

**Approved Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program**  
**Technical Advisory Committee**  
**April 8, 2009**  
**Port Charlotte, FL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Sampson	CF Industries
Bill Byle	Charlotte County
Keith Kibbey	Lee County Environmental Lab
Chris Anastasiou	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Chris Stafford	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
David Fugate	Florida Gulf Coast University
Joy Hazell	Florida Sea Grant – Charlotte County Extension
Keith Kibbey	Lee County
Greg Blanchard	Manatee County
Jim Culter	Mote Marine Laboratory
Sears Coker	Peace River Citrus Growers Association
Loren Coen	Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation
John Ryan	Sarasota County
Peter Doering	South Florida Water Management District
Kris Kaufman	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Cynthia Ovdenk	US Army Corps of Engineers

**ALSO PRESENT**

Brett Solomon	Entrix
Natalie Balcer	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Cheryl Clark	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Ray Leary	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Tom Jackson	Jackson Geological Solutions
Tony Janicki	Janicki Environmental
Mike Wessel	Janicki Environmental
Jaime Swindasz	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Hugh Dinkler	
Lisa Beever	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Judy Ott	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Greg Blanchard called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

**2. Agenda Additions or Deletions**

David Fugate requested that an Item 9 be moved to before Item 8 to accommodate previous commitments. Tony Janicki agreed to present Item 8 following Item 9.

**3. Public Comments on agenda**

Greg Blanchard asked for public comments on the agenda. No public comments were given.

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**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Greg Blanchard asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the February 11, 2009 TAC meeting. Judy Ott asked for verification that the motion to approve Item 4: Meeting Minutes for October 22, 2008 was seconded by Peter Doering and that the motion to approve Item 6: CHEVWQMN Citizen Summary was made by John Ryan and seconded by Chris Anastasiou. Members so verified.

**KEITH KIBBEY MOVED, SECONDED BY PETER DOERING TO ACCEPT  
THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2008 TAC MEETING, WITH THE  
CHANGES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Science Forum Summary**

Judy Ott presented a summary of the Science Forum April 8 topics which included: Seagrass Propeller Scar Restoration in Charlotte Harbor by Jim Anderson; Mangrove Restoration Practices by Robin Lewis, Littoral Shelf and Wetland Restoration at Cattle Dock Point by Tom Reis; CHNEP Coastal Ready Estuaries Projects by Lisa Beever and Water Conservation Policy Summit Summary by Steve Suau. The next Science Forum was announced to be June 10, 2009 in Lakeland at the Polk Nature Discovery Center with tours and presentations of Polk County and Lakeland restoration projects. No action or recommendation was requested.

**6. Workshop on Watershed Reservoirs Update: Final Details**

Judy Ott and Maran Hilgendorf presented a summary of the final preparations for the “Workshop on Watershed Reservoirs: Locations, Effects and Solutions” hosted by the CHNEP April 13-14 in Punta Gorda. The final workshop agenda and abstracts were attached and background reading material and review questions were available on the CHNEP ftp site. The workshop was an FY09 Workplan activity and implements the CHNEP CCMP 2008 Update Priority Action HA-K: Identify the hydrologic and environmental impacts of surface water reservoirs on estuaries within the watershed.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide a forum for the exchange of technical information between scientists and citizens about the location, design, benefits and impacts of existing and proposed reservoirs on freshwater, estuarine and groundwater water quality, hydrology and habitats within the CHNEP watershed. The Reservoir Workshop subcommittee assisted with developing the workshop goals and topics. Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium was contracted to assist with developing and facilitating the workshop. The workshop was held at the Charlotte County Event and Conference Center free of charge and 75 participants had registered. Several organizations provided sponsorship. Pre-workshop survey, background reading materials and reading review questions were available. Facilitated exercises followed each session. A final report of the results will be prepared, including technical findings, facilitated discussions and recommended actions needed to ensure consistency of future reservoirs with the CHNEP CCMP. Discussion ensued regarding the agenda, facilities and number of participants. No action or recommendation was requested. Informational only.

