



**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program  
Management Committee  
Approved Minutes  
May 2, 2008  
Arcadia, Florida**

***Members Present:***

Franklin Baker	USEPA, Region 4
Greg Blanchard	CHNEP TAC
Alton Cheatham	Charlotte County Soil & Water
Lizanne Garcia	SWFWMD, Resource Management Dept.
Mike Gurr	CFRPC
Debra Highsmith	CHNEP CAC
Bob Howard	USEPA, Region 4
Misty Nabors Nichols	Gasparilla Island Conservation & Improvement Assoc.
Jennifer Nelson	FDEP
John Ryan	CHNEP TAC
Betty Staugler	FL Sea Grant – Charlotte County Extension
Andy Stevens	Charlotte County Environmental & Extension Services

***Also Present:***

Lisa Beever	CHNEP
Catherine Corbett	CHNEP
Liz Donley	CHNEP
Maran Hilgendorf	CHNEP

**Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order and Introductions** – Meeting was called to order by Bob Howard, Co-Chairman at 9:32 a.m. Introductions were made.

**Agenda Item #2. Agenda Additions or Deletions** – Bob Howard, Co-Chairman

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

**Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments on Agenda Items** – Bob Howard, Co-Chairman

No public comments were made at this time.

**Agenda Item #4 – Management Committee February 29, 2008 Minutes**

**MS. GARCIA MOVED AND MS. STAUGLER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 29, 2008. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**



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**Agenda Item #5 – FY09 Workplan and FY08 Amendments – Lisa Beaver**

The workplan is the annual budget for the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP). It conforms to specifications outlined by EPA and provides information for inclusion in the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's budget. The CHNEP workplan is a task-based budget which directs implementation of projects by staff, CHNEP's contractors, and through grants. There are 5 tasks:

1. Management Conference
2. Public Outreach
3. Research
4. Restoration
5. Advocacy.

EPA funds are directed primarily to Management Conference support, public outreach, and special grant-funded research. DEP funds research and restoration. Water Management Districts fund research and staff time. Local Governments and the Water Supply Authority provide funding with the most flexibility available, necessary for advocacy and obtaining additional grant resources.

Amendments of the existing year's workplan budget is necessary to include grants that have been obtained

**MS. GARCIA MOVED AND MR. RYAN SECONDED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE FY 09 WORKPLAN AND FY08 AMENDMENTS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Environmental Indicators Report Update – Lisa Beaver**

During the last 2007 meeting cycle, the Management Committee recommended approval of the Environmental Indicators Report update, pending a review of the final CCMP and that the CHNEP staff work with the SWFWMD staff on the Myakka River targets. We have included the SWFWMD language for the Myakka River in this version of the Environmental Indicators report.

Further, the Management Committee recommended that the Management Conference be surveyed regarding indicators that are most important to be added to the State of the Estuary and Watersheds Document. As of April 21, 2008, twenty-two Management Conference participants completed the survey. Additional respondents are welcome.



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<b>Name</b>	<b>Committee</b>
Rene Janneman	CAC
Kayton Nedza	CAC
Debra Highsmith	CAC
Harry Phillips	CAC
Lizanne Garcia	Management
David Dale	Management
Jennifer Nelson	Management
Wayne Daltry	Policy
Charles Wallace	Policy
Tom Welborn	Policy
Melanie Grisby	Policy
Barry Wharton	Science Forum
Jim Beever	Staff
Lisa Beever	Staff
Greg Blanchard	TAC
Ernie Estevez	TAC
Matthew Logan	TAC
John Ryan	TAC
Ford Walton	TAC
Annette Nielsen	TAC
Chris Anastasiou	TAC
Rhonda Evans	TAC

**MS. GARCIA MOVED AND MR. CHEATHAM SECONDED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS REPORT UPDATE WITH A CONTINGENCY WITH A CHANGE TO THE PEACE RIVER INDICATOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. Historic Hydrologic Subbasins Project – Mike Gurr**

Mike Gurr will present the draft deliverables from the historic hydrologic subbasins project. This is a FY06 project to map historic hydrologic subbasins within the CHNEP study area. Mr. Gurr presented his methodology at a July 2007 TAC meeting for review and input and presented draft deliverables at the April 2008 TAC meeting. The TAC recommended approval of the draft deliverables and the CAC were given a project summary.

**MS. STAUGLER MOVED AND MR. RYAN SECONDED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF DRAFT DELIVERABLES. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH MR. GURR ABSTAINED.**



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**8. RESOLUTION ON GREEN MEETINGS – LISA BEEVER**

At their last meeting, the Management Committee directed staff to return with a Resolution in support of green meetings. The resolution was based predominately on a similar resolution from the TAC, adopted on February 13, 2008.

Significant issues include:

- Paper packets will not be routinely sent to all members, but to members that have a standing “order” and those that request them in advance of the send-out date. This may necessitate completing a quorum call 2 weeks prior to the meeting. Other related issues include the encouragement of members to have their materials on their laptops rather than having paper copies, which is a component of the SWFRPC resolution.
- No more than 5 copies of agenda packets and informational material will be brought to the meeting.
- Submittals of proposals, reports, and other data will be in electronic form, within constraints.
- In addition to reporting hours devoted to the program as part of the sign-in sheet, members will be asked to report carpooling or other energy-efficient mode.
- The issue of conference calling and other remote participation methods will be discussed.

