

**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program  
Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

*Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, February 18, 2009 Meeting  
South Florida Community College ~ Bowling Green, Florida*

**Attendance of Voting Members**

Joan	Bush	Lee FYN Master Gardener
Warren	Bush	Lee FYN Master Gardener
Richard	De Gennaro	Lemon Bay Conservancy
Roger	DeBruler Jr.	Sea Grant - Charlotte
Gail	Giles	Lemon Bay Conservancy
Rene A	Janneman	Sarasota County
Stefan	Katzaras	CF Industries
Randee	LaSalle	Sierra Club
Ernesto	Lasso de la Vega	Lee County Hyacinth Control District
Jackson	Mosley	Paynes Creek Historic State Park
Kayton	Nedza	Hardee County Outdoor Classroom
Pete	Quasius	Lee County resident
Frances	Reimondo	San Marco Waterways
Kathleen	Rohrer	Lemon Bay Conservancy
George	Ruby	Peace River Audubon Society
Thomas	Simmons	DeSoto County resident

**Attendance**

Sandra J.	Beardsworth	DeSoto County
Nell W.	McCauley	Peace River Electric Cooperative (PRECO)
John G.	Phillips	
Mike	Rouse	Peace River Electric Cooperative (PRECO)

Lisa Beever                      Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program  
Maran Hilgendorf              Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

The Nominating Committee met from approximately 9:45 to 10:00.

**Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Bush called the meeting to order at 10:05. Everyone in attendance then introduced themselves later in the meeting. He reported that there is a quorum of appointed members.

**Agenda Item 2: Agenda Review**

No changes were made to the agenda.

**Agenda Item 3: Consent Agenda**

**Mr. Quasius moved, seconded by Mr. DeBruler, the approval of the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously. Agenda items approved include:**

- a. Approval of the minutes of the October 15, 2008 CAC meeting.
- b. Accept the CHEVWQMN Citizen Summary draft final report, a report produced as a FY08 workplan project.
- c. Accept *Evaluating the Risks Pharmaceuticals to Caloosahatchee River Wildlife: Observations of Bull Sharks*, a report produced as a FY07 Research and Restoration Partner Grant project.

#### **Agenda Item 4a: Nomination of Members**

No action was taken.

#### **Agenda Item 4b: Matrix of Concerns Represented by CAC Members**

Policy Committee members are very impressed with the CAC but there was a great deal of discussion about balance and being sure the diversity of concerns are represented by those who vote on issues. We currently list the organization you most closely associate with but many of you wear many hats. Listing one organization is misleading. One idea that was suggested this morning was to create a matrix of expertise/concerns.

Director Beever said that the Policy Committee expressed concern that the CAC members are heavily weighted toward environmental organizations. Mr. Quasius represents an environmental organization but also Mr. Ruby represents Audubon but is a utility engineer.

Mr. Simmons said that he is concerned that the CAC represent citizens of the area. Mr. Nedza asked if this is a concern of the Management or Policy committee. Some members want the CAC to have a “large tent” to represent the breadth of background. Ms. Rohrer doesn’t like this request at all because people tend to assign a value based on their experience. Mr. De Gennaro agreed and was concerned about setting quotas and wondered if anyone has been rejected. Ms. Giles said she thought that anyone who cared about the estuary should be on the committee and that was the main and only concern. Mr. Quasius said he is back after a two year break because he was dedicated to having Audubon add snook – what’s below the water – as an important indicator. He believes that anyone who has a passion should sit at the table.

Mr. Bush asked for the reason behind this request. Director Beever said that it’s because of how the reservoir issue was addressed. Ms. Hilgendorf said one change that has occurred is that if an issue is brought forward and not all parties are present then any motion will be postponed to the next meeting. Mr. De Gennaro<sup>1</sup> said the agenda is published in advance and that if all parties can’t attend the next meeting then those who can’t attend should ask that it be postponed or find an alternate. The reservoir issue wasn’t on the agenda. Director Beever said that it is an item that was brought up and that it wasn’t a motion made by the Management or Policy committees.

