

Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
February 13, 2008
Arcadia, FL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Leroy Crockett	USDA NRCS
Peter Doering	South Florida Water Management District
Kris Kaufman	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Judy Ott	Department of Environmental Protection
Chris Stafford	FWC-Fish and Wildlife Research Institute-FIM
Betty Staugler	Florida SeaGrant
Jason Utley	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Keith Kibbey	Lee County
John Cassani	Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District
Greg Blanchard	Manatee County
Jon Perry	Sarasota County
Bill Byle	Charlotte County
Kim Cressman	Cape Coral
Sears Coker	Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association
Jay Leverone	Mote Marine Laboratory
Jim Sampson	CF Industries
Rick Bartleson	SCCF

ALSO PRESENT

Catherine Corbett	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Lisa Beever	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions**—Judy Ott
The meeting began at 1:40 PM. Catherine Corbett called the roll and reported that a quorum was obtained.
- 2. Agenda Additions or Deletions**— Judy Ott
Lisa Beever pulled item 13 from the agenda.
- 3. Public Comments on agenda**—Judy Ott, Co-Chair
No public comments.
- 4. Consent Agenda**— Judy Ott
Item b. CCMP Update was pulled from the Consent Agenda.

**JIM SAMPSON, SECONDED BY KEITH KIBBEY, MOVED THE
APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY. THE AGENDA ITEM INCLUDES:**

- a. Approval of the minutes of the October 24, 2007 meeting.

Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
February 13, 2008
Arcadia, FL

The committee discussed the sea level rise and climate change objectives and graphics of the CCMP Update and requested they be revised.

KRIS KAUFMAN, SECONDED BY JIM SAMPSON, MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE CCMP UPDATE INCLUDING THE DISCUSSED REVISIONS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **FY08 Research and Restoration Partners Grant Program**—Catherine Corbett
The program office received 11 Research and Restoration Partners Grants applications by the deadline of October 26, 2007. A Review Subcommittee met all day Friday, December 7, 2007 Lemon Bay Park in Englewood, FL to review and prioritize applications for the full TAC. Thanks to the following for their invaluable efforts:

Peter Doering, SFWMD/TAC;
Kristen Kaufman, SWFWMD/TAC;
Gary Raulerson, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program;
Bob Day Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program;
Jason Utley, SWFRPC/TAC;
Kathi Rader-Gibson, Sarasota County/CAC and
Ernesto Lasso de la Vega, CAC.

The subcommittee first discussed the meeting agenda and then issues for consideration in their funding recommendations. The subcommittee then discussed each project proposal individually along with their questions or concerns with each. Next, each of the applicants was allotted 5 minutes to give a description of their project before then answering questions from the review subcommittee for another 10 minutes. Finally, each review subcommittee member completed an evaluation matrix for each project proposal, circling 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, giving the group’s prioritization. This prioritization is then listed in order of preference on a Summary sheet included within this packet.

We budgeted \$60,000 for the Research and Restoration Partners Grant Program in the FY08 Workplan. In addition, the SFWMD wishes to provide \$20,000 directly towards a restoration project, specifically project F of the R&RP Grant applications. Thus, the budget is \$70-80,000 for this item. Staff recommends following the Review Subcommittee rankings to fund in order of priority: projects F, I, J, A and B.

The Lee County, Mote Marine Laboratory and SCCF representatives recused themselves from discussion and votes on this item.

JOHN CASSANI, SECONDED BY LEROY CROCKETT, MOVED APPROVAL OF STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING

Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
February 13, 2008
Arcadia, FL

**PROJECTS F, I, J, A AND B. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3
ABSTENTIONS.**

6. FY08 Workplan Project—Catherine Corbett

Within the technical section of the Fiscal Year 2008 Workplan is the item “Research or Monitoring Priority”, essentially a place-holder in the budget until the TAC develops a project addressing a priority knowledge gap for our environmental indicators or interim numeric water quality targets. The FY08 workplan budgeted \$50,000 for this item. In addition, the program has \$40,000 unencumbered for this same item in the FY07 Workplan. (The “tidal shoreline condition map” project was funded with the remaining allocation towards this item in the FY07 Workplan.) Program staff recommend funding the completion of the pre-development vegetation map (PDVM) using these funds. Completion of the PDVM would allow us to determine the extent, type and quantity of habitat loss since pre-settlement. Those types and locations of greatest loss could then be prioritized for protection and restoration using a similar method as Tampa Bay Estuary Program’s “Closing the Gaps” analysis.

