



CHNEP Management Committee Meeting

Friday September 9th, 2022, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Charlotte County Utilities Building, Training Rooms A & B
25550 Harborview Rd, Punta Gorda, FL 33980

AGENDA

If you are unable to come in person, you can join remotely through:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85684557281?pwd=N21oL3pranM3NklsWktQZHJBWnVJUT09>

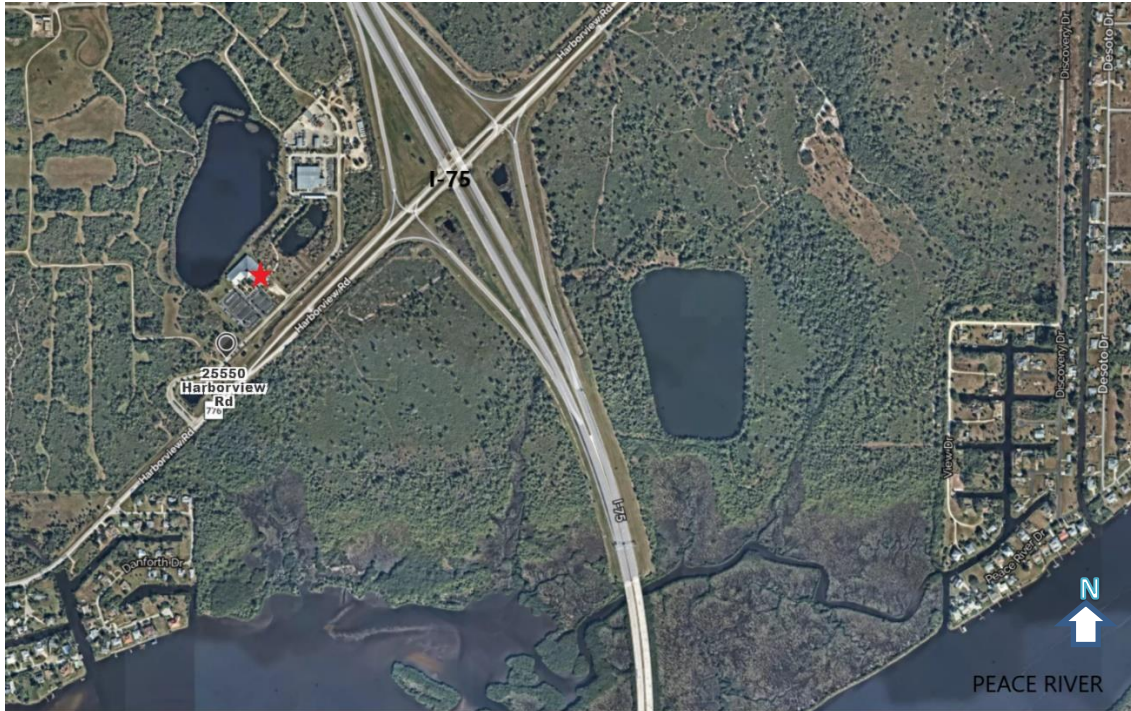
Meeting ID: 856 8455 7281, Password: 988210

To join by phone:

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York) or to find local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85684557281?pwd=N21oL3pranM3NklsWktQZHJBWnVJUT09>

1. Call to Order and Introductions — Corey Anderson, Co-Chair
2. Agenda Additions or Deletions — Corey Anderson, Co-Chair
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items — Corey Anderson, Co-Chair
4. Management Committee May 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes — Corey Anderson, Co-Chair
5. TAC Report — Ernesto Lasso de la Vega, TAC Co-Chair
6. CAC Report — Harry Phillips, CAC Co-Chair
7. CHNEP Update — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
8. Charlotte County Hosting Proposal — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
9. CHNEP Amended FY22 & FY23 Work Plans & Budgets — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
10. CHNEP FY22 & FY23 BIL Work Plan & Budget — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
11. NOAA Federal Funding Opportunities — Kris Kaufman, NOAA
12. Overview of Other Federal Funding Opportunities — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
13. CHNEP Technical Projects Update— Nicole Iadevaia, CHNEP
14. Management Committee Member Updates — Corey Anderson, Co-Chair
15. Public Comment — Corey Anderson, Co-Chair
16. Future Meeting's Topics and Date — Corey Anderson, Co-Chair
Date: January 13th, 2023
17. Adjourn — Corey Anderson, Co-Chair

DIRECTIONS TO OUR MEETING LOCATION



1. Take the **County Hwy-776** exit, EXIT 167, toward **Port Charlotte/Charlotte Harbor/Harborview Road** (1st I-75 exit north of the Peace River in Charlotte County).
2. Go 0.03 miles, turn **left (from south)** or **right (from north)** onto **Harborview Rd/County Hwy-776**.
3. Go 0.50 miles, turn **right** into parking area at **25550 Harborview Rd**, Punta Gorda, FL 33980-2500 – proceeding to the main entrance into the Charlotte County Utilities Building (red star in map above).
4. At the reception desk, proceed past to your **right** and then at end of hall, turn **right** again. Past the restrooms on the right is Training Room A & B; enter through Training Room A doors.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The CHNEP Management Committee Co-Chair will call the meeting to order and then members will introduce themselves as well as any members of the public who are participating.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

If any Management Committee member would like to make an addition or deletion to the agenda, this item is the time to suggest such.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Each participating member of the public is afforded up to 3 minutes total to speak on agenda topics only at this point in the meeting.

4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MAY 13, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

If any Management Committee member would like changes or additions made to the minutes from the last meeting, this item is the time to suggest such.

Recommendation: Approval of the minutes from May 13, 2022 Management Committee Meeting Minutes.

