

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

*Approved* Minutes of the Wednesday, October 15, 2008 Meeting  
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council ~ Fort Myers, Florida

**Attendance of Voting Members**

|          |                  |   |
|----------|------------------|---|
| Richard  | De Gennaro       | Lemon Bay Conservancy                                     |
| Roger    | DeBruler Jr.     | Sea Grant - Charlotte                                     |
| Debra    | Highsmith        | ECOSWF: Environmental Confederation of South West Florida |
| Rene A   | Janneman         | Sarasota County   |
| Stefan   | Katzaras         | CF Industries   |
| Randee   | LaSalle          | Sierra Club   |
| Ernesto  | Lasso de la Vega | Lee County Hyacinth Control District                      |
| Kaley    | Miller           | Mosaic Fertilizer   |
| Kayton   | Nedza            | Hardee County Outdoor Classroom                           |
| Ellen    | Peterson         | Sierra Club and Estero Bay ABM                            |
| Harry    | Phillips         | Cape Coral ERD  |
| Kathi    | Rader-Gibson     | Lemon Bay Park  |
| Kathleen | Rohrer           | Lemon Bay Conservancy                                     |
| George   | Ruby             | Peace River Audubon Society                               |
| Kevyn    | Schweim          | Coastal Wildlife Club                                     |
| Thomas   | Simmons          | DeSoto County resident                                    |
| Jean     | Srodes           | Turtle Talks  |

**Attendance**

|           |             |  |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| Sandra J. | Beardsworth | DeSoto County  |
| Mike      | Coates      | Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority |
| Wayne     | Daltry      | Lee County Smart Growth                              |
| Susan     | Hochula     | Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority |
| Pete      | Quasius     | Lee County resident                                  |
| Sam       | Stone       | Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority |

Lisa Beever                      Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

Maran Hilgendorf              Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

**Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Nedza called the meeting to order at 10:05. Mr. Dave Hutchinson with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council welcomed everyone and introduced himself. Everyone in attendance then introduced themselves.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, Ms. Peterson reported that there is a quorum of appointed members.

**Agenda Item 2: Agenda Review**

Mr. Daltry asked that an update on Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan be added to the agenda

**Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Ms. Rohrer, that the item be added to the agenda after the consent agenda is considered. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item 2: Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan**

Mr. Daltry provided an overview. Comments are desired and due by October 31. The plan is available on the SFWMD website at <https://my.sfwmd.gov/northerneverglades>. Ms. Highsmith asked if he's satisfied with the plan. Mr. Daltry replied that it doesn't include details of costs, responsibilities and when projects will be undertaken.

## **Agenda Item 3: Consent Agenda**

- Ms. Rohrer moved, seconded by Mr. Ruby, the approval of the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously. Agenda items approved include:**
- a. Approval of the minutes of the July 16, 2008 CAC meeting**
  - b. FY09 Public Outreach Grants Funding Recommendation to approve 11 applications with funds in the FY09 workplan**
  - c. Approval of Public Outreach Grant Guidance Document for FY10**
  - d. FY09 Research and Research Partner Grants Funding Recommendations**

## **Agenda Item 4a: Nomination of Members**

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members represent public concerns and transfer information back to their local communities, including distributing information to the public. The CAC provides a mechanism for citizens to advise the CH NEP. The committee works closely with staff to reinforce and maintain public support for the NEP, develop public participation strategies, and provide input on public education programs. Membership in the CAC is open to those interested in furthering the goals and objectives of the CHNEP.

As of May 2007, members can be nominated for voting member status by any voting member of the CAC. These nominations are then considered for appointment by the Policy Committee at their quarterly meetings (March, May, August and November). Voting members who have not attended CAC meetings during the previous 12 months automatically lose their voting rights. Non-voting members can give input only during the "public comment" segment of the CAC meetings.

At the May 19, 2008 meeting, the Policy Committee requested that an overview of CHNEP and an application for CAC voting status be prepared and that additional information about each nominated applicant be provided when they consider appointments.

Applications are considered four times a year. Applicants are asked to submit applications by February 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 for the CAC to consider at their next scheduled meeting. Since the last meeting, Mr. Pete Quasius submitted an application for the CAC to consider.

**Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Ms. Rohrer, that Pete Quasius be nominated by the CAC for the Policy Committee's consideration for appointment. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item 4b: Meeting tasks**

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program has met as often as monthly on the third Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. At the July 2008 meeting, the CAC moved to have four quarterly meetings to correspond to the other committees of the Management Conference. Since the CAC had been meeting more often, the timing of when several tasks will need to be addressed will have to be changed.

