

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
October 22, 2008
Venice, FL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Sampson	CF Industries
Kim Cressman	City of Cape Coral
Keith Kibbey	Lee County Environmental Lab
John Cassani	Lee County Hyacinth Control District
Greg Blanchard	Manatee County
Jennifer Nelson	FL Department of Environmental Protection
Chris Stafford	FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Sam Stone	Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
Loren Coen	Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation
John Ryan	Sarasota County
Peter Doering	South Florida Water Management District
Kristen Kaufman	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Leroy Crockett	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

ALSO PRESENT

Michael Messina	CF Industries
Wayne Daltry	Lee County Smart Growth
Ray Leary	FL Department of Environmental Protection
Mindy Brown	FL Department of Environmental Protection
Jaime Boswell	Johnson engineering
Emily Hall	Mote Marine Laboratory
Wendy Hershfeld	Scheda Ecological
Lisa Beever	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Judy Ott	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**—John Ryan
The meeting began at 1:05 PM. Judy Ott called roll and reported that a quorum was obtained.
2. **Agenda Additions or Deletions**— John Ryan
Lisa Beever requested to add an item to discuss the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan. The item was added as Agenda Item 4.5.
3. **Public Comments on agenda**— John Ryan
No public comments.
4. **Consent Agenda**— John Ryan
Lisa Beever commented that it is helpful to have the RRPP final deliverables on the TAC agenda and suggested that this practice continue on future TAC agendas.

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JIM SAMPSON MOVED, SECONDED BY KEITH KIBBEY, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. THE AGENDA ITEM INCLUDES:

- a. Approval of the minutes of the July 9, 2008 meeting.
- b. Approval to recommend that the Management and Policy Committees accept the PhotoScience Charlotte Harbor Tidal Shoreline Survey Project final deliverables.
- c. Approval to recommend that the Management and Policy Committees accept the HDR Historic Subbasin Project final deliverables.
- d. Approval to recommend that the Management and Policy Committees accept the Mote “Do Coastal Land Alterations Impact Estuarine Food Webs?” final report.
- e. Approval to recommend to that the Management and Policy Committees approve the Public Outreach Guidance Document for FY10.

4.5 Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan—Judy Ott

Development of the Caloosahatchee River, St. Lucie and Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plans was required by the Florida Northern Everglades and Estuaries Act in 2007. The plans are required to be completed by January 2009. The final draft Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan (CRWPP) was completed October 1, 2008 by a multi-agency consortium coordinated by the South Florida Water Management District and including Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Lee County Division of Natural Resources. Comments on the Protection Plan were due October 31, 2008. Workshops to review the plan were held October 27, 2008 in Fort Myers at the SFWMD Lower West Coast Service Center. The CRWPP Working Team workshop was held from 1:30 – 3:30 pm; a Public Workshop will be held from 6:00-8:00 pm. The draft Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan and Appendices are available on the CHNEP ftp site CHNEP ftp site at: <ftp://ftp.swfrpc.org>; username: [chnep](#); password: [chnepaccess](#). A summary of the CRWPP was presented at the Science Forum and TAC meetings October 22, 2008.

The primary goal of the CRWPP is to restore and protect surface water resources by addressing water quality, quantity, timing and distribution for the sustainability of natural habitats. The Plan coordinates with Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP), Southwest Florida Feasibility Study (SWFFS) and Total Maximum daily Load (TMDL) activities. It includes existing and planned projects from these activities that advance the goals of the CRWPP. Water quantity was evaluated based on a simulation of the period from 1970-2005. Nutrient loads were based on the period from 1995 – 2005.

Attention was called to specific figures and tables in the CRWPP, including: a map of the study area (Figure 1-1), a summary of specific problems, objectives and constraints for the plan (Table 1-1), water quantity results for 5 conditions (Section 1.4.3), and a summary of the anticipated nutrient load reductions from the Preferred Plan (Table 1-2). Alternative 4, the Preferred Plan, recommends the need for additional water storage of 400,000 acre-feet per year.

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The 4 alternatives evaluated include:

- Alternative 1: “common elements” - including current, ongoing and planned projects;
- Alternative 2: Maximize water storage capacity – including Alternative 1 plus 6 new water quantity management measures;
- Alternative 3: Maximize phosphorus and nitrogen nutrient load reductions – including Alternative 1 plus 8 new water quality management measures;
- Alternative 4: Optimize both water storage capacity and phosphorus and nitrogen nutrient load reductions – including Alternatives 1-3 plus 4 additional management measures.

Alternative 4 is the Preferred Plan.