Attachment: Draft May 13, 2022 Management Committee Meeting Minutes

5. TAC REPORT

Ernesto Lasso de la Vega, TAC Co-Chair, will present the report of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on August 11, 2022 meeting highlights. The TAC meeting included many important technical presentations and discussions including The TAC meeting held in August included many important technical presentations and discussions including:

- Charlotte County Water Quality Plan: Presented on behalf of Charlotte County Water Quality Manager, Brandon Moody, Nicole Iadevaia announced Charlotte County plans to develop a Water Quality Management Plan by October 2023. The goal of this document is to identify measures to be undertaken either by, or in partnership with, the county to ensure the improvement and protection of our waters. Interested TAC members and regional partners were invited discussions about the general framework of the plan this fall. Charlotte County also recently kicked off its ambient monitoring program, in which 64 samples are being collected monthly in surface waters that discharge into the Myakka and Peace Rivers, Charlotte Harbor, and Lemon Bay. The goals of this program are to identify long-term trends and ambient water quality conditions of waters within the county; inform potential needs for source tracking and opportunities for water quality improvement; provide data to FDEP WIN to assist in assessment of WBIDs in Charlotte County; and address data needs for pollutant loading model development. TAC members discussed what type of data is being collected and what parameters are being looked at.
- Place-Based Fishery Conservation: Mr. Corey Anderson, with FWC, provided TAC members with an overview of the Habitat Conservation Subcommittee (HCS) Place-Based Fishery Conservation Draft Report, research and policy work plans. The purpose of this project was to extend CHNEP's Habitat Restoration Needs (HRN) Plan into place-based, topic-focused conservation plans and actions. The project focused on discrete sport fish nursery habitats in Charlotte County. TAC members discussed the monitoring approach and study design, the ability for the restoration to adapt to rapidly changing conditions, impacts of water control structures, plans to control overharvesting of young juvenile blue crabs, and the potential for stormwater management infrastructure to provide sport fish nursery habitat.

- Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrological Restoration Project: Mr. Roger Copp from Water Science Associates provided an update on the progress of the Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrological Restoration Project. CHNEP is a member of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative (CHFI) comprised of multiple local, state, and federal agencies. This group is focused on efforts to restore natural drainage across the Gator Slough Watershed with water that has been unnaturally impounded on the Babcock-Webb WMA and diverted from the Yucca Pens WMA, Caloosahatchee, and tidal creeks to Charlotte Harbor. Members discussed the potential for the project to improve the discharge curve for coastal creeks by attenuating peak flows, and ultimately improve sport fish habitat, as well as the potential to offset the salinity intrusion aspect of sea level rise.
- Water Quality Trend Analysis Project: Dr. Miles Medina, at the Center for Coastal Solutions at the University of Florida, presented committee members with updates on the Water Quality Trend Analysis Project for the CHNEP Water Atlas. The CHNEP recently engaged with researchers at the University of Florida's Center for Coastal Solutions (CCS) to complete an updated Water Quality Trend Analysis which uses a more sophisticated and flexible approach to estimate long-term trends and seasonal cycles in water quality dynamics over 10-year and 5-year timeframes, following recently published work by Beck et al. (2022). This project is a puzzle piece in a larger project to aggregate data and analyses together on CHNEP Water Atlas waterbody and basin pages. Committee members discussed which data is being analyzed and suggested plotting the Numeric Nutrient Criteria with the trends in order to convey the trend relative to the waterbodies impairment status. Members also discussed how the presence of large mats of macroalgae can affect the water quality and make it seem like you have better water quality because those algae mats are there, and who this could be conveyed to users on the Water Atlas.
- Seagrass and Algae Changes in Charlotte Harbor and Estero Bay: Mr. Mike Wessel, from Janicki Environmental, presented an overview on a recent report for the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves which aims to identify potential drivers of seagrass and algal change throughout Charlotte Harbor and Estero Bay. Noticeable declines in seagrass have occurred since 2017 in several strata. A weight of evidence suggests that nitrogen concentrations either in the form of total or nitrate-nitrite, may have reached critical thresholds in some cases that, in combination with other environmental factors (e.g. temperature), have contributed to recent seagrass losses. Committee members discussed which algal species are considered drift algae, as well as raised concerns about increased boat traffic and pop scar and the decline in seagrass in Estero Bay. Committee members also discussed limitations of current TMDLs and stormwater regulations at looking at the N-P ratio and reducing nitrogen and phosphorous simultaneously.

The TAC heard the CHNEP Program and Technical Project update presentations that are also coming before Management Committee today and shared updates with each other on their respective natural resource related activities and projects. There were no recommendations formed by the TAC pertaining directly to Management Committee agenda items this cycle.

6. **CAC REPORT**

Harry Phillips, CAC Co-Chair, will present the report of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on August 24, 2022 meeting highlights. The CAC meeting included many important community outreach and engagement presentations and discussions including

- Six new conservation grant applications were reviewed with funding requested amounts and recommendation for CAC review, discussion, and feedback. The four grants recommended for funding included:

- The first was for educational signage for burrowing owls and gopher tortoises at the Cape Coral Wildlife Trust Properties.
 - The second was for restoration of native plants and gopher tortoise signage at Pederson Preserve Pine Restoration Habitat Area.
 - The third was to expand the bacteria analysis of water bodies in the CHNEP area by Suncoast Waterkeeper.
 - The fourth was for the development of drone analysis methodologies for bird rookery data along the Caloosahatchee River.
- Completed CHNEP grants were reviewed with final reports, deliverables, and photo evidence provided by each recipient. Grants included:
 - The creation of charts and multi-media diagrams about the water cycle for the Go Hydrology Journal.
 - The 2022 Great American Cleanup with over 70,000 pounds of debris taken out of the local environment.
 - Scholarships for 24 underserved children to attend an eco-arts camps at Lovers Key.
 - Web hosting support for the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council
 - Drone footage archives of the SCCF Caloosahatchee water conditions.
 - A scrub jay habitat lot restoration in North Port.
 - Digital QR code guided educational signage at CHEC.
 - Educational videos for the CHNEP.
- Federal Funding Opportunities for Resiliency highlighted areas of weather/climate events, infrastructure, jobs, disaster relief, and others associated to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL). Societal needs for underserved communities area high priority and funding agents include NOAA, FWS, FEMA, FHWA, DOT, NFWF and others. Letters of support can be supplied from CHNEP upon request for grant applications.
- CAC members reported on the resiliency needs survey results from each respective county as follows:
 - Manatee County partnered with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to determine needs in infrastructure, the environment, and society. There is a website outlining the details to the plan.
 - Sarasota County identified needs for groundwater / potable water supplies, wastewater and septic to sewer conversion conversations, flood amendments, sea level rise, and a point disaster development plan need.
 - Glades County identified infrastructure needs of road improvements, inventory of parks, erosion risk, rural area flood and stormwater protections, dam safety analysis, ground / potable water concerns, and wastewater / sewer to septic needs, and educating the public.
 - Polk County identified need for county wide vulnerability assessment, mapping of groundwater, a water quality monitoring program, a stormwater master plan needed, ground / potable water concerns about septic to sewer, protecting drinking water, and public education.
 - Estero (Lee County) identified native plantings, salinity and water table levels, cleaning the Estero River, walking / biking trails, acquiring new stormwater protection areas, pond watches, water quality testing, septic to sewer, FDCU Environmental Research Center groundwater and wastewater procedures, and public education.