The CAC is expected to rotate the location of meetings throughout the seven counties that participate in the CHNEP. The CAC bylaws require that the committee meets at least four times a year. If the CAC needs to schedule a meeting other than on the third Wednesday of a month it may do so by calling a “special” meeting per the bylaws, which requires written notice 14 day prior to the meeting. The meeting history was provided in the July 2008 meeting packet. Minutes of meetings held since 2000 are posted on the website at [www.CHNEP.org](http://www.CHNEP.org).

The CAC then considered re-aligning tasks as a result of the reduction in meetings held.

Ms. Rohrer asked that teleconferencing be available, especially for the July meeting. Ms. Beever explained that members can provide comments that are then added to the meeting. Ms. Hilgendorf asked if members would like to be polled on whether they would like to participate via teleconferencing. After discussion, it was decided that members will be polled to see if they anticipate participating electronically and that sites have electronic capabilities for the next few meetings will be selected. Mr. Nedza asked that this offering be provided for the next meeting. Director Beever asked that we consider this for the July meeting. Ms. Rohrer asked that protocol be provided so there are rules on how to identify and receive input from people on the phone. Mr. Katzaras offered the system that CF Industries uses as did Mr. de Bruler. They both offered to prepare a report on the systems they use.

Mr. Simmons explained that he believes the sites that might not have the technology are the sites he wants CAC meetings to be held.

#### **Agenda Item 4c: National Estuaries Days**

Since 2000, CHNEP has celebrated National Estuaries Days by asking its partners to hold events that help the public learn more about the natural environment and specifically estuaries. Many partners have participated and the public has enjoyed these events. (Details on each year’s offerings are posted on the website at [www.CHNEP.org](http://www.CHNEP.org)).

For 2009, CHNEP would like to de-emphasize National Estuaries Days because CHNEP sponsors events throughout the year, the weather doesn’t often cooperate, it’s a difficult time of the year for partners to offer events, others are now offering similar events (“Ding” Darling Days, Blueways Festival, Watershed Awareness) and seasonal residents have not yet returned. In its place,

CHNEP is developing a website database of events that all partners can participate and the public can query to find, for example, outdoor adventures

during the month of April in Sarasota County or any upcoming scientific program.

Portions of each issue of *Harbor Happenings* would feature upcoming events and encourage readers to visit the website for all listings.

Partners will be asked to issue proclamations of support for CHNEP -- not just a few events that are held during the fall.

Ms. Rohrer expressed interest in holding an event on the actual day.

**Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to promote “estuary day every day” events throughout the year, including in each issue of the newsletter, and to refocus proclamations to cover the breadth of program. The motion carried.**

Mr. DeGennero asked if we’d ask them to continue promoting National Estuaries Days. Ms. Hilgendorf said she’d rather people know about the program. Ms. Rader-Gibson asked if the slogan “estuaries day, every day” be used. Mr. Simmons said he’s concerned it will loose any ties with the national programs. Ms. Rader-Gibson said that this change gives organizations more flexibility. Director Beever said that our outreach efforts are well respected and well received.

The committee then discussed funding and whether the CHNEP will hold an event on the last Saturday of September, which is when National Estuaries Day is observed.

**Agenda Item 5: Report from Officers**

No report was made.

**Agenda Item 6: Committee Reports**

No reports were made.

**Agenda Item 7a: Deliverables**

The projects completed by CHNEP between July 4, 2008 and September 30, 2008 were provided.

**Agenda Item 7b: Public Outreach Grants and Micro-Grants**

Ms. Hilgendorf reported on the public outreach grants and micro-grants. Public outreach grant applicants have been able to complete projects more quickly and now rarely require an extension of time. As of October 1, 2008 with the start of a new fiscal year, only four public outreach grants have not yet been completed and three of these are still within the year-long contract! Project descriptions are posted on the website at [www.CHNEP.org](http://www.CHNEP.org).

In 2008, the CAC passed a motion that micro-grants must be completed within the fiscal year they are approved. This has made record-keeping much easier. A list of projects completed is posted on the website at [www.CHNEP.org](http://www.CHNEP.org).

|              |               |                |                 |                |                 |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Micro</b> | <b>Budget</b> | <b>Amended</b> | <b>Expended</b> | <b>Unspent</b> | <b>Projects</b> |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|

|      |             |             |             |             |     |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| FY02 | \$6,500.00  | \$6,500.00  | \$4,499.07  | \$2,000.93  | 19  |
| FY03 | \$8,000.00  | \$8,000.00  | \$6,854.66  | \$1,145.34  | 31  |
| FY04 | \$11,000.00 | \$11,000.00 | \$9,643.70  | \$1,356.30  | 44  |
| FY05 | \$8,000.00  | \$11,000.00 | \$9,851.66  | \$1,148.34  | 42  |
| FY06 | \$8,000.00  | \$8,000.00  | \$8,730.32  | -\$730.32   | 37  |
| FY07 | \$11,000.00 | \$12,800.00 | \$10,837.65 | \$1,962.35  | 50  |
| FY08 | \$12,800.00 | \$18,800.00 | \$15,208.11 | \$3,591.89* | 65  |
|      | \$65,300.00 | \$76,100.00 | \$65,625.17 | \$10,474.83 | 288 |

