

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
July 9, 2008
Port Charlotte, FL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Sampson	CF Industries
Renee Duffey	Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center
Kim Cressman	City of Cape Coral
Bill Byle	Charlotte County
Keith Kibbey	Lee County
Greg Blanchard	Manatee County
Charles Kovach	FL Department of Environmental Protection
Greg Tolley	FL Gulf Coast University
Joy Hazell	FL Sea Grant
Sam Stone	Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
Loren Coen	Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation
Kristen Kaufman	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Cynthia Ovdenk	US Army Corp of Engineers

ALSO PRESENT

Michael Messina	CF Industries
Deb Highsmith	CAC
Heather Stafford	FL Department of Environmental Protection
Kreg Mahew	DMK Associates
Bob Stanley	DMK Associates
Dana Moller	FL Department of Environmental Protection
Ray Leary	FL Department of Environmental Protection
Cheryl Clark	FL Department of Environmental Protection
Stephanie Erickson	FL Department of Environmental Protection
Fort Walton	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Susan Hochuli	Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
Lisa Beever	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Liz Donley	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Maran Hilgendorf	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Judy Ott	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Ian Watson	PhotoScience
Gary Florence	PhotoScience
Sarah Lasogne	Earth Balance

1. Call to Order and Introductions—Greg Blanchard

The meeting began at 1:35 PM. Judy Ott called the roll and reported that a quorum was obtained.

2. Agenda Additions or Deletions— Greg Blanchard

No additions or deletions.

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
July 9, 2008
Port Charlotte, FL

3. **Public Comments on agenda**— Greg Blanchard
No public comments.

4. **Consent Agenda**— Greg Blanchard
Kris Kaufman from SWFWMD requested that item c. Charlotte Harbor 7-County Watershed Report be pulled from the Consent Agenda to be discussed separately.

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

- a. Approval of the minutes of the April 4, 2008 meeting.
- b. Approval to recommend that the Management and Policy Committees amend the CCMP to incorporate SFWMD comments.
- c. Pulled from Consent Agenda.
- d. Approval to recommend that the Management and Policy Committees approve the Scope of Work and direct staff to negotiate and execute a contract for the performance of the Scope of Work for the Compilation, Peer Review and Editorial Review for the Special Issue of the *Florida Scientist*.
- e. Approval to recommend to that the Management and Policy Committees direct the Legislative Subcommittee and CHNEP staff work with Representative Mahoney's staff to explore increased Federal funding to Charlotte Harbor, through NMS designation, supplemental funding to CHNEP or other legislative means.
- f. Approval to recommend that the Management and Policy Committees approve the 2009 Calendar of Committee Meetings.

c. Charlotte Harbor 7-County Watershed Report—Lisa Beaver

The CAC Environmental Progress Subcommittee met May 21, 2008 to discuss the components of a “state of the harbor” report. EPA performance measures and model documents from other NEPs were reviewed. A draft title was suggested as “Charlotte Harbor 7-County Watershed Report.” It was agreed to use the top selected environmental indicators from the recent survey. Based on these indicators and related gaps, projects were identified for funding under the FY09 Workplan. A total of \$140,000 is available to support this effort, including \$30,000 of FY08 funds to support water quality refinements and \$110,000 of FY09 funds to support research priorities and indicators gaps.

Janicki Environmental Services, Inc is uniquely qualified to conduct the following work to support the watershed report:

- seagrass targets (\$14,800);
- water clarity targets (\$29,600); and
- pollutant loading estimates (\$60,400).

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
July 9, 2008
Port Charlotte, FL

The cost for the total scope of work is \$104,800, leaving \$35,200 to be programmed for additional watershed report gaps. FWC was contacted to discuss providing fish community structure, abundance and diversity data based on existing Fisheries Independent Monitoring, and potential future Lemon Bay fishery monitoring.

