Pine Island in conjunction with the Calusa Land Trust from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission.

Dr. Beever and Ms. Hilgendorf reviewed the distributed table which illustrated the increase of the CHNEP's study area.

Ms. Hilgendorf noted that there was an article published in the Charlotte Sun Herald newspaper listing both professional development and community development workshops.

Ms. Hilgendorf gave an update on the status of the 2008 CHNEP Calendar. She noted that the deadline for photo submittals is July 20th and they will be on the CHNEP's website for review and selection during the month of August.



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Ms. Morgan asked what the requirements for the photos are. Ms. Hilgendorf explained all images are accepted but images that can be printed as one of the 13 featured 12x9 inch images but conform to a 4x3 ratio and have a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

Mr. Nedza asked what the pixel requirements are. Ms. Hilgendorf replied that the requirements are listed on the NEP's website, but she suggests that the picture gets sent to her for review.

Ms. Hilgendorf gave an update on the "Neighbor-to-neighbor Florida-friendly landscaping" project that is being done in conjunction with WGPU. The project includes a video, expected to be completed by September, ten one-minute TV as well as a number of radio spots.

Agenda Item #19 – Member Comments

Mr. Dale announced that the US Secretary of Commerce is concentrating on reducing the imported seafood deficit with the 2007 Aquaculture Bill. Also, the Gulf of Mexico Aquaculture Fisheries Management Plan is scheduled to be released in June.

Co-Chairman Heatherington announced that the Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Sandy K. Baruah, U.S. Department Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is scheduled to attend the Economic Development Forum scheduled for October 18th at the Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers and perhaps he could give a presentation on the 2007 Aquaculture Bill.

Ms. Morgan asked if the bill addresses fish or shellfish. Mr. Dale replied that it primarily focuses on shellfish but he feels that it might expand to include certain species of fish.

Ms. Garcia thanked the CHNEP staff for their efforts on the 2008 Workplan.

Ms. Stafford announced that the Audubon of Florida will be hosting a wading bird rookery monitoring program.

Agenda Item #20 – Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #21 – Next Meeting's Topics, Location and Date – Friday, August 3, 2007

Dr. Beever stated that the location will be in North Port and topics of discussion will include the Research and Restoration Partner Projects RFP and a seagrass presentation.

Agenda Item #22 – Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm.

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Prepared by N. Gwinnett