- Cape Coral (Lee County) identified continuing improving existing new seawall standards, raising outfall pipes, stormwater pond efficiency, continuing to build a new climate resiliency office which is in the beginning hiring stages now.

The members engaged in reviewing the overarching goals of the CAC to be active in public outreach events within their counties, receive events notices early, bringing potential partners and stakeholders to the CHNEP for grants, research, and project needs by county. The CAC is the eyes and ears on the ground and the CHNEP relies on them to bring to the committee ideas, needs, and action-based strategies and reports of how the CHNEP can increase effectiveness in each County. Members agreed the need for cohesion in moving to increase the engagement of the CAC, increase education in schools, public reach, marketing ideas, and bringing together new stakeholders to engage in discussions for CAC and how the Federal Funding Fact Sheet will be an important tool for communicating to the public. There were no items for CAC input pertaining to Management Committee agenda items this cycle.

7. **CHNEP UPDATE**

The following represents program activity highlights since the beginning of the last Management Conference cycle to the beginning of this one.

Program Administration

- Planned and executed both the Management Committee Meeting (5/13) and Policy Committee Meeting (5/26). At the 5/26 meeting, the CHNEP Policy Committee Meeting approved a measure to move forward with coordination with Charlotte County to draft an agreement regarding them potentially becoming the new host to CHNEP.
- CHNEP worked with Charlotte County to create a temporary lease agreement, which has been approved by Punta Gorda City Council and Charlotte County Commission.
- Staff met with Charlotte County to begin formulation of new hosting agreement, this included meetings with individual departments. CHNEP met with multiple departments. The new host agreement proposal will likely be put on the Charlotte County BOCC and City of Punta Gorda agendas for approval in September for transitioning in the new fiscal year (October 2022).
- CHNEP Executive Director acted as Ex Officio NEP peer evaluator on the San Juan Bay National Estuary Program Evaluation (6/7-6/9).
- Drafted requested letters of support for “A SOCAN-GCAN collaboration across the Southeast/ Gulf of Mexico regions to support efforts of the Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan” (4/20), “proposed Northern Estuaries Restoration Plan Act (H.R. 7520)” (4/26), and “Support of the federal funding request for the Morgan Park Shoreline Stabilization Project” (4/28).
- Launched the annual 2022 NEPORT Congressional Reporting Survey and emailed resource managers, technical partners and conservation and stewardship coordinators to report on their annual conservation, management, and restoration accomplishments.
- Worked with project partners to submit a full application and letter of support for NFWF Coastal Resilience Fund 2022 to complete design and engineering work to implement projects identified and modeled in the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods hydrological modeling project ‘Yucca Pens Hydrology Engineering and Design.’
- Sent letter of support to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the NCRF Project Proposal titled “Designing Wetland Habitat Enhancement and Flooding Improvement for Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods”.
- Drafted and submitted abstracts for 2022 the Florida Resiliency Conference.

- Drafted and sent a letter regarding how the Manatee Protection Act of 2021 (HR 4946) related to the CHNEP CCMP, per the request of Congressman Vern Buchanan.

Finance and Grant Management

- Drafted and submitted Quarterly Progress Reports to FDEP for salary agreement with CHNEP.
- Drafted and submitted FY22 EPA mid-year report for 5-year grant agreement.
- Draft Amended FY22 and FY23 Work Plan and Budget and presented at the May Management Policy Committee meetings for approval.
- Obtained CHNEP Policy Committee approval of Amended FY22 Work Plan and Budget and FY23 Work Plan and Budget.
- Finalized and submitted on June 1, 2022 the FY23 EPA Grant Application with approved FY23 CHNEP Work Plan and Budget
- Drafted and submitted invoice for FDEP salary agreement with CHNEP, with extensive backup documentation relating to staff hours, etc.
- Drafted and submitted invoice to FDEP for NRDA grant for Tasks 1-3 of the LCHFI project.
- Drafted and submitted invoice to FDEP for SWFWMD FY20 Agreement.
- An amendment to request contingency funding for the FDEP for NRDA grant for the Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Project was drafted, approved and executed by FDEP and City of Punta Gorda. The necessary Change Order has been approved and executed, with additional funding for tasks 4, 5, and 6 being added to the purchase order following approval of a requisition.
- Drafted and submitted Quarter 3 reports for FY19, FY21, and FY22 for SWFWMD. (FY20 has been closed out)
- Partners have been notified of our host change and drafts of the majority of agreements that need transitioning to our new host have been submitted to the Charlotte County Attorney's Office for review.
- Several conservation grant applications have been received and reviewed.
- Participated in the EPA Office of Water's webinar on July 25 regarding NEP BIL 2022-2026 funding. Long-term BIL project plans are due June 1, 2023.