Discussion followed relating to the purpose of the document, the focus on environmental indicators and the need for additional data to fill gaps. The purpose of the contract with Janicki was explained as filling seagrass, water clarity and pollutant loading gaps. Ms Kaufmann suggested that the TAC members be kept informed of progress on the data gathering, as well as be involved with discussions relating to methods used to determine seagrass targets. She also suggested that the scope of work be reviewed to assure there is no duplication of efforts with other on-going FDEP and CHEC water quality and seagrass status, trends and targets activities.

KRIS KAUFMAN, SECONDED BY KIM CRESSMAN, MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMEND THAT THE MANAGEMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEES APPROVE THE SCOPE OF WORK, WITH THE RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS, TO PROVIDE NEEDED INFORMATION FOR THE WATERSHED REPORT AND TO DIRECT STAFF TO NEGOTIATE THE CONTRACT WITH JANICKI ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AS SOURCE PROVIDED FOR THE REQUIRED SERVICES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Dredging/No Internal Combustion Motor Zones Science Forum Results—
Lisa Beever

A General Permit is under review for Lee County to allow dredging in the aquatic preserves. The draft permit establishes 3 “No Internal Combustion Motor Zones” (“NICMZs”) to allow the recovery of seagrass from prop scarring. The CHNEP Policy Committee asked for a Science Forum workshop to investigate the risks, benefits, and concerns from other NICMZ (and similar) areas. The forum was held on the morning of July 9 at the Cultural Center in Port Charlotte, in advance of the TAC. The purpose of this item was to provide TAC time to forward recommendations to Management and Policy Committees.

Lisa Beever summarized the results of the presentations and discussions from the Science Forum held July 9, 2008 regarding seagrass protection and “NICMZs”. Discussion followed. It was suggested that 4 “NICMZs” would provide more adequate seagrass protection than the proposed 3. It was recommended that a monitoring plan be developed, with the assistance of the TAC, to establish baseline seagrass conditions and to measure the success of the “NICMZs” at restoring the seagrasses.

6. Research and Restoration Partner Program RFP—Lisa Beever

TAC Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2008
Prepared by J. Ott

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
July 9, 2008
Port Charlotte, FL

The TAC reviewed the Fiscal Year 2009 Research and Restoration Partners Grants Request for Proposals (RFP) prepared by staff. The RFP included the following major revisions:

- CCMP priority problems, quantifiable objectives, priority actions, and environmental indicators gaps were updated.
- Priority Actions and Environmental Indicator Gaps were moved to Appendices E and F respectively.
- The last appendix with past approved projects was removed and a website address was included.
- Footer was reformatted to be consistent with other CHNEP documents.
- Map of the Study Area was replaced with the basin map from the Environmental Indicators Report update.

In addition, as recommended by SWFWMD, the following language was drafted: Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is particularly interested in projects that:

- Identify pollutant sources in impaired waterbodies;
- Track changes in subbasin hydrology through restoration and other activities;
- Map freshwater submerged aquatic vegetation.

The TAC discussed the draft section on “Types of Projects Sought” on page 4, as well as the timing of the RFP and review cycle for next year. A comparison between CHNEP Public Outreach Grant application cycle and CHNEP Research and Restoration Partners application cycle was provided. The RRPP RFP schedule was modified to more closely align with the Public Outreach grants. For FY2009, the RFP was released on August 128, 2008, with proposals due September 25, 2008, the Review Subcommittee meeting October 10, 2008, awards announced November 18, 2008 for projects to begin January 2009 and be completed by September 30, 2010. For FY2010, the RFP will be released in the spring 2009.