Mr. Bush said that he thought that Director Beever had approved the idea of addressing reservoirs at the January 2008 meeting.

Mr. Quasius suggested that affiliations be taken off the membership role.

Ms. Giles asked if we're required. Director Beever said that it shows

Ms. Katz asked if the development of the reservoir workshop is balanced. Ms. Hilgendorf said that the development of the workshop is different that the process to decide to focus on the issue in the first place.

Ms. Hilgendorf said that she believes that the committees want confidence that all involved might be represented when the CAC considers issues.

Ms. Giles said that reinforcing the agenda process is the important thing that has come out of this.

Mr. Simmons moved to table the discussion, seconded by Ms. Rohrer, to continue the discussion at the next CAC meeting.

Mr. DeBruler asked if a policy would be developed from this. Director Beever then explained how voting members are appointed on the Policy, Management and Technical Advisory committees.

Ms. LaSalle asked how this would be addressed by the Policy meeting. Ms. Hilgendorf will send an email message to everyone to confirm the affiliation they would like to appear on CAC-related materials. She explained in the first years of the program that CAC members served as representatives to other organizations.

Ms. Giles said that everyone with voting status should have completed the nomination form when the application was approved.

Director Beever asked that all CAC members confirm their affiliations and that each voting member should complete the application packet.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Report from Officers**

No report given.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Committee Reports**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Ms. Rohrer explained that each year the CAC elects officers. Mr. Bush is unable to continue to serve as an office but Mr. Nedza is willing to continue to serve. The committee would like to nominate Ms. Katz and Ms. Rodgers to serve as a CAC officer with Mr. Nedza. Responsibilities include representing the CAC at four meetings of the Management Committee and four meetings of the Policy Committee. She then asked for nominations from the floor. The nominations were then closed and voted occurred by acclamation. Ms. Rohrer said she'll contact both Ms. Rodgers and Ms. Katz to ask if they'll accept the nominations. If either decline then the CAC will need to consider this issue again at the next meeting.

## **Agenda Item 7: Program Reports**

(a) Director Beever brought the deliverables to the committee's attention, noting how many outreach efforts had been undertaken between October 1, 2008, and January 31, 2009.

(b) Director Beever discussed the FY10 workplan. Many things came together requiring a reduction in funds available. The outreach budget has been cut by about \$150,000 and technical projects by about \$100,000.

She discussed the website of water quality information that CHEC had developed with CHNEP support. She asked members if anyone used the information. Both Mr. Lasso de la Vega and Mr. DeBruler said they use the information. She said she'd like to discuss the website further with both of them.

Ms. Hilgendorf said that even with the budget cuts, the public outreach grants, micro-grants, newsletter, calendar and children's book would continue.

(c) The reservoir workshop meeting will be this Friday. Facilitators will be hired. A call for presentations has been sent out but abstracts must help complete the agenda in order to be asked to give a presentation. All others will be asked to present their information in poster format. Everyone with an opinion will be given an opportunity to submit comments for the reservoir report. The length of the workshop will be reduced to two days because of budget restrictions and requests of committee members. Mr. Rohrer asked that workshop focus on alternative methodologies.

(d) Ms. Hilgendorf provided an update on the children's book. All seven districts will again distribute it to their third or fifth grade students (their choice) and it'll be made available to private schools and home schooled families. Partners are being given an opportunity to buy into the press run with 25 copies costing \$50.

(e) Ms. Hilgendorf reminded everyone that the deadline to submit images for the 2010 calendar is July 14. This year entries submitted that are clearly not within the CHNEP study area, that are of exotics or that convey a message not consistent with the CCMP such as feeding or handling animals will not be posted on the website. The public will be asked for their input by reviewing the images on the website during the month of August. The CAC will meet September 2. The goal is to have the calendar ready for distribution in October.