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**7. FY05 Technical Project “Comparison of CHEVWQMN, CCHMN, and Seagrass Monitoring Programs, with Estuary Region Specific Optical and Habitat Suitability Models” Update: Report Review Subcommittee**

Judy Ott presented the status of the review of the FY05 Technical Project. At the February 11, 2009 TAC meeting, Mr. Ray Leary, FDEP Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves, presented the results of the “Comparison of CHEVWQMN, CCHMN and Seagrass Monitoring Programs with Estuary Specific Optical Models”, as well as the final draft report for the project. The project is an FY08 Workplan project and implements the CCMP Priority Actions WQ-B, WQ-G and FW-F. The purpose the project is to provide in-depth comparisons of water quality data from the CHEVWQMN and CCHMN with seagrass data from the FDEP Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves transect monitoring program and develop estuary specific optical models quantifying the relationships. The TAC directed staff to form a subcommittee to review the final draft report. The subcommittee has been formed and a schedule developed to allow a recommendation regarding the report to be given to the TAC at its July 8, 2009 meeting. The report review subcommittee members and schedule were attached. The final draft report is available on the CHNEP ftp site. Discussion ensued regarding the depth of the analyses in the report. No action or recommendation was requested. Informational only.

**8. FY07 RRPP “Fate and Transport of Caloosahatchee ETM Sediment” Results**

Dr. David Fugate from FGCU presented the results of the FY07 RRPP project “Fate and Transport of Caloosahatchee ETM Sediment”. The report is available on the CHNEP. Estuaries trap sediment in high concentrations at localized regions called estuary turbidity maximums (ETMs), which change location relative to river flows. ETMs provide habitat for planktonic and larval fish and affect dissolved oxygen, mixing and stratification. The Caloosahatchee River has a well developed ETM which migrates many kilometers, flushing into San Carlos Bay during heavy river discharges.

The purpose of this project was to investigate the fate and transport of ETM associated suspended sediment in the Caloosahatchee Estuary during heavy freshwater flow. Project objectives were: 1) determine at what freshwater flow ETM is flushed out of the Caloosahatchee River; 2) monitor salinity, temperature, stratification and suspended sediment levels over a tidal cycle in San Carlos Bay during high flow; and 3) estimate the settling velocity of suspended particles in the water column.

Sampling occurred in San Carlos Bay in August 27 and September 5, 2008 over an entire tide cycle along transects throughout the bay. Measurements were made using an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADC), a sonde for conductivity, temperature and depth (CTD) and Laser In Situ Scattering Transmissometer (LISST) instruments. Salinity and flow discharge data from SFWMD programs was incorporated. Vertical and horizontal estimates of net sediment flux across the 4 passes surrounding San Carlos Bay were produced. Salinity conditions over time temporal and location were mapped, and sediment settling velocity was estimated. Two empirical methods were used to estimate the freshwater discharge necessary to flush saline waters out of the Caloosahatchee River.

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Results show stratification varied by location and river flow. After tropical storm Fay and high river flows, the most important pathway for suspended sediment transport from the Caloosahatchee River was from the mouth through the channel towards the Sanibel causeway. Sediments were resuspended along this route from a mobile pool of sediments. Within days of the storm, relatively small suspended sediment concentrations occurred, indicating that a strong pulse of high concentrations suspended sediments didn't likely occur during the storm. Discussion ensued about the definition and ecological significance of ETMs, how the Caloosahatchee River ETM relates to Lake Okeechobee discharges and the need for additional monitoring. Lisa Beever said she would prepare a conceptual diagram of the ETM concept.

**KEITH KIBBEY MOVED, SECONDED BY PETER DOERING TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MANAGEMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEES APPROVE FY07 RRPP "FATE AND TRANSPORT OF CALOOSAHATCHEE ETM SEDIMENT" FINAL REPORT.. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. FY09 Technical Project "Water Quality Targets Refinement" update: Draft seagrass targets for charlotte harbor**

Mr. Tony Janicki from Janicki Environmental presented the Draft Seagrass Targets for Charlotte Harbor as an update on the FY09 Technical Project "Water Quality Targets Refinement". The draft seagrass targets are Task 1 of the project Scope of Work, following the Water Quality Segmentation Scheme refinement presented at the February 11, 2009 TAC meeting. The purpose of the Water Quality Targets Refinement project is to provide technically defensible quantitative habitat restoration and protection targets for the CHNEP based on seagrass water clarity needs. A summary of the Draft Seagrass Targets for the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program was attached and the complete document is available on the CHNEP ftp site.

