

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

*Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, July 16, 2008 Meeting
Charlotte County Cultural Center ~ Port Charlotte, Florida*

Attendance of Voting Members

Joan Bush	Lee FYN Master Gardener
Warren Bush	Lee FYN Master Gardener
Richard DeGennaro	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
Kayton Nedza	Hardee County Outdoor Classroom
Ellen Peterson	Sierra Club and Estero Bay ABM
Harry Phillips	Cape Coral ERD
Frances Reimondo	San Marco Waterways
Bobbi Rodgers	CHEC Cedar Point
Kathleen Rohrer	Lemon Bay Conservancy
George Ruby	Peace River Audubon Society

Attendance

Whitney Gray
Pete Quasius

Maran Hilgendorf	CHNEP
Lisa Beever	CHNEP

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 10:05 with all in attendance introducing themselves. Ms. Highsmith reported that there is a quorum of appointed members then presented a CHNEP padfolio to Mr. DeGennaro who had been appointed as a voting member of the CAC.

Agenda Item 2: Agenda Review

Mr. Bush, who chaired the meeting, asked if members wished to pull any items from the consent agenda. Ms. Rohrer said she had questions to clarify the minutes. Ms. Hilgendorf said that the final product of agenda item I is a GIS database so was not included in the meeting database.

Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Mr. Ruby, that the consent agenda be approved. After discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Agenda items approved include:

- a. Approval of the minutes of the April 16, 2008 CAC meeting (pg 9)

- b. CCMP State Clearinghouse Comments (pg 17)
- c. Charlotte Harbor 7-County Watershed Report (pg 21)
- d. CHNEP CAC Green Resolution (pg 51)
- e. CHNEP CAC application to become a voting member (pg 53)
- f. Special issue of *Florida Scientist* (based on Charlotte Harbor Watershed Summit 2008 (pg 57)
- g. National Marine Sanctuaries Act (pg 61)
- h. Research and Restoration Partner Grant Request for Proposals (pg 63)
- i. Tidal Shoreline Condition Map (pg 101)

Director Beever explained that the TAC had changed the schedule for the Research and Restoration Partner Grant proposals to better match the public outreach grant schedule and to award contracts sooner since the funds are available as of October 1.

Ms. Rohrer asked that “green” buildings be defined in the green resolution. Director Beever explained that there are several programs that certify buildings as environmentally-friendly and, at this time, there are few buildings within the CHNEP study area that are so recognized. Ms. Hilgendorf offered to provide members with an email that describes programs, which has also been featured in the newsletter *Harbor Happenings*.

Ms. Rodgers asked for an updated directory of CAC members to help with carpooling. Ms. Hilgendorf said she’d send the directory to members.

Ms. Rohrer asked about item g. Ms. Donley asked members to refer to the table in the packet on page 62. Congressman Mahoney has been looking for ways to further support environmental programs. The motion would allow staff to further explore funding possibilities with Senator Mahoney. The sanctuaries have regulatory responsibilities and that CHNEP may not be “special enough” to be considered. She suggested that members let her know if they wish to be more involved in this discussion.

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

Ms. Hilgendorf referred members to pages 55-56 of the meeting packet, which is the nomination application. No motions were offered to nominate new members for the Policy Committee to consider for appointment, which then gives them voting rights.

Agenda Item 4: New Business (b) Appointment of members to the CAC Grant Committee

Ms. Hilgendorf provided an update and explained the history and grant process. Ms. Radar-Gibson, Ms. Peterson, Mr. Bush, Ms. Bush, Ms. Katz and Ms. Srodes confirmed that would again serve on the committee. Ms. Joy Hazell will join the committee as the TAC representative.

Agenda Item 4: New Business (c) Committee meetings for 2009

Ms. Hilgendorf provided an overview. Ms. Highsmith referred people to the proposed meeting schedule for 2009. Ms. Rohrer strongly supported a change to four meetings a year but that they be longer to cover more topics. Ms. Rohrer suggested the calendar be a subcommittee and not considered to be an official CAC meeting. Ms. Miller suggested the teleconference capability be furthered.

Ms. Rohrer moved, seconded by Ms. Highsmith, to accept the 2009 meeting schedule as proposed which has the CAC meeting as a full committee four times a year. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. De Gennaro asked if the CAC will lose its effectiveness if there aren't enough opportunities for face to face meetings. Subcommittee meetings can be scheduled to address issues that can't be addressed during the regular CAC meeting and field trips can be offered in addition to the four meetings, which allow members to learn more about the issues facing the CHNEP. Mr. Janneman asked about the "other" meetings and Director Beever suggested they might become Citizens Forum.