\* Often a few applicants withdraw their request after it has been approved. This happened in FY08 several times. For example, 9 micro-grants were awarded to teachers in Sarasota County that would allow them to take students on a CHEC-led wading trip but the School Board then prohibited this type of field trip.

**Agenda Item 7c: Reservoir Workshop**

Ms. Ott distributed a “straw” agenda she had developed based on the CAC Reservoir Committee’s notes from the April meeting.

Director Beever said that at the in-stream flow council that represents environmental interests, industry and regulators that included much discussion on reservoirs. They will have contacts with good sources that should participate in the reservoir workshop.

There’s a reservoir partnership. They are developing a strategic plan.

Mr. Katzaras asked if they were a reputable organization. She said most identified themselves as scientists, mostly academics.

**Agenda Item 7d-h**

Due to the time, the meeting packet included background material but no discussion occurred regarding the children’s book, 2009 calendar, CHNEP strategic communication plan, public issues and conflict management workshop and the tidal shoreline project completed by PhotoScience.

**Agenda Item 8: Presentation by the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority**

Ms. Hochula provided an update on the reservoir under construction. Powerpoint presentations are posted on the website at *www.CHNEP.org*. The existing at-grade reservoir is 85 acres of surface water and engineered-walled reservoir 2, that’s under construction, is 1 square mile that’ll hold 6 billion gallons of water.

Additional treatment process facilities are also being built. 24 MGD expanded to 48 MGD treatment onsite.

She then presented an update on two pipelines that’ll cross the Myakka and Peace rivers.

At 11:55, Chair Nedza asked the committee if they’d like to continue the presentation beyond the noon end time. By general agreement, it was decided that the presentation should continue and members should leave as needed.

Mr. Coates presented and update on the feasibility study for new sites.

Ms. Highsmith asked about evapotranspiration in reservoirs with USGS experts who are currently doing work. Mr. Coates said they are working with USGS but not on this topic. Their experience is that the net loss is negligible.

Mr. Simmons asked who the regulatory agency that oversees water withdrawals is. Mr. Coates said it is the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Historically Florida population has been increasing so demand for water is increasing. Water Planning Alliance, 13-groups, met and identified future supply opportunities in 2005. In 2006, the list was narrowed to six sites then to three with the expectation that the Source Water Feasibility Study be completed in November 2008. For Myakka, there is too much water withdrawn by agricultural concerns. Placing the site here would benefit the environment. Dona and Roberts Bay watershed was 16 square miles but Cow Pen Slough was created diverting water from Myakka River expanding the watershed to 75 square miles – so estuaries get 5-6 times more freshwater than it did naturally. Shell Creek is a flashy system and a surface water supply could also benefit the environment.

Water will all have to be treated to remove salinity. Next phase will be to look at each site more carefully. More focus has been placed on surface water since it is more complicated – takes more land, involves more property owners, geohazards, etc.

- 3 sites in Shell/Prairie

- 3 1000-acre sites in Upper Myakka for 6 B gallon storage to yield 10-20 mgd; area also has 10 mgd permitted groundwater use for agricultural, which is transition to housing. Part of SWUCA where too many groundwater permits granted. Environmental benefit would be removing excess water that's flooding Flatford Swamp now.

- 2 in Dona/Roberts Bay area.

Usually recover about 80% of water for drinking. For example, in 100 gallons, 80 would be drinkable and 20 gallons would be byproduct.

Ms. LaSalle asked if other types of water can be considered. For example, gray water used for lawn irrigation. Mr. Coates said that it falls under the jurisdiction of local governments.

Questions were asked throughout the presentations.

### **Agenda Item 9: Member Comments**

Mr. Nedza showed a bag of Doritos that features Zander Srodes! His information will appear on 10 million bags!

### **Agenda Item 10: Public Comments**

None were made.

**Agenda Item 11: Upcoming Meetings**

The CAC has approved the following meetings: December 16-17, 2008 – Public Issues and Conflict Management (must register to attend), February 18, 2009, April 15, July 15, September 2 (to develop calendar) and October 21.

**Agenda Item 12: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30.