

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Environmental Progress Subcommittee
Notes of the Wednesday, February 18, 2009 Meeting
 South Florida Community College, Bowling Green

Attendance

First Name	Last Name	Organization
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
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
Kathleen	Rohrer	Lemon Bay Conservancy

Lisa Beever CHNEP
 Maran Hilgendorf CHNEP

Ernesto, the committee chair, called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. He reminded everyone of the purpose of the meeting.

Lisa reminded everyone that the CCMP was completed last year and so the program is now working on its environmental progress report card. Members of the Management Conference had completed a survey as part of the CCMP development and the report card features 12 issues of concern to the greatest number of members. Each of the 28 National Estuary Programs is required to give the public a snapshot of the environmental conditions. The report is expected to be updated every three years.

NOTE: For these comments to make sense, you need to refer to a copy of draft *Charlotte Harbor Seven-County Watershed Report.*”

Environmental condition summary: Shows information at a glance and over time. Reduced number of colors to three: green, yellow and red. If 90% historic level then green for good, 70 to 90% yellow for caution and below 70% then red for danger.

Healthy fish: CHNEP initiated a contract with FWC to expand their fisheries independent monitoring (FIM) to Lemon Bay, which is the only estuary not currently covered by FWC. Funds will only cover a year of monitoring every other month.

Shellfish harvest closure information will be updated by DACS.

Monterey Bay was suggested as a model but the information is very general. In summary long-lived animals are bad to eat because they accumulate too many toxins. The report will refer people to a 2007 guide produced by FDH has 2007 guide that shows species not to eat because showing all fish advisories will be too much information.

Kathleen asked about mentioning listed species.

Pete says message is clear – if large, long-lived fish then likely not safe to eat. It also provides links for more information.

Discussion ensued regarding how to address a trend. Likely won't include trends in fish because don't have status. This will allow focus to be on shellfish. We don't want to use one example in one part of the study area because the report is for the entire seven counties. More details can be provided on the website, including reference information for the statistics found throughout the report.

Rene said, according to FWC, stone crabs are now found where blue crabs historically had been found because of lack of freshwater.

Seagrass data includes data from the late 1980s were groundtruthed. Methods used now are not as reliable but can be done quickly. To be consistent, the 1980s information, which is better information, will be dropped but will use the data from 1950s and latest aerial mapping.

Rene says the maps from the 1950s are terrible. Lisa says that we can now take out areas where visibility is low out of the equation by defining the obscured area as a "holiday."

Freshwater wetlands: HDR is preparing pre-development maps for Charlotte County and part of Manatee County within CHNEP. The numbers will be rerun and map redefined based on this data.

Shoreline condition: This is the first time this information was provided to the committee. In next report, may wish to add "sea level rise" as another condition.

There was some discussion about whether it was clear where the 4,400 urban lots were located. Some agreed that adding "shoreline" might help. Lisa explained that the lots reviewed did not include area in the Buffer Preserves and within canal areas unless they were small. Another thought was that "4,400 urban lots" could be changed to "A sampling of 4,400 shoreline urban lots."

Kathleen suggested that a statement be added about sea level rise and mangroves being the first defense.

After discussion, it was agreed that another set of photographs should be used to illustrate hedged mangroves, lifted mangroves and mangroves left in their natural healthy

condition. Definitions should also be added. Might show three options: healthy, hedged and lifted.

Some suggested that words also be color coded and it was re-iterated how important it is to be consistent with the colors used.

Another suggestion was that a sentence be added to explain that the natural mangrove shoreline provides the best protection of property.

Lands managed for natural environment: Pete thought it would be good to add privately managed properties. He will provide alternative language for consideration.

Lisa says that privately-owned properties might also be included in the BMP section.

The reference date of 1998 is when CHNEP began. Map includes everything through December 2008. Data and map will be updated before the publication is printed.

Pete thought Conservation 4 is worth mentioning in the report.

Rich asked about the goal, which statewide is 30%. Within CHNEP, we are now at 15%, which is 85% of CHNEP's goal.

More data will be shown on the centerfold map.

Data gathered through late in 2009 will be incorporated. The report will be distributed as part of an issue of *Harbor Happenings*.

Private actions will be represented. Even if reach goal of 30% in conservation, majority of the land will be privately owned.

Jackson says that control burns should be prescribed burns.

After discussion, it was agreed to change wording to "environmental restoration occurs on public and privately owned lands."

Kathleen asked that it be added that "taxpayer initiative" for conservation.

Restoration data starts with 2000 because that's when GPRA started.

Water: The information on this page is new.

Need to verify that drinking water standards are less than shellfish harvest standards.

Add package plants to list of significant sources of fecal coliform.

After discussion and no agreement, it was decided to change wording to allow some usage of fertilizer instead of stating “don’t use plant fertilizer.”

In reference to pump outs, need to change wording to “use pump out” and imply that that complies with the law.

In trend, add reference date, which is period of record mostly from 1999.

Swap out photo of filamentous green algae to a photo of toxic blue-green algae.

Janicki Environmental Services is preparing work that will allow water clarity and pollution sections to be written.

Their project includes pollutant loads of nitrogen, phosphorus, BOD and total suspended solids. Main point is that BMP can do a lot to reduce loadings.

Rene said that if really polluted then easy to show reduction.

Citizen’s toolkit: Need more input from the CAC.

Volunteer opportunities will be rewritten as a sampling to describe types of opportunities and won’t include contact information. The opportunities featured will be those that are funded by CHNEP or that CHNEP is dependent.

Kathleen will provide information on sea turtle monitoring.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) isn’t listed because it is tied closely to nutrient impairments.

Members were asked to give the report to others to see how well the report reads, including the colors (green, yellow and red).

The CAC Environmental Progress Subcommittee has met immediately following the CAC meetings held on May 21, 2008, July 16, 2008 and October 15, 2008. (Additional meetings were held in prior years.) Because needed research is not anticipated to be received until this summer, Lisa anticipates that the committee will not meet following the April 2009 meeting of the CAC.

The meeting concluded at 2:55.