Regional and multi-jurisdictional organizational meetings CHNEP staff participated in

- Hosted CHNEP Spring Management Committee Mtgs. (3)
- Hosted Habitat Conservation Subcommittee Workshop: Place Based Fishery Conservation In Charlotte Harbor, FL
- ANEP Board Meetings
- ANEP Executive Committee Meetings
- ANEP External Affairs Committee Meetings
- ANEP External Communications and Legislative Activities Committee Meeting
- EPA San Juan Bay NEP Program Evaluation Meetings and Site Visit
- EPA and Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) – NEPCWG Meeting
- EPA NEP Nutrients Workgroup Meeting
- Chaired SWFWMD Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
- Southwest Florida Regional Ambient Monitoring Program (RAMP) Meeting
- Florida Wildlife Corridor Conservation Lands Summit
- Resilient Florida Program Meeting
- Oyster Integrated Mapping and Monitoring Program (OIMMP)/FORS Workshop
- Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative Meeting
- Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrological Modeling Project Meetings

- CHNEP Water Atlas Meetings with USF
- CHNEP Water Atlas/UF Center for Coastal Solutions Data Analysis Meetings
- RECOVER SWFL Module Meeting
- CHNEP/Mote Meeting to discuss Mote Beach Conditions Report System (BCRS) data and CHNEP Water Atlas/Coastal Conditions Map
- CHNEP/City of Winter Haven Meeting to discuss Lakes Report Story Map data and CHNEP Water Atlas/Lake pages
- SOCAN – Gulf of Mexico Coastal Acidification Network Project Meeting
- Myakka Headwaters Restoration Project Site Visit
- Science and Environmental Council Meeting
- Southwest Florida Estuarine Restoration Team (SWERT) Steering Committee
- Myakka River Management Coordinating Council Meeting

CHNEP staff presentations

- CHNEP staff prepared a poster on the CHNEP Economic Valuation Study that was presented at the Citizen Science & Science Education, Communication and Extension poster session for the 2022 Gulf of Mexico Conference (GOMCON).
- CHNEP staff gave an oral presentation on the CHNEP Habitat Restoration Needs Plan as part of the Science, Management, Practice and Policy: Master Planning Session at the 2022 Gulf of Mexico Conference (GOMCON).
- Presentation to Charlotte County Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee on work of CHNEP
- Presentation at Barron Public Library Environmental Education Event in Labelle (Hendry County) utilizing our Kids Activity Book to teach 52 students in grades kindergarten through fifth about local watersheds, estuaries, sustainable fishing practices, habitats, and wildlife. Students were immersed in hands-on activities like measuring fish length, knot tying techniques, and creating an edible aquifer. Photos were shared on social media after the event.

Publications and Outreach Events

- Delivered boxes (4,000 copies) of the CHNEP Kids Activity Books to each of our 10 District County Central Libraries This delivery was strategic to the beginning of the educational summer reading program series entitled “Oceans of Possibilities.” Posted photos and tagged libraries in a social media post for CHNEP.
- Launched annual CHNEP calendar photo entry contest with a button on CHNEP website.
- Uploaded Management and Policy Committee presentation videos to CHNEP website and YouTube channel.
- Collaborated with Charlotte County Sea Grant to deliver a Kids Seagrass Educational Workshop for 20 students in grades second through fourth at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center Summer Camp.
- Hosted a Water Quality Sampling training in collaboration with Earth Echo International. A representative from Earth Echo co-delivered an educational presentation outlining why water quality testing is important and then the Citizen Scientist volunteers and CHNEP staff walked to the Charlotte Harbor waterfront to use the Earth Echo water sampling kits to test the turbidity, PH, and dissolved oxygen of the local surface water.
- Distributed 800 copies of our publications of CHNEP Harbor Happenings and the Kids Activity Books, along with 50 educational posters to special events including the Fort Myers Beach Environmental Task Force’s monthly pop-up outdoor educational workshop, the Sarasota Suncoast Academy, and the Punta Gorda Libraries Saturday Family Summer Kick-Off Event.

- Hosted a cooperative event with CHNEP partner the UF/IFS Sea Grant Department in Charlotte County for the Eyes on Seagrass Monitoring Program. Educational and training information was delivered on estuary health, habitat and wildlife resilience and seagrass.
- Hosted the Citizens Advisory Council Annual Calendar Selection meeting to select habitat and wildlife photography submitted by our volunteers. Over 150 photos were submitted with an average of 30 being selected for the calendar.
- Delivered CHNEP Teacher Educational Resource Bags to Charlotte and Sarasota Schools for their Open House Night.
- Supported a Lee County Boy Scout troop by supplying Earth Echo Water Quality Monitoring Kits which they distributed at local libraries to earn Environmental Badges.
- Completed design and layout of the Spring/Summer 2022 Harbor Happenings publication.

Outreach analytics

- 5,969 subscribers for CHNEP educational mailings.
- 1,789 unique visitors and 1,958 page visits to CHNEP website.
- 21 new Instagram followers (141 total followers)
- 16 new Facebook followers (1,750 followers)
- 16 new Facebook followers (1,750 followers)
- 38 new Facebook Likes (1,492 total likes)
- 179 Facebook Post Likes, Comments, or Shares
- 1,095 YouTube Views
- 115 Hours Watched on YouTube

Media/Press

- [7/22 EarthEcho Water Challenge, Punta Gorda - Charlotte County Florida Weekly](#)
- [6/22 2022 Eyes on Seagrass Summer Volunteer Training - ABC 7 News](#)

CHNEP Executive Director Jennifer Hecker will be presenting the CHNEP Update.

Recommendation: For discussion only.

8. CHARLOTTE COUNTY HOSTING PROPOSAL

The CHNEP has been graciously hosted by the City of Punta Gorda the last 8 years and by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council prior to that. The CHNEP is facing a doubling of its budget presently, and with that, associated workload, staff increases and expanded host operational support needs in the areas of human resources, information technology, finance management, procurement, etc.

The CHNEP also needed office space as its offices in the Punta Gorda City Hall building are being renovated. The CHNEP Policy Committee approved entering into a temporary lease agreement with Charlotte County to move into the County's vacant Loveland Blvd. offices - so that CHNEP's current host does not need to expend resources to outfit new spaces to accommodate it if this is proceeding towards Charlotte County becoming the new host for the CHNEP. The CHNEP offices have been moved accordingly.