KEITH KIBBEY, SECONDED BY LOREN COEN, MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE POLICY AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES APPROVE AND ADVERTISE THE FY 09 RESEARCH AND RESTORATION PARTNERS GRANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. **Tidal Condition Shoreline condition Map**—Ian Watson, Photo Science
Ian Watson presented the results of PhotoScience’s Tidal Shoreline Condition Mapping project. The project compiled a ArcGIS 9.2 personal geodatabase (MS Access) of the tidal shoreline condition throughout the coastal areas of the CHNEP study area using a combination of aerial photography and field data. The presentation explained the methods and results of the photointerpretation of shoreline type and the tables of habitat

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
July 9, 2008
Port Charlotte, FL

quality data obtained in the field by volunteers. The tables link the field data to the existing County land parcel coverages. The files are feature class within an ArcGIS geodatabase of shoreline condition and quality, which will be provided to the Charlotte Harbor NEP. The most recent existing aerial photographs with 1 foot – 1 m resolution were used. Volunteer organized by the CHNEP assisted in the field data collection of habitat quality field data that included mangrove trimming height, hurricane damage, percentage of exotic vegetation and other data fields specified. Volunteer boaters also assisted with field verification of photointerpretation efforts.

Dissuasion followed. TAC members requested to receive the draft deliverables earlier to allow adequate review time by TAC members. Ms Kaufmann from SWFWMD requested that the Geodatabase from the project be made available on the CHNEP ftp site.

KEITH KIBBEY, SECONDED BY RENEE DUFFEY, MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT, CONTINGENT UPON SWFWMD AND STAFF APPROVAL OF THE FINAL DELIVERABLES, THE MANAGEMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEES APPROVE THE DELIVERABLES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. **Regional Integrated Loop System**—PRMRWSA, DMK Associates, EarthBalance

Susan Hochuli from PRMRWSA and Bob Stanley from DMK Associates presented a description of PRMRWSA's proposed Regional Integrated Loop System. A summary was presented of the activities conducted to date to evaluate environmental features, including: onsite vegetative communities assessments; wetland functional assessments including Rapanos jurisdictional determinations; preliminary surveys for protected wildlife; reviews of species databases; reviews of available geographic information system databases and soils maps; and pre-application meetings with available watershed and regulatory agencies including the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The presence of protected species, listed as threatened or endangered, potentially occurring within the project area include the Florida scrub jay, bald eagle, gopher tortoise, wood stork, American alligator, West Indian manatee, sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, and the eastern indigo snake. No wildlife impacts are expected to occur as a result of the project.

Two benthic surveys of the Peace River confirm sparse patches of widgeon grass (<25%) within or adjacent to the proposed project corridor. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is located within the 100-foot wide corridor of the project. However, no permanent impacts are proposed to estuarine wetlands or submerged aquatic vegetation within the Peace River, therefore avoiding permanent impacts to the EFH.

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
July 9, 2008
Port Charlotte, FL

It was presented that there will be no permanent impacts to freshwater wetlands. With the exception of a small area of mangroves at the south end of the crossing, impacts to the remaining estuarine wetlands will be temporary. Mitigation will be proposed for the mangrove impact. The temporarily disturbed roadside swales/ditches will be restored to pre-construction conditions. The extent of impacts to high quality wetlands, surface waters, and uplands have been minimized and reduced to the greatest extent practicable. Impacts to surface waters are to upland-cut roadside swales and are temporary in nature. Impacts to river substrate/habitat will be minimized to the greatest extent possible by minimizing trench width.

Discussion followed.

9. Program Report—Lisa Beever, Liz Donley and Maran Hilgendorf

The deliverables for April 1, 2008 to July 1, 2008 are as follows:

Task Number	Task	Date	Deliverable Complete
1.1	Management Conference	4/16/2008	The CAC met at Lemon Bay Park in Englewood to discuss several issues being considered by the entire Management Conference, including the FY09 workplan. Among other things they created a subcommittee to further draft a motion for CHNEP involvement and asked a member to draft a letter regarding the concerns on a general permit for dredging being processed by Lee Count that might be used as a model by other counties.
1.1	Management Conference	4/29/2008	CAC Reservoir Subcommittee met to consider motions made by the CAC, TAC and Management Committee regarding CHNEP holding a workshop to further the understanding of reservoirs in the CHNEP study area.
1.1	Management Conference	5/2/2008	Management Committee meeting
1.1	Management Conference	5/19/2008	FY09 Workplan and FY08 amendments
1.1	Management Conference	5/19/2008	Policy Committee meeting
1.1	Management Conference	5/21/2008	CAC Environmental Progress Subcommittee met in Lee County to discuss the development of a CHNEP report card.
1.1	Management Conference	6/30/2008	New Management Committee member, Paul Tritaik, JN "Ding" Darling NWR Manager
1.1	Management Conference	7/1/2008	Hire Judy Ott as the new Program Scientist for the CHNEP
1.3	Grants & Contracts Admin	4/16/2008	FY2008 invoices shipped
1.3	Grants & Contracts Admin	4/24/2008	EPA Progress report transmitted; EPA WBE/MBE report transmitted
1.3	Grants & Contracts Admin	5/29/2008	FY2009 EPA grant application submitted to EPA Region 4; State clearinghouse submission of FY2009 Workplan and grant application; FY2009 Workplan submitted to EPA HQ

