

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program**  
**Technical Advisory Committee**  
**April 9, 2008**  
**Port Charlotte, FL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Leroy Crockett	USDA NRCS
Peter Doering	South Florida Water Management District
Charles Kovach	Department of Environmental Protection
Chris Stafford	FWC-Fish and Wildlife Research Institute-FIM
Betty Staugler	Florida SeaGrant
Judy Ott	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Mike Gurr	Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Keith Kibbey	Lee County
John Cassani	Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District
Greg Blanchard	Manatee County
John Ryan	Sarasota County
Bill Byle	Charlotte County
Kim Cressman	City of Cape Coral
James Evans	City of Sanibel
Melanie Grigsby	City of Ft Myers
Renee Duffey	Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center
Sears Coker	Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association
Sam Stone	Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
Edwin Everham	Florida Gulf coast University
Santino Provenzano	Mosaic
Mike Messina	CF Industries
Rick Bartleson	SCCF
David Ceilley	Citizen

**ALSO PRESENT**

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

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**—John Ryan  
The meeting began at 1:40 PM. Catherine Corbett called the roll and reported that a quorum was obtained.
2. **Agenda Additions or Deletions**— John Ryan  
No additions or deletions.
3. **Public Comments on agenda**— John Ryan  
No public comments.
4. **Consent Agenda**— John Ryan

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program**  
**Technical Advisory Committee**  
**April 9, 2008**  
**Port Charlotte, FL**

**KEITH KIBBEY, SECONDED BY BETTY STAUGLER, 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.
- b. Approval of the Environmental Indicators Report Update

**5. FY09 Workplan—Lisa Beever**

The latest version of the FY09 Workplan is on the ftp site. It has changed only slightly since the February 13 meeting. A draft workplan is on the ftp site within the April 9 TAC meeting folder.

**JUDY OTT, SECONDED BY GREG BLANCHARD, MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE FY09 WORKPLAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Historic Hydrologic Subbasins Project—Mike Gurr**

Mike Gurr presented the draft deliverables from the historic hydrologic subbasins project. This is a FY06 project to map historic hydrologic subbasins within the CHNEP study area. Mike presented his methodology at a July 2007 TAC meeting for review and input.

**KEITH KIBBEY, SECONDED BY JAMES EVANS, MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT DELIVERABLES. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.**

**7. CHEVWQMN, CCHMN and Seagrass Transects Data Analyses Results—Ray Leary**

Ray Leary presented methods and draft results from the analyses of CHEVWQMN, Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network (CCHMN) and seagrass transect data. These analyses are part of the work the CHNEP supports with the CHEVWQMN item in the annual workplan.

**8. WCIND General Permit—Lisa Beever**

Debra Highsmith of the Citizen's Advisory Committee has requested that the CHNEP review and provide comments if necessary on the WCIND General Permit for dredging in Lee County. Program staff had seen and provided comments to FDEP staff on an early version of the general permit. The comments were included in the agenda packet along with the latest version of the permit.

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

- a. Cape Coral Boat Lift removal

The City of Cape Coral and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have been working to address the breaches of the North Spreader Waterway. The

TAC Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2008

Prepared by C. Corbett

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program**  
**Technical Advisory Committee**  
**April 9, 2008**  
**Port Charlotte, FL**

attached photographs show the lift and the extent of the erosion around it. The existing lift is now serving no useful purpose either to provide navigation access or to prevent the unrestricted movement of water from the canal system to the receiving waters (Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve). The original intent of the spreader waterway was to allow the stormwater generated in the Cape Coral canal system to sheet flow through the mangroves and out into the receiving waters. That design worked for many years until the development level in the uplands with its increase in impervious surface caused the volume of water to exceed the capacity of the system. The Gator Slough canal also drains into this system. The increase in flow combined with hurricanes pushed water over and through the mangroves at the low points to the extent they eroded to the state seen in the photographs. There is also a major break in the northern reach of the spreader waterway that has eroded through the mangroves with accelerated erosion. DEP's concerns are for the pollutant loading coming from this system and the sheer volume of fresh water discharged at point sources into the receiving waters.

The City of Cape Coral staff met with DEP to work out how to correct the problem of the lift. The original solution was to put in a lift or lock at a point upstream of the original structure at a point that would have "solid" ground on the west end. That option had considerable cost involved in the construction and probably more in the continued operation. If it was constructed there is no guarantee that the mangroves will not erode a new channel somewhere else due to the elevation of the water behind the structure. The current concept is to pursue an Ecosystem Management agreement pursuant to Section 403.0752 F.S. This would be a holistic approach that would address water quality and quantity at build-out conditions. The City and possibly other interests could spend the money on projects to improve the discharge water quality and quantity rather on a structure. The proposed projects would have to show a net ecosystem benefit. If that can be achieved there would not need to be a structure to separate the canal system from the receiving waters.

The Ecosystem Management agreement is based on setting up a team of stakeholders (City of Cape Coral, Lee County, DEP, all regulatory agencies that would have jurisdiction over the project, environmental groups, interested parties) that would develop a plan for the projects. The permitting agencies would be directly involved so that the projects would meet the permitting criteria of all. FDEP sent a draft Consent Order to the City that will authorize the removal of the existing structure. The Order will also require the formation of the Ecosystem Management team with a 1 year period to develop a list of recommended projects. If the list of projects does not achieve the required net ecosystem benefit then the City will have to pursue the construction of the lock/lift structure.

10. **Member Comments**
11. **Public Comments**
12. **Next Meeting's Topics and Date— July 9, 2008**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program**  
**Technical Advisory Committee**  
**April 9, 2008**  
**Port Charlotte, FL**

13. **Adjourn** –John Ryan  
The committee was adjourned at 4:42 PM.