

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

*Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, January 16, 2008 Meeting
Best Western ~ Wauchula, Florida*

Attendance of Voting Members

Joan Bush	Lee FYN Master Gardener
Warren Bush	Lee FYN Master Gardener
Roger DeBruler Jr.	Sea Grant - Charlotte
Gail Giles	Lemon Bay Conservancy
Debra Highsmith	ECOSWF: Environmental Confederation of South West Florida
Rene A. Janneman	Sarasota County
Wilma Katz	Coastal Wildlife Club, Inc.
Stefan Katzaras	CF Industries
Ernesto Lasso de la Vega	Lee County Hyacinth Control District
Kaley Miller	Mosaic Fertilizer
Jackson Mosley	Paynes Creek Historic State Park
Kayton Nedza	Hardee County Outdoor Classroom
Frances Reimondo	San Marco Waterways
Forest Reynolds	DeSoto County
John Reynolds	DeSoto County
Bobbi Rodgers	CHEC
Kathleen Rohrer	Lemon Bay Conservancy
Harry Phillips	Cape Coral ERD
Thomas Simmons	DeSoto County resident

Attendance

Lex Albritton	Hardee County Manager
Sandra J. Beardswault	DeSoto County
Gary Blich	CF Industries, Inc.
Jim Blucher	North Port Commissioner/Policy member
Minor L. Bryant	Hardee County Commissioner
Bill Byle	Charlotte County
James Cooper	GIBA
Kim Cressman	Cape Coral ERD
David Dale	NOAA National Marine Fisheries/Mgt member
Edie Driest	Harbour Heights
Lizanne Garcia	SWFWMD/Mgt member
Richard Ghent	CF Industries, Inc.
David Gossett	CF Industries, Inc.
Barbara Gross	North Port Commissioner/Policy member
Dale Johnson	Hardee county Commissioner
Jim Kelly	The Herald-Advocate
Randee LaSalle	
Robert E. Madden	

Ann L. Madden	
Greg Martin	Charlotte Sun
Percy Medintz	
Michael Messna	CF Industries, Inc.
Kenny Miller	CF Industries, Inc.
West Palmer	Hardee County Mining Department
Brian Pohl	Hardee County Mining Department
Alan Pratt	CF Industries, Inc.
Kevyn Schweim	
Maran Hilgendorf	CHNEP
Lisa Beever	CHNEP

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 10:00 with all in attendance introducing themselves. Ms. Highsmith reported that there is a quorum of appointed members.

Agenda Item 2: Agenda Review

Chair Nedza moved agenda item 6b on CF/SWFWMD Aquifer Recovery and Recharge Project to the end of the meeting.

Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Katzaras, the change in the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Consent Agenda

Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Katzaras, that the consent agenda of the minutes of the prior meeting be accepted as amended. The motion carried unanimously. Agenda items approved include:

a. Minutes of the November 14, 2007 CAC meeting.

Chair Nedza provided an overview of the Citizens Advisory Committee and encouraged guests to consider joining as a voting member. He explained that because of the tour, the business of this meeting was kept to the minimum.

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

The CAC did not nominate additional members for the Policy Committee to consider.

Agenda Item 5: Report from Officers

Chair Nedza reported on the gopher tortoise activity book created by Zander Srodes and his commitment to the environment and history with CHNEP. Ms. Katz thanked Mr. Lasso de la Vega for help translating the sea turtle book created by Mr. Srodes into Spanish. Mr. Srodes is running for a Volvo for Life that has a \$1 million award.

Mr. Bush reported on the November CAC meeting regarding the fertilizer ordinance passed in Sarasota County. Lee County is now considering an ordinance and wants it to

be stronger than the version already proposed. On January 4, Karen Bickford presented information about the ordinance to the Florida Yards & Neighborhood's advisory board.

Ms. Bush reported on their presentation to the Pine Island Civic Association on how to deal with the water restrictions by using native plants.

Agenda Item 6: Presentations (a) CHNEP support organization

Ms. Miller provided history about re-invigorating a fundraising arm of CHNEP and the need for directors. She asked everyone to consider people who may be considered.

Ms. Rohrer provided history on the initial creation and that funds raised would be used to help CHNEP partners implement the CCMP. Strong individuals are needed to solicit and manage funds to maximize the effort of CHNEP. CAC members were asked to provide suggestions on the criteria and methodology.