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
July 9, 2008
Port Charlotte, FL

Task Number	Task	Date	Deliverable Complete
1.3	Grants & Contracts Admin	6/13/2008	FDEP FY0708 invoice submitted
1.3	Grants & Contracts Admin	6/17/2008	SFWMD 2nd Letter Report and invoice submitted
2.2	Events/Outreach	4/17/2008	Participated in Advisory Committee in Bradenton for FYN Builder-Developer Program in Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte counties.
2.2	Events/Outreach	4/18/2008	Participated in Myakka River Management Coordinating Council meeting.
2.2	Events/Outreach	4/28/2008	Approximately 50 people attended the Florida Friendly Plant Workshop on April 26, 2008, at SFCC in Arcadia. The agenda covered drought information, organic gardening, a long Ask-the-Expert session and a native plant sale. The workshop was developed and held in cooperation with SFCC, Deluxe Trees and Shrubs, Pine Lily Nursery, All Native Garden Center and others.
2.2	Events/Outreach	5/16/2008	Presented information on estuaries at the Florida Native Plant Conference in Bradenton
2.2	Events/Outreach	6/5/2008	The Friends of Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves held a "mucking about" wading trip in Pine Island Sound on February 22, March 7 and April 12, 2008 with 20, 8 and 18 people participating.
2.2	Events/Outreach	6/17/2008	Attended SWFWMD's "sharing day" for those who conduct Florida-friendly programs.
2.2	Events/Outreach	6/18/2008	Spoke with approximately 20 people who'll be receiving new homes through Habitat for Humanity in Charlotte County about having a Florida-friendly yard, including the reduced need for watering and treatments.
2.3	Data Management	5/19/2008	Environmental Indicators Report Update
2.3	Data Management	5/21/2008	CAC Environmental Progress Subcommittee meeting kick-off
2.4	Public Outreach Grants	5/1/2008	More than 420 people attended the 23rd annual Everglades Coalition conference held in Lee County in January 10-13, 2008. This is the largest annual forum for Everglades conservation and restoration, bringing together nonprofit, government and private interests. CHNEP sponsored the conference with funds designated in support of public conferences.
2.4	Public Outreach Grants	6/5/2008	Lee County Extension held a Florida Yards & Neighborhood conference on February 9, 2008. Approximately 150 people attended the day-long program that included presentations, exhibitors and a plant sale.
2.4	Public Outreach Grants	6/5/2008	Seventh grade students at LA Ainger Middle School collected data and specimens while enjoying being on a boat in Charlotte Harbor -- a unique and life changing experience that many would otherwise would never have had. The 150 students included

TAC Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2008
Prepared by J. Ott

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Technical Advisory Committee
July 9, 2008
Port Charlotte, FL