Charlotte County staff expressed interest in potentially hosting the CHNEP and at the May 10, 2022 Charlotte County Commission meeting, the Commissioners unanimously conceptually approved and authorized its staff to craft a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to potentially host and

provide office space to the CHNEP. Charlotte County already similarly hosts the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the CHNEP utilized its current agreement with the MPO and CHNEP's current agreement with the City of Punta Gorda, to fashion a draft agreement which is presently being reviewed by Charlotte County staff.

CHNEP benefits from Charlotte County hosting with:

- Expanded operational support capacity that meets CHNEP growing operational needs and budget, distributing hosting workload across more staff and is accustomed to handling large federal grants.
- Expanded office space for growing CHNEP staff (7-8 persons total) that is within 10 minutes of our present location – creating continuity of CHNEP employee and volunteer commutes to retain both employees and volunteers.
- Staff benefits that include Florida Retirement System, which allows us to attract and retain staff seeking that benefit.
- Having a detailed host agreement upfront that outlines all the respective responsibilities between the two parties to ensure expectations are aligned and CHNEP's organizational autonomy is maintained.

Charlotte County benefits from hosting CHNEP with:

- Tighter coordination leading to more synergistic opportunities that can assist Charlotte County's Water Quality Manager and the added County's emphasis on water resource protection and on community resiliency.
- Helping to protect Charlotte Harbor through a Watershed Restoration Approach that goes well beyond Charlotte County's jurisdictional borders into nine other counties that the CHNEP serves, which drain into or circulate with Charlotte Harbor waters.
- Helping to bring added environmental education to the community with monthly free public events and workshops that educate and engage Charlotte County citizens into how to assist in natural resource protection efforts in their community.
- Helping to fund and manage research and restoration projects in the Greater Charlotte County watershed, and directly within Charlotte County (ex. Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network water quality sampling program).

At the May 2022 CHNEP Policy Committee meeting, the Policy Committee conceptually approved and authorized CHNEP staff to work with Charlotte County staff to craft the aforementioned draft agreement.

The Charlotte County Commissioners is planning to take up the final hosting MOU for potential approval at their September 13, 2022 meeting.

If approved, the MOU will go to the CHNEP Policy Committee to review and vote on whether to approve at their September 22, 2022 meeting. If approved by all parties, the agreement would go into effect October 1, 2022, the beginning of CHNEP's fiscal year – with all funds and agreements transferred between hosts as quickly as feasible thereafter.

Jennifer Hecker of the CHNEP will be presenting this item.

Recommendation: Management Committee provide formal recommendation as to whether CHNEP Policy Committee should approve proposed Charlotte County Memorandum of Understanding

Attachments: Proposed Charlotte County Memorandum of Understanding

9. CHNEP FY22 & FY23 AMENDED WORK PLANS AND BUDGETS

FY22 PROPOSED CHANGES

The initial FY22 Work Plan and Budget was presented and approved by the Management Conference in the spring 2021 meeting cycle. As is customary, the CHNEP annual Work Plans and Budgets need to be amended as updated information is available and as needed due to funding or project changes. As a result, the FY22 Amended Work Plan is being presented for review with the following amendments since last cycle:

Table 1

Revenue

- Changed Allocated Carryover from \$5,104 to \$118,326
- Updated Total 2002 Revenue from \$1,960,404 to \$2,073,626

Expenditures

- Changed Travel from \$25,000 to \$10,000 (due to COVID pandemic limiting travel)
- Reduced Outreach from \$134,400 to \$130,650
- Increased Research & Restoration Contracts from \$1,170,487 to \$1,303,459
- Reduced Host Administrative Fee from \$99,715 to \$99,215
- Reduced both Materials and Supplies from \$2,500 to \$2,000
- Updated Expenditures from \$1,960,404 to \$2,073,626

Table 2

- Updated Allocated Carryover from \$5,104 to \$118,326 and Federal Total from \$1,614,904 to \$1,728,126 and Total Cooperative to \$2,073,626

Table 3

- Decreased Local Travel/Meetings from \$15,980 to \$980 which adjusts Subtotal to \$7,355 and Total to \$10,000

Table 4

- Sponsorships reduced from \$6,500 to \$2,750 which changed Total to \$130,650 from \$134,400

Table 5

- Replaced 2020 Cyanobacteria Rapid Response of \$66,061 to Tiki Point Living Shoreline Project
- Replaced 2021 Pine Island Restoration Project of \$96,000 to Tiki Point Living Shoreline Project
- Added EPA 320 Carry Over of \$113,222 for Tiki Point
- Added EPA 320 Transfers of \$19,750 for Tiki Point
- Replaced \$17,450 Pine Island EPA 320 funding with Tiki Point
- Added \$3,068 in Local to Tiki Point
- Added additional lines for EPA BIL as \$709,800 that was for Tiki Point (which shifted to EPA 320 funding); BIL funding is adjusted to now include \$200,000 for Polk County Vulnerability Assessment and \$396,350 in FY22 Restoration Projects TBD, as well as \$113,450 for the Pine Island Restoration Project (formerly targeted for EPA 320 funding)
- Reduced Local from \$10,000 to \$6,932 due to \$3,068 needed in Local for Tiki Point
- Updated Non-EPA and EPA FY22 Total from \$1,170,487 to \$1,303,459

Table 7

As mentioned in Expenditures above:

- Materials and Supplies from \$2,500 to \$2,000
- Reduced Overhead from \$99,715 to \$99,215
- Adjusted Total from \$151,000 to \$150,000
- Removed note on page about potential new City staff position, as moving to Charlotte County, and not adding the proposed position with the City

Staff and Their Official Responsibilities

- Changed title from Research Specialist to Research Specialist II
- Changed title from Conservation Associate Intern to Conservation Specialist

FY22 Budget (Page 19)

- Changes discussed above (e.g., Travel from \$25,000 to \$10,000) change EPA 320 FY22 Total from \$449,017 to \$423,017, so total updated from \$622,873 changes to \$606,873
- Removed note about Potential Host Staff Position with City of \$75,000