Mr. Katzaras asked about creating a subcommittee and Ms. Rohrer explained one had already been created. Mr. Simmons asked about paid staff and Mr. Rohrer said that volunteers are being sought. Mr. Lasso de la Vega asked about the training that the Gulf Coast Community Foundation offered in November. Ms. Rohrer offered to present information about that training at the next CAC meeting. Ms. Miller asked that nomination information be presented to both Ms. Hilgendorf and a CAC member.

Ms. Hilgendorf suggested that a short meeting be held after the February meeting for those who would like to learn more and might be interested in furthering the organization. Chair Nedza asked that the subcommittee submit a proposal on how to proceed be prepared for the CAC to consider at their April meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Program Reports

Ms. Hilgendorf updated the CAC on the progress of the CHNEP signing ceremony, Charlotte Harbor Watershed Summit, children's book, 2008 calendar, *Harbor Happenings*, the conflict management workshop as well as the Florida-friendly workshops in Hardee and DeSoto counties. Future workshops will include information on organic gardening.

Agenda Item 8: Partners Report

No reports were offered.

Agenda Item 9: Member Comments

Ms. Rohrer invited everyone to attend the Lemon Bay Conservancy lectures.

Mr. Lasso de la Vega encouraged people to attend the Florida Yards & Neighborhood second annual conference in Fort Myers that is sponsored with a CHNEP public outreach grant.

Ms. Highsmith invited members to the ECOSWF annual meeting on January 25 from 9:30 to 2 and the Greater Charlotte Harbor Sierra Club jamboree on Sunday from 2 to 5.

Ms. Giles asked the CHNEP hold a seminar on reservoirs on pros and cons of aquifers.

Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Mr. Bush, that the CHNEP conduct a seminar on reservoirs, bringing together experts with differing perspectives. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Beever said that the motion would be considered by the Management Conference and, if approved, would be included in the workplan. Ms. Giles said that she believes that it should be held as soon as possible.

Ms. Highsmith asked that experts from outside the area be invited to participate. Director Beever said that is our normal practice. Ms. Giles said that we at CHNEP pride ourselves in presenting both sides. Ms. Miller asked if a report would be prepared. Director Beever explained that to be “done right” with outside experts that she doesn’t anticipate it can be held until this fall and that it would likely be a two-day workshop.

Chair Nedza reported that the Army Corps of Engineers had responded to the request for an areawide environmental impact statement for the phosphate region. CHNEP had sent three letters and this is the first time a response was received. He then read a portion of the letter received: “Your request is overly broad and covers large areas and activities not currently regulated by the Corps through our regulatory program. . . (and) can not be supported at this time.”

Agenda Item 10: Public Comments

No comments were made.

Agenda Item 11: 2008 Meetings

Ms. Hilgendorf asked that the March 19 meeting be cancelled and the February 20 meeting will be held at Charlotte County Eastport Center.

Agenda Item 12: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:15.

Following a short break, the second presentation began.

Mr. Ghent provided an overview of the rest of the meeting and introduced several people. He explained that during lunch, a video of CF Industries will be shown. The group will tour the Hardee Phosphate Complex, including the Bucyrus Erie 1370 dragline, Doe Branch Reclamation and Street Reconnection and Hickey Branch reclamation. The tour will end at approximately 3:30 with a fossil hunt.

He then provided an overview of CF Industries and importance of fertilizer, including world-wide growth in demand for biofuels.

Mr. Blich from CF Industries presented the proposed aquifer recharge and recovery project. The company owns 24,000 acres in Hardee County of which 15,000 is mined

with 9,000 more to be permitted. CF industries first mining site began in 1978, after the 1975 reclamation law was passed. Of the acres mined, 1,012 acres are ready for reclamation and are now being considered for a reservoir. As currently permitted, the reclamation will create forested uplands, pasture and wetlands. The acreage slated for the pasture would become the reservoir. The reclamation is scheduled to be completed by 2011, which includes two years of testing after it is created.

It's proposed that the Southwest Florida Water Management District would be the long-term operator if the reservoir.

The PowerPoint presentation may be given to CHNEP to make available through its website. Additional information about the reservoir is on the Internet at <ftp://ftp.dep.state.fl.us/ub/minerec/manpho/>.

Minutes were prepared by Maran Hilgendorf.