Initial review of the CRWPP by CHNEP staff indicate:

- The plan is a good beginning at using science to evaluate water quality storage and environment of existing conditions and alternatives.
- Table 3.1: Recommend Frequency of Inflow at S-79 (attached) appears to represent more natural flow conditions for long term protection of riverine and estuarine resources.
- Table 3-2: Problems, Objectives, and Targets (attached) and Table 6.4-6: Management Measures of Alternatives (attached) are significant and conference members take note.
- Table 5-2: Impaired Waterbodies for Caloosahatchee River Basin (attached) needs to include all impairments, including fecal coliform bacteria.
- Section 9.1.1.1: Reservoirs is significant and should be referred to the Reservoir Workshop Subcommittee for consideration.
- Table 9-1: Research Projects (attached) is significant and should be reviewed by the TAC to identify CCMP implementation possibilities.
- The plan needs additional sections on how and who will implement the components and alternatives.
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Judy Ott summarized the CRWPP review and attachments. Discussion followed, including: generally based on good science, Phase 1 based on inclusion of C-43 reservoir being included in Phase 1, need to review fishery data for the Caloosahatchee River, need to relate to the CCMP, and need to address water quality.

JOHN CASSANI MOVED, SECONDED BY JIM SAMPSON, THAT STAFF PREPARE A COMMENT LETTER, APPROVED BY THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, TO SFWMD AND COPIED TO THE USACOE, REGARDING THE CRWPP WHICH INCLUDES: COMMENDING THE WORK AND GOALS, RELATING THE CRWPP TO THE CCMP, SUPPORTING TABLE 3.1 AND REQUESTING INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN TABLE 5.2 AND OTHER SECTIONS EVALUATING NUTRIENTS, MONITORING, ECONOMIC IMPACTS, RESERVOIRS, CONSERVATION AND INCENTIVES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, WITH ABSTENTIONS FROM SFWMD AND FDEP TAC MEMBERS.

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5. **Research and Restoration Partner Program FY09 Proposal Review**—Judy Ott
The program office received 13 Research and Restoration Partners Grant proposals by the deadline of September 25, 2008. A Review Subcommittee met all day Friday, October 10, 2008 in Port Charlotte to review and prioritize the proposals for the full TAC. Thanks to the reviewers.

The review subcommittee reviewed the meeting agenda and discussed issues for consideration in their funding recommendations, including the evaluation matrix given in the Request for Proposals. The subcommittee then discussed each project proposal individually along with their questions or concerns with each. Next, each of the applicants was allotted 15 minutes to discuss their project and answer questions from the review subcommittee. Finally, each review subcommittee member completed an evaluation matrix for each project proposal, indicating either “high”, “medium”, “low” or “do not fund”. Program staff then multiplied each “high” vote by 3; each “medium” vote by 2; each “low” vote by 1 and each “do not fund” vote by 0. The mean and median values for each proposal were then determined, resulting in the Review Subcommittee’s prioritization.

The project abstracts and Review Subcommittee rankings were attached to the agenda. The project proposals were available on the CHNEP ftp site at: <ftp://ftp.swrfpc.org>, username: [chnep](#), password: [chnepaccess](#). TAC members were requested to review each project proposal and the Review Committee FY09 Proposal Ranking before the TAC meeting. The FY09 workplan includes \$60,000 for the Research and Restoration Partners Grant Program. Staff recommends following the Review Subcommittee rankings to fund in order of priority: Projects L, M and K.

The RRPP FY09 Proposal rankings were included on the Management Conference agendas for the October and November 2008 meetings. The Management Conference members reviewed the proposals and subcommittee rankings for consistency with the RFP and CHNEP objectives for these grants. The RRPP FY09 awards were announced November 18, 2008 and projects will commence in January 2009, to be completed by September 30, 2010.

Judy Ott explained the process and rankings of the RRPP FY09 proposals. Discussion followed.

PETER DOERING MOVED, AND GREG BLANCHARD SECONDED, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MANAGEMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEES APPROVE THE FY09 RESEARCH AND RESTORATION PARTNER PROGRAM PROPOSAL RANKINGS AND FUND PROJECTS ACCORDING TO RANKING. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, WITH ABSTENTIONS FROM SFWMD, FDEP, LEE COUNTY AND SCCF TAC MEMBERS.

6. **Reservoir Workshop Planning**—Judy Ott
Following direction from the CHNEP Management Conference, the CAC Reservoir Workshop Subcommittee met April 29, 2008 to discuss developing 1 or 2 workshops addressing the technical and public concerns of surface water reservoirs within the CHNEP watershed. The CAC Reservoir Workshop Subcommittee meeting notes and background documents are available on the CHNEP website at www.chnep.org under [Committee Information, Agendas, CAC Reservoir Subcommittee](#).

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Review of the meeting notes and background documents and staff discussions were used to develop a "Straw Agenda" to continue discussions about the format of the workshops. The "Straw Agenda" includes background information about the purpose and goals of the Reservoir Workshops and is provided as an attachment to this agenda item.

The CAC Reservoir Workshop subcommittee proposed 2 workshops: 1 technical workshop 2-3 days long, in late January or early February, followed by 1 public workshop 1-2 days long in late February or early March 1009. The FY09 workplan includes \$24,000 for a technical Reservoir Workshop and \$3,000 for the public workshop.