New and Ongoing Projects

- 3.3 LCHF - Made the funding allocations more clear; the \$33,250 in overhead is in addition to the contractor costs.
- 3.6 Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment - Added a Vulnerability Assessment for Polk County and allocated \$200,000 + Staff Time
- 4.2 Restoration/Research TBD - Adjusted local to \$6,932 and added BIL Funding of \$396,350 for a total of \$403,282
- 4.5 New Project - Added funding details for Tiki Point Harborwalk Living Shoreline Pilot Project and added note that FDEP reimbursement of \$33,250 may also be reallocated to Tiki Point

FY23 PROPOSED CHANGES

Additionally, the CHNEP prepared the FY2023 Work Plan & Budget to be reviewed and approved last cycle, which was submitted to the EPA on June 1, 2022. However, due to the potential host change, the EPA has voided the application and wants CHNEP to reapply with an amended Work Plan once the new host agreement is approved. Being prepared so far in advance, it is customary that some projects and funding sources be identified as To Be Determined (TBD). As a result, the FY23 Amended Work Plan is being presented for review with the following amendments since last cycle:

Table 1

Revenue

- Edited \$204,990 in State Contributions to \$205,000 (\$74,900 vs \$75,000)
- Adjusted Total Revenue from \$2,000,290 to \$2,000,300

Expenditures

- Changed Personnel from \$555,990 to \$604,078
- Adjusted Overhead from \$279,228 to \$264,939
- Adjusted Public Outreach from \$93,919 to \$95,782
- Divided Research and Restoration costs which was \$1,031,040 by adding a line for Research and Restoration EPA 320 Funding of \$118,000 and another for BIL Funding \$876,758
- Updated Total Expenditures to \$2,000,300

Table 2

- Decreased host fees from \$214,579 to \$200,290
- Updated Total from \$279,228 to \$264,939

Table 3

- Edited FDEP from \$74,990 to \$75,000 and total from \$204,990 to \$205,000

- Updated Total State/District from \$340,490 to \$340,500
- Total Funding updated from \$2,000,290 to \$2,000,300

Table 5

- Increased Calendar printing costs from \$21,000 to \$27,181
- Updated Total from \$93,919 to \$95,782

Table 6

2020

- Reallocated \$66,061 for Cyanobacteria Rapid Response to Tiki Point Living Shoreline Project
- Closed out and removed LCHFI projects for \$14,805 and \$532,283 which reduced total for Non-EPA and EPA 320 FY21 from \$613,149 to \$66,061

2021

- Replaced Pine Island Flatwoods \$96,000 with Tiki Point Living Shoreline Project

2022 - 2023

- Tiki Point FY23 BIL Funding (\$709,800) was replaced with a new project for Polk County for \$200,000 as well as \$396,350 in TBD Restoration projects and \$113,450 is restored to the Pine Island project with BIL funds
- Replaced Pine Island funding of \$17,450 with Tiki Point Project
- Polk County Climate Vulnerability Assessment was added for \$200,000
- FY22 Restoration TBD changed from \$392,800 to \$396,350
- FY23 BIL changed from \$392,800 to \$340,170
- CCHNM Water Quality Monitoring was decreased from \$16,240 to \$13,000
- Reallocated \$709,800 of Tiki Point EPA BIL
- Added line for \$113,222 in EPA 320 for Tiki Point
- Added line for \$23,710 in EPA 320 Transfers to Tiki Point
- Added line for Local in amount of \$3,068 to Tiki Point
- Reduced Local TBD of \$10,000 by \$3,068 to \$6,932
- Total is now \$394,379 for Non-EPA and EPA 320 FY22 as reporting BIL separately
- Total for non-EPA and EPA FY23 is \$118,000
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment TBD was increased from \$390,000 to \$400,000
- Water Atlas was increased from \$127,000 to \$130,588
- Total for FY22 BIL is \$909,800 and FY23 BIL is \$876,758
- A Total for Research and Restoration for FY23 only of \$999,758 was added

Staff and Their Official Responsibilities

- Changed title of Research Specialist to Research Specialist II
- Changed title of Conservation Associate Intern to Conservation Specialist

FY23 Budget (Page 17)

- Changed EPA 320 FY22 Total from \$425,000 to \$440,666
- Reduced Host Fee from \$214,579 to \$200,290
- Added \$33,042 for salaries funded by EPA BIL
- Increased Total from \$810,218 to \$844,647

New and Ongoing Projects

- 2.2 Calendar and Harbor Happenings Magazines - As discussed in above Table, increased calendar printing to \$27,181
- 3.2 Water Atlas – Increased from \$127,000 to \$130,588
- 3.4 Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessments – Added New Project for Polk County and allocated \$200,000 IN EPA FY22 BIL Funding

- 3.5 Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessments TBD – Increased estimate from \$390,000 to \$400,000
- 4.2 Restoration/Research TBD - Added notes to describe FY22 Funding
- 4.4 Tiki Point Harborwalk Living Shoreline Pilot Project – Added details on all funding sources
- 4.5 Restoration/Research TBD Projects – Added details on funding sources and total of \$759,452

The Management Committee is being asked to review the FY2022 & FY2023 Amended Work Plans & Budgets to provide any input and a formal recommendation as to whether or not the Policy Committee should approve the FY2022 & FY2023 Amended Work Plan & Budget at their September 22, 2022 meeting.

Jennifer Hecker of the CHNEP will be presenting this item.

Recommendation: Recommend approval of CHNEP Amended FY22 & FY23 Work Plans & Budgets

Attachments: CHNEP FY22 Amended Work Plan & Budget
CHNEP FY23 Amended Work Plan & Budget

10. CHNEP FY22 & FY23 BIL WORK PLAN & BUDGET

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58), also known as the “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021” (IIJA) or “BIL.” The law’s investment in water is nothing short of transformational. It includes \$50 billion to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for water infrastructure, the single largest investment in water that the federal government has ever made. The BIL provides \$132 million in funding for the 28 longstanding National Estuary Programs (NEPs) for fiscal years 2022 through 2026. This funding will be evenly distributed to the NEPs, annually providing each with approximately \$900,000 in BIL funds. Importantly, NEP BIL funds are available until expended.