The draft results indicate that trends in seagrass distribution since 1950 varied by region of the estuaries (segment) throughout the CHNEP. Therefore, seagrass targets will vary among segments also. Five potential seagrass target definitions are suggested, including:

- the maximum areal extent observed in any of the survey years,
- the mean areal extent over all recent survey years,
- the mean areal extent over the last three survey years, or
- the most recent areal extent, i.e., 2006.

The definition of the most appropriate seagrass targets will be reached with input from the Technical Advisory Committee and subcommittee. Discussion ensued about methods used to measure areal extent, which would be the most appropriate areal extent to use as a basis for seagrass targets and how these targets compare to previous CHNEP water quality targets. Tony Janicki said he would schedule a meeting with the subcommittee in the near future to review the Draft Seagrass Targets for Charlotte Harbor.

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**10. Impaired Waters Update: Draft Verified List for Group 2 and Charlotte Harbor**

Lisa Beever presented a summary of the draft list of verified water quality impairments issued by FDEP on March 20, 2009, including Charlotte Harbor, Pine Island Sound, and Lemon Bay. Updated maps comparing the 2008 and 2009 draft verified impaired waters within the CHNEP were prepared and presented. A set of maps comparing the 2008 and 2009 impaired waters is attached. The draft list of verified impaired waters for Group 2 is available on the CHNEP ftp site and on the FDEP website: [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/verified\\_gp2-c2.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/verified_gp2-c2.htm).

The following major changes occurred:

- Upper Lemon Bay was delisted for nutrients.
- Much of the Lemon Bay watershed was listed for nutrients and dissolved oxygen.
- Charlotte Harbor Proper (off Cattle Dock Point) was listed for nutrients and iron.
- Bowman's Beach was listed for bacteria because of the beach advisories. The City of Sanibel has addressed the problem package treatment plant associated with the problem.
- Pine Island, Upper Lemon Bay and a portion of the Lemon Bay watershed are listed for fecal coliform.
- Forked Creek and Pine Island was listed for copper.
- The big apparent increases in mercury impairments listings in the Gulf, estuaries, and some of the watershed are related to more available data.

Discussion ensued about possible sources of copper, mercury and nutrients and dissolved oxygen in Lemon Bay. No action or recommendation was requested. Informational only.

**11. FY 10 Workplan Discussion**

Lisa Beever presented the most recent version of the FY10 Workplan Draft (3-30-09), which was available on the CHNEP ftp site. The Workplan changed slightly since the February 11, 2009 TAC meeting (see Tables 13, 15, and 19-26). A table of Technical Project Priorities is also attached for discussion. Discussion ensued regarding funding for technical projects.

**JOHN RYAN MOVED, SECONDED BY KEITH KIBBEY TO RECOMNED  
THAT THE MANAGEMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEES APPROVE FY10  
WORKPLAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**12. Advocacy and Review Update**

Lisa Beever presented a brief summary of the history of the CHNEP Advocacy and Review Procedures adopted by the Policy Committee on February 21, 2003. However, CHNEP's advocacy began four years earlier in 1999 with a letter to request designation of Horse Creek as an Outstanding Water (OFW). Prior to CCMP adoption, the conference was reluctant to issue advocacy positions without the guidance of an approved CCMP. In 2008, 5 advocacy positions were taken by the CHNEP. Four had satisfactory conclusions and one is pending. No action or recommendation was requested. Informational only.

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**13. Estero Bay ABM Report**

Lisa Beever presented a summary of recent activities of the Estero Bay ABM. The meeting agendas and minutes are posted at [www.swfrpc.org/abm](http://www.swfrpc.org/abm)

**14. NEP Program Report**

Staff summarized program activities from January 1, 2009 to March 20, 2009.

**15. Member Emerging Issues and Comments**

Greg Blanchard asked for member comments. Kris Kaufmann requested that the annual meeting of the Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network partners be held in late May to early June. Judy Ott asked if any members wished to be added or dropped from the science information distribution list.

**16. Public Comments**

Greg Blanchard asked for public comments. No public comments were offered.

**17. Next Meeting's Topics and Date**

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Location: Arcadia at South Florida Community College.

Topics: Reservoir Workshop Document, Water Quality Targets Refinement Status, Lower Peace River and Shell Creek MFLs Up-date.

**18. Adjourn**

Greg Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 4:15 PM.