Ms. Miller suggested that any other meetings be scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month, to be consistent with the time of the month the regular CAC meetings are held. The friendly amendment was accepted.

After discussion it was decided that only the four meetings would be listed in the calendar and website as official CAC meetings.

Ms. Highsmith moved, seconded by Ms. Bush, that the months CAC meetings are scheduled be reserved for special events, subcommittee meetings and citizens forum. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nedza suggested that we experiment with the teleconference capabilities. Ms. Donley explained the capabilities of teleconferences. Ms. Hilgendorf explained that there is newer technology that provides video that are being explored.

New Business 4e: Dredging/No Internal Combustion Motor Zones Science Forum

Ms. Highsmith said that many members attended the July 9 Science Forum but that she thought Director Beever was the best person to report on it. Director Beever reported that the CAC motion was to continue this item through the conference. The Management and Policy committees sent it to the Science Forum so that members can learn more about existing similar zones. The presentations made are all posted on the CHNEP website at www.CHNEP.org.

The people who presented all said that the public has to be heavily involved in the process. In Lee County, the public are opposed to tying the zones to the permit and mitigation but would rather have it tied to the public interest. Dredging has to be tied to a state rule.

Ms. Highsmith said that Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is currently writing the rule and will then have it considered at a public meeting.

Director Beever said the TAC is committed to developing a monitoring plan. The other zones don't have a baseline. Ms. Highsmith said that the exception is the Keys Marine Sanctuary. They've had 45 percent increases in seagrass over 14 years. Director Beever summarized another finding that is available as a paper on the website.

Ms. Highsmith said that some of the large areas established running zones to safely get in and out of the zones.

Agenda Item 5: Report from Officers

The officers made no report.

Agenda Item 6: Committee Reports

No committee reports were made.

Agenda Item 7: Program Reports

Ms. Hilgendorf asked CAC members to review a draft of a CHNEP magnetic name tag that Mr. Lasso de la Vega had suggested for use by Management Conference members.

Ms. Donley explained that she prepares a leverage sheet for EPA and that an important component of that are the hours committee members work on projects that help fulfill the CCMP. The CAC had been asked to record the estimated hours on each meeting sign-in sheet. Ms. Rohrer suggested that members likely donate at least 10 hours a month because there is a great deal more time volunteered that isn't captured in the meetings, such as the nature festival. There was general agreement that 10 hours a month is a good estimate.

Agenda Item 8: Presentation on Estuary Climate Change Adaptation

Director Beever explained that Capital Hills Ocean Week is a time for federal legislators and staff to think about issues related to oceans. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contributed to this event and wanted NEP presentations included. She presented information on the new CCMP and climate change issues, including information on two "climate ready" estuary grants CHNEP received from EPA. She noted that sea level rise is anticipated to be comparable to flooding that occurs with a category 2 hurricane.

Ms. Highsmith asked about incorporating the findings in the city and county comprehensive plans.

Agenda Item 9: Member Comments

The CAC asked that the PR/MRSWA give a presentation on the Integrated Loop System.

Ms. Katz provided an overview of the sea turtle workshops that are occurring this week with the support of a CHNEP public outreach grant.

Ms. Katz encouraged people to read Bill Dunzel's column in the *Sun Herald*.

Mr. Janneman invited volunteers to help with scallop monitoring from Lemon Bay to Sarasota Bay.

Ms. Highsmith was invited to *Charlotte Sun's* round table on offshore dredging.

Ms. Bush explained that Lee County Master Gardener's are continuing their monthly rain barrel programs with more than 700 created. The program has expanded to Bonita Springs and Fort Myers Beach.

Ms. Rodgers found a live scallop on a wading trip! CHEC is doing a storm drain project in Rotunda with SWFWMD funding.

Ms. Hilgendorf provided an overview of *Harbor Happenings*, the CCMP summary, publication brochure and samples of the children's book.

Mr. Lasso de la Vega said that we'll receive a Spanish language newsletter on environmental concerns.

Ms. Donley said that this is the 100th year of three National Wildlife Refuges and there will be an event to celebrate this on September 27.

Agenda Item 10: Public Comments

No comments were made.

Agenda Item 11: Meetings

Ms. Rohrer moved, seconded by Ms. Miller, that the CAC meet only on October 15 and to hold a special meeting on September 3 to develop the calendar.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30.