Task Number	Task	Date	Deliverable Complete
			exceptional, at risk and regular education students took part in one of five learning excursions. Each student gathered water quality and observational data and gathered specimens during a wading trip. With this grant, 25% of the seventh grade students in Charlotte County were reached.
2.4	Public Outreach Grants	6/5/2008	CHEC held 19 programs for third grade students at Pine Island, Diplomat, Trafalgar Elementary Schools in Lee County. The program involves an interactive educational puppet skit and follow-up discussion that includes manatee natural history, importance of estuarine and seagrass habitats to the health and well being of all, including manatees.
2.5	Micro Grants	5/1/2008	The Sierra Club Calusa Group held an Earth Day Festival on April 19 at Koreshan State Park. Participants got to enjoy the Estero River during free kayak rides, and learned about the environment through art, music and environmental presentations.
2.5	Micro Grants	5/1/2008	Palm Island Estates (PIE) created a demonstration native plant garden at the ferry landing entrance to the Charlotte County island. The garden showcases native plants and educates property owners on their importance and use in island landscapes.
2.5	Micro Grants	5/1/2008	Children in the Hallmark Homeschool Group in North Port planted several butterfly host plants at the Nokomis Community Park. While the children learned a great deal during this project, habitat and food were provided for several different types of butterflies, including monarchs, queens, gulf fritillary, variegated fritillary, zebra longwing and julia.
2.5	Micro Grants	5/1/2008	On March 30, 2008, Cape Coral held its first annual Canal Clean-Up Day. Approximately 90 volunteers removed 2,500 pounds of debris -- tires, plastic chairs, wood -- from canals, mangroves and the waterfront in Cape Coral. The effort raised awareness and gave the volunteers pride in their community.
2.5	Micro Grants	5/1/2008	The Fishermans Wharf Condo Garden Club in St. James City removed invasive exotic plants throughout their property, including alongside canals, and began planting native plants suitable for the location.
2.5	Micro Grants	6/4/2008	FNPS volunteers created a butterfly garden at the CHEC-Cedar Point site with 45 plants representing 30 species. The plants purchased provide larval food and nectar for native butterflies. The site is open to the public.
2.5	Micro Grants	6/5/2008	The Lovers Key State Park offer free wading trips on a regular basis to introduce visitors to what lives in the estuaries. They also learn about the ecosystem, water quality, sea grass beds and habitat issues. With CHNEP support, they were able to purchase dip netting equipment and a bubble tank so they can see more closely the gastropods, crabs, grass shrimp, file-fish, pipe fish, blow fish, sea robins and more that are home in the estuary.

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

Task Number	Task	Date	Deliverable Complete
2.5	Micro Grants	6/5/2008	CHNEP sponsored the Florida Native Plant Society's 28th annual conference. More than 52 speakers and workshops each contributed to the theme of the conference, which was "Uplands to Estuaries -- Celebrating our Native Plant Heritage."
2.5	Micro Grants	6/5/2008	Thirty-eight fourth grade students at Sanibel School, as part of their social studies and science curriculum, experienced the importance, preservation and conservation of Florida's natural history by participating in a series of field trips that concluded with a SCCF naturalist-guided boat trip to Randell Research Center. They learned what an estuary is, the importance of the waters, what creatures live there and the contribution of the waters to past and present day lives.
2.5	Micro Grants	6/5/2008	Artists Roseline Young and Ricki Howie prepared banners for others to paint during the "Art for Change" program held as part of Earth Day at Ida Baker High School in Lee County. The Blue Watters banners depict the estuary and wildlife habitat and will be displayed throughout the study area to encourage residents to become better environment stewards.
2.5	Micro Grants	6/5/2008	Forty students in the marine biology course at North Port High School took a three-hour trip to Lemon Bay Park where they waded with dip nets, buckets and seine nets and captured small invertebrates and fish. They observed and photographed these items as well as the bird life and brown algae. Some of the students used water test kits to take samples to measure pH, phosphates, nitrates, temperatures and clarity. The students presented and discussed their findings.
4.1	Watershed Coordination	5/21/2008	Draft Reference Map for the Myakka River Coordinating Council
5.1	Legislative Agenda	6/5/2008	Estuary Climate Change Adaptation presentation at Capital Hill Oceans Week

10. **Member Comments**

11. **Public Comments**

12. **Next Meeting's Topics and Date**— October 22, 2008.

13. **Adjourn** –Greg Blanchard
The committee was adjourned at 4:15 PM.