The CCMP quantifiable objective FW-2 (FW-1 in update) requires maintenance and restoration of several habitats to the extent, location and quality of natural variability. These habitats include submerged aquatic vegetation, inter-tidal unvegetated bottoms, mangrove, saltwater marsh, freshwater wetlands and oyster bars and native upland habitats. CHNEP contracted with Avineon Inc in 2003 to compile historical extent data for these habitats by subbasin and compare to current conditions for a habitat change analysis. The project was terminated due to a dearth of available historic habitat data. The project was then broken into several tasks to fill these data gaps: 1) use WMDs’ 1999 LULC maps as current terrestrial habitats (*complete*); 2) add oysters to the 1999 SWFWMD seagrass maps to have a complete 1999 coastal habitats for “current” (*complete*); 3) use WMDs’ “pre-development vegetation” maps as historical terrestrial habitat (*incomplete*); 4) develop a historical coastal habitat map (*complete*); 5) undertake change analysis of current and historical data by basin and habitat type (*incomplete due to #3*). Data to complete these steps are now available except for task 3—the WMDs’ pre-development vegetation map. SWFWMD has developed such a map for the SWFFS, CHNEP developed one for Sarasota County in 2004 but has not had a chance to work on this effort for over 2 years. SWFWMD is developing a PDVM for the upper Peace River basin on southward to DeSoto County. Hence, a complete PDVM for the study area would entail extending SWFWMD’s PDVM into Charlotte and Manatee Counties. Staff recommend funding the existing SWFWMD contractor to undertake this effort for consistency and economy of scale. A draft summary of the proposed project, including a budget was sent after the TAC agenda packet.

Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
February 13, 2008
Arcadia, FL

KEITH KIBBEY, SECONDED BY JOHN CASSANI, MOVED APPROVAL OF THE WORKPLAN PROJECT FOR FUNDING. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. **TAC Co-Chair(s) Elections**—Catherine Corbett

The TAC in the past has held annual TAC Co-Chair elections, and the Policy Committee added a stipulation to the TAC bylaws that the TAC hold these elections at their 1st annual meeting (i.e., February). Judy Ott, the TAC's current only Co-Chair is resigning from the Co-Chair position after holding the position for over 8 years. In previous years, the TAC has opted to have an inland and a coastal co-chair. Greg Blanchard, John Ryan and Betty Staugler have volunteered to serve as TAC Chair(s). The TAC bylaws are open on the number of Chairs, allowing 1 or a number of Chairs (see description below). Thus, the TAC can vote for 1, 2 or all 3 Chairs in this election.

“Section 3: Officers

The Chair or Chairs of the TAC shall be elected by the membership of the TAC. S/he or they shall also serve as a voting member(s) of the Management Committee and non-voting member(s) of the Policy Committee. Elections shall be held annually for this position(s). The annual election shall occur at the first meeting of the TAC of each calendar year.”

LEROY CROCKETT SECONDED BY JIM SAMPSON, MOVED APPROVAL OF BETTY STAUGLER, JOHN RYAN AND GREG BLANCHARD TO SERVE AS TAC CHAIRS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. **“Green” TAC Meetings**—Catherine Corbett

On the April 11 TAC agenda was a discussion of “carbon neutral” TAC meetings. Staff discussed the possibility of allowing TAC meeting participants the opportunity to voluntarily contribute to a carbon offset service and initiated a discussion on ways to offset impacts of TAC meetings as practical. Similar to the former “coffee and donut fund” of the past, staff suggested she could provide a can in which members can voluntarily donate funds to a carbon sequestration project of the committee's choice. The funds can be donated to suggested tree planting projects (e.g., local projects were preferred by members at the last meeting) or renewable energy or energy conservation offsets via a carbon offset service. Staff can distribute the funds from each meeting to a entity/project of committee choice or rotate the distribution so that no one entity/project is favored. This was 1 option to offset greenhouse emissions from TAC meetings. Other options were not discussed at that time but the TAC Co-chair requested this item be revisited at future TAC meetings. Subsequently, Florida Governor Charlie Crist passed Executive Order 07-126 which has the goal of “establishing climate change leadership by example: immediate actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Florida State

Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
February 13, 2008
Arcadia, FL

Government”. Specifically, Section 1 of the Order lists greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for state agencies and departments as follows: 10% reduction from current emissions by 2012; 25% reduction by 2017 and 40% reduction by 2025. (Other entities not directly under jurisdiction of the Governor are encouraged to implement this Order. While the Charlotte Harbor NEP is not a state agency, it does receive state agency funding.) The Order directs agencies to track resulting financial savings and emission reductions; assess energy efficiency of agency facilities; improve “climate” performance of government facilities; improve “climate” performance of government procurement practices and fleet vehicles; and incorporate energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions as performance criteria for all business cases evaluated by the Council for Efficient Government in their determination if outsourcing projects are fiscally prudent for the State of Florida. Finally, the Order states that agencies, as of January 1, 2008, may not contract for meeting and conference space with hotels or conference facilities that have not received the DEP “Green Lodging” certification for best practices in water, energy and waste efficiency standards.