**MR. RYAN MOVED AND MS. NELSON SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON GREEN MEETINGS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. WCIND/LEE COUNTY NOTICE OF GENERAL PERMIT – LISA BEEVER**

Debra Highsmith of the CAC requested that the CHNEP review and provide comments if necessary on the WCIND Notice for General Permit (NPG) for dredging in Lee County. CHNEP staff had seen and provided comments to FDEP staff on an early version of the NPG related to funding enforcement, monitoring, and public education for Non-Internal Combustion Motor Zones (NICMZ). Lee County hired a marine enforcement officer who has spent the intervening period bringing enforcement action on derelict vessels. Lee County provided CHNEP staff with GIS files for the channels and MICMZ for analysis which was presented to the TAC and CAC in April.

All channels under the NPG total 668 acres, with channels requiring dredging totaling 83 acres. NICMZs total 1246 acres. Seagrass areas that would require dredging total 2 acres, however, it is anticipated that this will be less based on mapping errors and through adjusting channel locations as required in the permit. Of the 1246 NICMZ acres, 990 acres are of seagrass, with 592 acres moderately or severely scarred.



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As a result of the presentation, TAC committed to assisting Lee County with the development of the Monitoring Plan. Neither CAC nor TAC made a motion related to this issue. CAC invited Debra Highsmith to continue this issue through the Management Conference. The attached letter is the result of the invitation.

During the TAC and CAC discussions, key issues were:

- Acknowledgement that the NPG would serve as a blueprint for other area in the CHNEP study area and in the state,
- Acknowledgement that the NPG constitutes a long range plan for channels limited to a specific level of service and forfeit certain maintenance dredging rights,
- Commitment from the TAC to assist Lee County with the development of the NICMZ Monitoring Plan, to document benefits, if any, of NICMZs,
- Expansion of environmental enforcement which implements the CCMP, and
- Interest in expanding NICMZs but no specific proposal for this NPG.

If there is an interest, the CHNEP could draft a letter in support of this NPG with:

- Commitment to assist Lee County with the development of the NICMZ Monitoring Plan,
- Recommend future such permits include at least a 500 to 1 seagrass protection mitigation ratio if NICMZs are used, and

Recommend NICMZs monitoring and enforcement as a requirement.

**MS. GARCIA MOVED AND MR. GURR SECONDED TO HAVE THE SCIENCE FORUM HEAR PRESENTATIONS ON CLOSED ZONES, SUCH AS NICMZ, EXPERIENCES FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH MS. STAUGLER, MS. NELSON, AND MR. STEVENS ABSTAINING.**

#### **10. EPA PERFORMANCE MEASURES – FRANK BAKER**

In this era of tightening budgets and demands to measure performance we must demonstrate the effectiveness of environmental programs including the National Estuary Programs. The EPA Strategic Plan lists Strategic Targets for the Agency to show OMB and Congress its effectiveness.

Three of those targets relate to water quality restoration and improvement on a watershed basis. The National Estuary Programs are widely considered the original Watershed Programs, bringing together partners and resources to address local watershed problems. We need to fully account for the successes of Charlotte Harbor NEP to restore and improve water quality in the Study Area. We will discuss measures SP-10- the number of segments (WBIDs) fully restored, SP-11 - the number of impairments within a segment removed, and then focus on SP-12 - the number of watershed segments



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improved using a watershed approach. We will work to identify a watershed in the Study Area where we can document water quality improvement through the watershed approach.

Here is the EPA Strategic Plan for Water. The subject section is Objective 2.2, page 43 to 49.

(See attached file: Strategic Plan, Goal 2.pdf)

Here is the guidance for documenting successes for SP-12. The third bullet on page 43 of the Strategic Plan.

(See attached file: SP-12 Implementation Guidance 8-10-07.pdf)

Here is a completed Watershed Improvement Summary for Lake Apopka. We want to draft at least one of these for the Study Area by the end of September.

(See attached file: Lake Apopka SP12 Success Story.pdf)

#### **11. TAC REPORT**

Ms. Staugler gave the TAC Report. In addition to the items heard by the Management Committee, the TAC received a presentation of the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring data compared with the Random Sample Water Quality Monitoring data presented by Ray Leary.

#### **12. CAC REPORT**

Ms. Highsmith gave the CAC Report.

#### **13. NEP Program Report**

Lisa Beever referenced the Program Deliverables Summary included in the packet.

Ms. Hilgendorf explained that on Monday, March 24, the Program held a "celebration" to commemorate the completion of the CCMP Update. CHNEP held its Charlotte Harbor Watershed Summit on March 25-27 at Edison College in Punta Gorda. More than 50 presentations were made and more than 130 people attended the three day program. All the PowerPoint presentations made are posted on the website at [www.CHNEP.org](http://www.CHNEP.org).

She announced that the Children's Discovery Book has been completed. Of the 19,000 copies printed, approximately 18,000 were distributed by the Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee county school districts to students in either third or fifth grades. Sample copies were provided to members.

The deadline to submit images for the CHNEP 2009 calendar is July 14. Details are posted on the website.



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This year CHNEP will again celebrate National Estuaries Days by asking its partners to hold events. The Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival will be held November 22 as the last event offered during this three-month celebration.

As a token of appreciation for members' commitment to the CHNEP, padfolios were provided.

Dr. Beever announced Catherine Corbett's last day and presented her with a token of CHNEP's esteem.

**14. Member Comments**

None.

**15. Public Comments**

None.

**16. Next Meeting's Topics, Location and Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 1, 2008 in Fort Myers and topics of discussion are: 2009 Calendar and Research and Restoration Partners Request for Proposals.

**17. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.