(f) Ms. Hilgendorf said with the winter 2009 issue, the newsletter, *Harbor Happenings* is now expanded from 12 to 16 pages with no additional cost for printing or postage. The winter issue was mailed to 7,488 subscribers and an additional 3,000 copies are available for distribution by centers, libraries and at events. The newsletter is translated into Spanish and posted on the website at [www.CHNEP.org](http://www.CHNEP.org).

(g) Ms Hilgendorf provided an update on the development of the CHNEP strategic communication plan. CAC members were asked to review the history of public information and education projects that was included in the meeting packet.

(h) Ms. Hilgendorf said the CHNEP has offered its partners affordable professional development courses to help fulfill the program's plan to protect the environment. Most of these courses have been generously taught by NOAA Coastal Services Center. Members and past participants have been asked for their input on what courses should be offered in the future by taking an eight-question survey that is on the website at [www.CHNEP.org](http://www.CHNEP.org) by February 27.

(i) Ms. Hilgendorf provided a brief overview of the Peace River Environmental Education Network (PREEN). The next meeting will be March 18 at the new Polk Nature Center at Circle B Bar Preserve.

(j) Director Beaver has been working with our partners to identify restoration projects that have occurred since 2002. To date more than 60,000 acres has been identified. TAC members identified more leads, including all the agricultural lands with conservation through best management practices (BMP) and urban areas with fertilizer ordinances. This map will become the centerfold of the environmental progress report due out next winter.

(k) The meeting packet includes a listing of advocacy letters issues by the office.

(l) Director Beaver explained that Ray O'Leary from FDEP prepared the report *Comparison of CHEVWQMN, CCHM and Seagrass Monitoring Programs with Estuary Specific Optical Models* as a FY08 research project to help the public better understand estuaries. They found that big differences can be found between the northern and southern ends of Lemon and Estero bays, primarily because of circulation, but that there isn't enough difference to create separate seagrass segments.

(m). Staff met with Janicki Environmental to discuss seagrass segmentation. Staff are comfortable with how areas have been segmented.

Ms. Hilgendorf drew attention to the items available for pickup. A promotional postcard for Florida-friendly workshops held in Hardee and Desoto counties as well as a hand-out provided by the Association of Florida Native Nurseries. The *Habitat Protection and Restoration* book created by EPA is available as are two documents produced with CHNEP grants, including *DeSoto Diaries* by DeSoto County Parks & Rec and *The Smart Way to Grow Your Florida-Friendly Yard* by Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Builder-Developer Program. A small supply of newsletters and calendars is also available.

Director Beaver distributed the new CCMP and stated how proud we are of it! Great work to the CAC on making it the document it is.

### **Agenda Item 9: Member Comments**

Mr. DeBruler provided

Ms. Raimonda is having a Harbour Heights Civic Association program is February 28 and March 1 is the Scrub Jay Jamboree.

Burrowing Owl Festival is on February 28. The Florida Yards & Neighborhood Conference is in March. The EcoCenter at Rutenberg has a rainbarrel workshop.

Tommy Simmons asked if micro-grants awarded in prior years were still available. Director Beever said that micro-grants become inactive if not completed in the fiscal year the award was made but that the request can be resubmitted.

Mr. Lasso de la Vega said about 40 people attended the first meeting of the Florida Latino network.

Peace River Audubon is having their annual banquet in March. The cost to attend is \$31.

CHNF bags were made available.

The Lemon Bay Conservancy/Sierra Club will hold a joint presentation on March 24.

Mr. Nedza expressed his appreciation for the excellent job Mr. Bush serving as co-chair

Seven people canoed from Bowling Green to Punta Gorda to videotape the river as part of a CHNEP public outreach grant.

### **Agenda Item 10: Public Comments**

Mr. Rouse said he has attended two of the Florida-friendly workshops and they have been very useful.

### **Agenda Item 11: Upcoming Meetings**

After discussion, it was expected that the next meeting will be held on April 22, and not April 15 since the reservoir workshop will be held April 13 and 14. The CAC will also meet July 15, September 2 (to develop calendar) and October 21.

### **Agenda Item 12: Adjourn**

The meeting concluded at noon.