At the October 24th TAC meeting, the committee directed staff to bring no more than 5 copies of the agenda packet to future TAC meetings and that documents will be presented via laptop/projector in lieu of printing large numbers (N >5) of the document. The committee directed staff to draft a resolution in support of Executive Order 07-126 for the committee’s consideration at the next TAC meeting. Enclosed in the agenda packet was a draft resolution for the committee’s consideration. To help implement this resolution, the TAC can establish an environmental statement or policy for the committee stating it wishes to reduce, reuse and recycle to share with suppliers, facilities and speakers so that they can help implement this policy.

The committee reviewed the draft resolution and requested the addition that program staff will also track TAC member carpooling to TAC meetings to the resolution.

**JIM SAMPSON SECONDED BY LEROY CROCKETT, MOVED
APPROVAL OF THE REVISED RESOLUTION AND THAT STAFF
HAVE THE OTHER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE MEMBERS TO
CONSIDER A SIMILAR RESOLUTION. THE MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. **Compendium of Existing Monitoring Programs**—Lisa Beaver
In 1997, CHNEP published its *Compendium of Existing Monitoring Programs in the Greater Charlotte Harbor Watershed*. Tom Fraser and Ralph Montgomery were contracted to prepare the report. Because the Compendium pre-dated the original CCMP, several monitoring programs that are not closely tied to the final (and updated) CCMP are included. In addition, several programs that were established since that time to implement the CCMP were (of course) not included.

TAC Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2008
Prepared by C. Corbett

Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
February 13, 2008
Arcadia, FL

Staff reviewed the draft Environmental Indicators Report update and identified key monitoring programs that the CHNEP relies upon. Janicki Environmental, under contract with Sarasota County, developed a structure to catalog monitoring programs that is similar to but goes beyond the CHNEP 1997 Compendium. Staff used this structure to prepare a database of critical monitoring programs to track CCMP implementation and to update the Compendium.

This database may be an excellent start to serving databases over our website because it is relatively small.

JOHN CASSANI SECONDED BY KEITH KIBBEY MOTIONED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE COMPENDIUM OF EXISTING MONITORING PROGRAMS UPDATE AND HOSTING THE DATABASE AT WWW.CHNEP.ORG. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. **State of Estuaries and Watersheds and Conservancy Report Card**—Lisa Beaver

In 2005, CHNEP contributed \$5,000 to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida for an *Estuaries Report Card*. The funding helped to expand the scope of the Report Card to include all of the CHNEP study area, including Lemon Bay and Dona & Roberts Bays. The issuance of the *Estuaries Report Card* also helped CHNEP to meet its obligations to the EPA prior to its 2006 Triennial Implementation Review. The report rated each watershed estuary in Southwest Florida with a grade on a scale of A+ to F- for two categories: water quality and wildlife habitat. The analysis graded the health of 10 estuary watersheds: Coastal Venice, Lemon Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Pine Island Sound, Caloosahatchee River, Estero Day, which are all located within the CHNEP study area, and the Wiggins Pass/Cocohatchee River, Naples Bay, Rookery Bay and Ten Thousand Islands, which are located south of the CHNEP study area. The Conservancy anticipates conducting an evaluation every three years and publishing a new report card to determine whether the health of these estuary watersheds is improving or declining. Two versions of the report are available as PDF files: a 203-page full report at www.chnep.org/info/EstuariesReportCard2005.pdf and the 16-page summary at www.chnep.org/info/EstuariesReportCard200516pg.pdf.

With the CCMP update, Environmental Indicators Report update, collection of data related to the performance measures, and update of desktop publishing to Adobe InDesign, staff is ready to begin drafting the *State of the Estuaries and Watersheds*. Using recommendations from the CAC Environmental Indicators Subcommittee which convened in 2003, staff designed an initial spread for discussion with the Management Conference. Significant recommendations which are exhibited include:

- Make the document a keepsake rather than a throw-away.

Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
February 13, 2008
Arcadia, FL

- Follow formatting similar to the CCMP Summary.
- Use excellent examples from other NEPs including Puget Sound and Delaware Estuary.
- Include a “What You can Do” section.

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida is planning to update its Report Card and has requested CHNEP providing funding toward the effort. The request is \$10,000 to fund half of the Report Card.

11. Reservoir Workshop—Lisa Beever

At its January 16 meeting near Wauchula, the Citizens Advisory Committee voted to recommend CHNEP host a workshop on Reservoirs. The workshop would help to implement Priority Action HA-K.

Drainage projects have changed flows to the estuaries by reducing water storage on the landscape. Because of development in areas that used to hold water, re-hydration of the landscape is not an option in many areas. Construction and management of off-stream reservoirs is one technique to hold excess water back during the wet season and deliver needed water to the estuaries in the dry season. Reservoirs may also be a component of future water supply, reducing demands on groundwater and diminishing likelihood for conductivity water quality impairments.

Both the Southwest Florida Water Management District (Regional Water Supply Plan, 12/06) and the South Florida Water Management District (Southwest Florida Feasibility Study) have identified dozens of general locations for reservoirs and other surface water storage features. In addition, SWFWMD and Hardee County are working with phosphate companies to include reservoirs in the post-reclamation landscape. Most proposals include a water quality treatment component.

This increasing emphasis on using reservoirs represents a change in public water infrastructure policy. Public concerns regarding changes in water chemistry, water budgets, habitats, and development patterns should be addressed prior to wholesale investments in reservoirs. To that end, the Citizens Advisory Committee has recommended that CHNEP conduct a Reservoirs Workshop to investigate this issue. They have requested scientific experts from outside the CHNEP area who have no investment in final decisions related to reservoirs and experts who may know most about area and existing proposals.

In preparation, CHNEP staff has begun assembling a geographic information systems shape file displaying proposed reservoirs and relative size.

Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
February 13, 2008
Arcadia, FL

**BILL BYLE SECONDED BY PETER DOERING MOTIONED TO
RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A RESERVOIR WORKSHOP. THE
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. **FY 09 Workplan Discussion**—Lisa Beever

Cash receivables for CHNEP are tracked. From FY 2000/2001, cash receivables have grown consistently. Credit is due to Congress for increasing funding to the NEP, CHNEP staff for effectively attracting grant funding and donations to the program, and Deputy Director Donley and Accountant Janice Yell for invoicing. In FY05, CHNEP went to task-based budgeting. Incorporating information on projects that have not been completed and funding that needs to be carried-over was a component of the new budgeting system (rather than showing carry-over projects as whole). Project carry-over from FY07 totaled \$318,721.11, one-third the amount of the previous year and one-fifth the amount the first year of record. Credit goes to Catherine, Maran, and Liz for working with contractors and grantees to complete projects in a timely fashion. A draft workplan is on the ftp site within the February 13 TAC meeting folder.

13. **Environmental Indicators Report Update**—Lisa Beever

This item was pulled from the agenda.

14. **Estero Bay ABM Report**—Lisa Beever

The committee recommended eliminating this item from future meeting agendas.

15. **Program Report**—Lisa Beever and Catherine Corbett

a. Advocacy Tracking

On February 21, 2003, the Policy Committee adopted its Advocacy and Review Procedures. However, CHNEP's advocacy began four years earlier with a letter to request designation of Horse Creek as an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW). In its history, CHNEP has issued 52 letters in support of various advocacy stances. Seventeen (33%) have yielded successful results and 26 (50%) have been unsuccessful. Partial successes account for 12% and pending or unknown accounts for the remaining 18% of occurrences. Some of the unsuccessful letters have been released multiple times. For example, CHNEP has requested a region-wide programmatic EIS four times before receiving an answer on January 11, 2008. By reducing duplicate requests, our rate of non-success is 45%. In year 2007, we issued 14 requests, more than any other previous year. Seven requests (50%) were successful with one a partial success. Over time, we have gotten better at advocating our positions and working with our partners to achieve results.

Periods of many successful letters correspond to the 2006 and 2007 State Legislative seasons as well as the recent the conceptual adoption of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) update.

Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
February 13, 2008
Arcadia, FL

b. TAC bylaws

The final TAC bylaws are enclosed with underline/strike-through format for the committee's review.

16. **Member Comments**
17. **Public Comments**
18. **Next Meeting's Topics and Date**—April 9, 2008
 - a. FY09 Workplan
 - b. Several presentations on on-going NEP projects
19. **Adjourn** –Judy Ott
The committee was adjourned at 3:50 PM.