The workshops further the goals of the CCMP, especially Priority Action HA-K which states the need to identify the hydrologic and environmental impacts of surface water reservoirs on estuaries within the watershed. The workshops will focus on the cumulative impacts of multiple reservoirs relating to public water supply, storm water management, mining and recreation, emphasizing the different needs indifferent areas of the watershed. It is anticipated that the findings of the technical workshop will be peer reviewed.

Members for a TAC Reservoir Workshop Subcommittee were solicited at the October 22, 2008 TAC meeting. A joint TAC and CAC Reservoir Workshop Subcommittee meeting will be held in late October or early November to finalize objectives, formats and topics for the technical workshop and identify potential speakers. The TAC will be informed of Reservoir Workshop topics and speakers regularly via email and at future meetings.

Judy Ott explained the purpose and progress towards developing a Reservoir Workshop, with assistance of a workshop planning subcommittee. Discussion followed including consideration of: natural water conditions and storage, types of reservoirs, information from the Instream Flow Council, statewide stormwater rule, alternative reservoir designs, maintenance of reservoirs, benefits and impacts, economics, and potential presenters. Lisa Beever explained that the Reservoir Workshop is in the FY09 Workplan, so a motion is not need by the TAC, and that staff will continue planning the workshop. The following attendees agreed to participate in the workshop planning subcommittee: Mike Jones, Jaime Boswell (or alternate from Johnson Engineering), Greg Blanchard, Sam Stone, John Cassani, Wayne Daltry, Lizanne Garcia (or alternate from SWFWMD), and Wendy Hershfeld (or alternate from Scheda Ecological).

7. Lemon Bay Fisheries Independent Monitoring Project—Judy Ott

The purpose of the Lemon Bay Fisheries Independent Monitoring Project is to provide the CHNEP with fishery species and size class information for Lemon Bay, which has not been available to date. The data will assist the CHNEP with implementing the CCMP, especially Priority Action FW-F to restore and protect a balance of native animal communities and Environmental Indicator Gap FW-d fish community composition for Lemon Bay. The project will expand the FWRI Fisheries Independent Monitoring Program into Lemon Bay, consistent with the other coastal areas of the CHNEP study area.

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The cost of the monitoring project depends on the frequency of sampling and type of gear used, which determines the quality, quantity and usability of data collected. Expansion of the statewide Fisheries Independent Monitoring methods into Lemon Bay would require monthly sampling using 2 net styles and would provide data on species type, distribution, seasonality, habitat affinities and response to changes in freshwater inflow. The cost would be \$84,000 per year. Reducing the frequency of the large seines to quarterly would provide similar species information, except data on large fishes would be reduced to quarterly and the project cost would be reduced to \$76,000 per year. Using all gear, but reducing the sampling frequency to bi-monthly would provide some basic species information, but may not be sufficient to develop species distributions, seasonality, population trends or responses to freshwater inflows. The cost of bi-monthly sampling would be \$42,000 per year. A draft Scope of Work for the Lemon Bay Fisheries Independent Monitoring Project was attached. The FY08 budget includes \$35,000 available for research and monitoring relating to filling environmental indicators gaps..

Judy Ott explained the need, purpose and general design for the proposed Lemon Bay Fisheries monitoring. Discussion followed, including consistency with Fisheries Independent Monitoring (FIM) in other areas of Charlotte Harbor, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay, concerns about continued funding, monthly monitoring would give indication of freshwater inflow affects on fishery, bi-monthly monitoring will give indication of diversity, distribution, and health of fishery populations and allow comparison Lemon Bay fisheries to other areas of Lemon Bay.

JIM SAMPSON MOVED, SECONDED BY KEITH KIBBEY, TO DIRECT STAFF TO DEVELOP A FINAL SCOPE OF WORK AND CONTRACT WITH FWRI TO CONDUCT LEMON BAY INDEPENDENT FISHERIES MONITORING WITHIN THE CHNEP BUDGET. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, WITH AN ABSTENTION FROM THE FFWCC FWRI TAC MEMBER.

8. **NEP Program Report**—Lisa Beever, Judy Ott, Liz Donley and Maran Hilgendorf
Lisa reviewed the deliverables for July 1, 2008 to September 28, 2008 included in the table in the agenda packet. Discussion followed, including National Estuaries Day and the pending state of the watershed report and restoration projects map.

9. **Member Comments**—John Ryan
Greg Blanchard initiated a discussion regarding pending changes in monitoring requirements for FDEP for NPDES permits, towards event rather than ambient conditions.

10. **Public Comments**—John Ryan
No public comments were offered.

11. **Next Meeting's Topics and Date**—John Ryan
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009
Location: Wauchula, probably at South Florida Community College
Topics: FY10 RRPP RFP, and Restoration Projects Tracking Map

12. **Adjourn** –John Ryan
The committee was adjourned at 2:45 PM.
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Prepared by J. Ott