On July 26th, EPA issued a NEP BIL Funding Implementation Memorandum (memorandum), which applies to funding provided under the BIL and provides guidance on uses of funds, timeframes, how to award the funds, and tracking and reporting requirements. The memorandum describes the process for FY 2022 – FY 2026 BIL funds and may be supplemented by additional implementation memoranda as needed. Unless otherwise noted in this document, the FY 2021 – FY 2024 Clean Water Act §320 National Estuary Program Funding Guidance also applies to BIL funding. It outlines the core goals of BIL funding are to:

- “Tackle the Climate Crisis” by reducing emissions that cause climate change and accelerating resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts; and
- “Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights” by promoting EJ and protecting civil rights at the federal, state, and local levels.

As such, it states that NEP projects funded through BIL should seek to: (1) Accelerate and more extensively implement CCMPs, (2) Ensure that benefits reach disadvantaged communities – including that at least 40% of the BIL funding goes to projects benefitting such communities in FY24-26, and (3) Build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities – including addressing climate change and using green and nature-based solutions to enhance resiliency.

It goes on to state that where possible and aligned with the priorities identified in their CCMPs, NEPs should engage and educate the public and private sectors on key climate-related vulnerabilities and solutions and provide technical and financial assistance to accelerate progress in response to a changing climate. NEPs should elevate climate efforts through BIL implementation including, but not limited to:

- Assessment and planning projects that involve climate change vulnerability assessments, community resilience and adaptation plans, or hazard mitigation plans;
- Restoration, water infrastructure, green infrastructure, stormwater management, and nonpoint source projects that prioritize innovative climate adaptation, hazard mitigation, and resilience solutions;
- Projects focused on climate-related research, including those that measure, monitor, and increase carbon sequestration;
- Projects focused on climate-related outreach and education.

As with annual appropriations distributed to NEPs to implement CWA §320, the funds distributed under the BIL must implement the management conference and EPA-approved CCMP and Work Plan. Therefore, the CHNEP is required to put forth a BIL Work Plan and Budget for each year - with us being allowed to combine the first two years – FY22&FY23 – to submit immediately (within 90 days), and then FY24-26 will need to submit to EPA by June 1st each year (starting with FY24 by June 1, 2023). Due to the long-term nature of BIL funding, each NEP is also required to develop a BIL Long-Term Plan to submit no later than June 1, 2023.

Accordingly, CHNEP has drafted a proposed BIL FY22&FY23 Work Plan and Budget, which it is bringing for the CHNEP Management Committee, for formal recommendation to the CHNEP Policy Committee. The Policy Committee will then take up for review, discuss, and approve at its September 22, 2022 meeting. Once approved, it will be submitted to EPA in order to create an agreement and once that is in place, receive the funding. The Long-term Plan and FY24 Work Plan and Budget will be brought to the Management Conference in Spring 2023.

Jennifer Hecker of the CHNEP will be presenting this item.

Recommendation: Recommend approval of CHNEP FY22 & FY23 BIL Work Plan & Budget

Attachment: CHNEP FY22 & FY23 BIL Work Plan & Budget

11. NOAA FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a transformational opportunity to make an impact against the climate crisis across the country through multiple funding opportunities. It provides nearly \$3 billion for NOAA to take action over 5 years in the areas of habitat restoration, coastal resilience, and weather forecasting infrastructure. NOAA will address climate risks and key impact areas, including floods, fire, drought, and extreme heat, and will build resilience in marine and coastal regions. These targeted investments will be scalable and responsive to societal needs for climate information and support and leverage partnerships. A significant portion of the funds will be issued through competitive grants to organizations to do on-the-ground work around the country.

This funding is organized into three main initiatives:

- 1) Climate Data and Services: \$904 million: Supporting a whole-of-government effort to address the climate crisis by getting critical information in the hands of decision-makers. *Funding all anticipated to be distributed in federal govt., so no external funding opportunities anticipated.*
- 2) Climate Ready Coasts: \$1.467 billion: Helping coastal communities build the future they want to see. Investing in high-impact natural infrastructure projects that build coastal resilience, create jobs, store carbon, and restore habitat.
- 3) Fisheries & Protected Resources: \$592 million: Advancing complementary efforts to support environmental stewardship and promote community economic development.

Accordingly, there are a couple NOAA grant programs currently open and seeking proposals, including:

Marine Debris Removal

The NOAA Marine Debris Program will award up to \$56 million to fund projects that remove marine debris to benefit marine and Great Lakes habitats and communities. This competition focuses on two priorities: removing large marine debris and using proven interception technologies to capture marine debris throughout the coastal United States, Great Lakes, territories, and Freely Associated States.

The first priority will support partnerships for the development of large scale and high-value marine debris removal programs. These programs should focus on large marine debris, including abandoned and derelict vessels, derelict fishing gear, and other debris that is generally unable to be collected by hand. Removal partnerships are expected to be responsive to marine debris needs throughout all coastal and marine areas in the United States, including the Great Lakes, United States territories, and Freely Associated States, including within National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves. Successful applicants are expected to have technical and administrative ability to identify, catalog, evaluate, fund, and administer such efforts through their own competitive funding programs. This is not a request for individual or localized marine debris removal projects.

The second priority of this competition focuses on implementation of proven marine debris interception technologies in coastal riverine, shoreline, estuarine, and urban environments where trash, plastics, and other persistent, reaccumulating macro-debris can be captured and removed. Successful applicants are expected to have the technical expertise to implement these technologies, navigate and comply with all regulatory requirements associated with such projects, and properly maintain these technologies once deployed.

These two priorities will be reviewed as separate, parallel tracks under this funding opportunity, and they have different application requirements. Applicants wishing to compete under both priorities must submit separate applications for each.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program encourages applicants and awardees to support the principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion when writing their proposals and performing their work.

Proposals are due on Grants.gov on September 30, 2022. An applicant webinar providing an overview of the competition details and tips for submitting applications is [now available](#). These materials include the webinar recording, slides, and frequently asked questions. Additional applicant guidance documents created specifically for this competition are also available.

For more information on this grant opportunity, please visit [Grants.gov](#) and the NOAA Marine Debris Program's [website](#).

Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities

Up to \$10 million in funding is available for habitat restoration and resilience awards for underserved

communities though [NOAA's FY2022 Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

Through this funding, NOAA will engage underserved communities in habitat restoration activities that promote resilient ecosystems and communities. This funding will provide capacity for these communities to more fully participate in developing future transformational habitat projects. This capacity is intended to ensure that communities are integral to the visioning and decision-making for coastal habitat restoration projects that affect them, and that they directly benefit from these projects.

Projects selected through this opportunity may include:

- Capacity building activities, including participation in municipal or regional-scale resilience planning, project planning and feasibility studies, stakeholder engagement, and proposal development for future funding.
- Restoration activities, including demonstration projects, engineering and design, permitting, and on-the-ground implementation.

NOAA will accept proposals between \$75,000 to \$1 million total over the award period. *The application deadline is October 5, 2022.*

Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants

Selected partners will use these funds to implement locally-led habitat restoration actions that restore marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystems, using approaches that enhance the resilience of communities to climate hazards. Funding will prioritize habitat restoration actions that rebuild productive and sustainable fisheries, contribute to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, use natural infrastructure to reduce damage from flooding and storms, promote resilient ecosystems and communities, and yield socioeconomic benefits. The funding priorities and selection process of this opportunity emphasize support for underserved communities. Proposals may include: planning and assessments; feasibility studies; engineering design and permitting; on-the-ground implementation; pre- and/or post-implementation monitoring; capacity building or any combination of phases.

- Up to \$85 million is available
- Federal funding requests: between \$1 million and \$15 million
- Award periods up to 3 years (potential of up to 5 years if necessary)
- How to Apply: www.Grants.gov; Opportunity #: NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2022-2007195
- For more information click [here](#), site includes a pre-recorded webinar for download. And review our [NOAA Restoration Center Grant Applicant Webpage](#) for assistance on preparing grant materials.

The application deadline for this year just passed (September 6, 2022) but it is anticipated that this will be available next year around the same time, so now is the time to start planning and preparing.

National Sea Grant Marine Debris Challenge

Subject to the availability of funding in fiscal years 2022 and 2023, Sea Grant anticipates approximately \$16,000,000 will be available to support innovative, transformational research to application (R2A) projects that will address the prevention and/or removal of marine debris, with award periods of three years. "Research to application" or R2A refers to research and development projects that transition into tangible outcomes and outputs. Examples include (but are not limited to) new prototypes, products, processes, or tools.

Proposals may address (but are not limited to) innovative interception and/or removal technologies, reusable systems, microplastics, and/or nanoplastics. Proposals are sought that will build upon and extend existing knowledge and efforts related to marine debris; support broad, non-proprietary, and innovative research to address critical gaps with respect to marine debris; make that information available to communities and stakeholders; include Sea Grant education and extension professionals, community representatives, government, academic, non-governmental, and industry partners, as appropriate; and proactively incorporate principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility at every level of the work. Proposals must include funding for Sea Grant education and/or extension personnel as collaborators. Community, government, academic, non-government, and industry stakeholder participation/involvement in projects is strongly encouraged.

NOAA will accept proposals between \$1 million to \$3 million total over the award period. *The application deadline is October 13, 2022.*

- How to Apply: [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov); Opportunity #: NOAA-OAR-SG-2022-2007452

Kris Kaufman, with the Restoration Center in the Office of Habitat Conservation, NOAA Fisheries, will be presenting on this item.

Attachments:

Federal Funding Fact Sheet

12. OVERVIEW OF FEDERAL RESILIENCY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

There were 20 weather/climate events in 2021 that resulted in losses exceeding \$2 billion each. Resilience is an important topic of discussion for many community leaders due to the recent influx of hazardous weather events. Just in 2021, [20 weather and climate/disaster events caused losses exceeding \\$1 billion each according to the National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\).](#)

What makes a community resilient? Resilient communities adapt to changing conditions, which allows people and places to recover quickly from disasters and thrive in the face of catastrophe. Resilient communities can quickly respond to, withstand and recoup from emergencies such as hurricanes and high-intensity flooding. In the long term, resilient communities also find ways to overcome ongoing obstacles such as rising sea levels, droughts and even pandemics while minimizing future costs.

With the passage of the \$1.2 trillion [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#) in 2021, funding increases will expand resilience programs and provide new opportunities for growth. The IIJA has put resilience efforts at the forefront of its funding plan, supporting initiatives such as flood mitigation, hazard mitigation, coastal resilience and resilient transportation.

More than half of the \$1.2 trillion is being funneled through formula programs, which are mostly allocated by the states. Billions of dollars are available in competitive funding, also known as discretionary grants, for new and existing programs.

As adverse weather events continue to rise, local communities can take proactive steps to mitigate damages as they begin receiving their share of these funds.

Below are several funding opportunities:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) oversees several programs that mitigate disaster suffering and reduce future disaster costs. Following a declared emergency, FEMA grants are disbursed through a competitive process that runs through each state's emergency management office.

The larger family of [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants](#) also provides alternative ways of funding mitigation and resilience projects. Projects must be listed in a current local hazard mitigation plan and be approved by FEMA within the last five years. If you have a key project that is not in a hazard mitigation plan, the plan can be amended during an annual update.

Flood Mitigation Assistance

A total of \$3.5 billion, or \$700 million per year, has been allocated to the [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\) Grant](#), which provides financial and technical assistance to states and communities. The FMA Grant funds efforts that reduce the risk of flood damage to homes and businesses through buyouts, elevation and other activities.

With the passage of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), there are new opportunities for communities to bolster their resilience projects.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Another \$1 billion has been dedicated to the [BRIC program](#) over the last five years in support of funding innovative solutions for hazard mitigation projects. These include cost-effective designs to increase resilience and public safety while decreasing injuries and loss of life, and lessening damage and destruction.

Next steps: Make sure your local hazard mitigation plan is up to date. If your community does not have one, are you included in the county or metropolitan planning organization (MPO) plan? Is it up to date with FEMA? Is your mitigation project listed? Coordinate application details with your state emergency management office.

National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF)

The [NCRF](#) restores, develops and strengthens natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities, while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. This program, which is funded at \$492 million, is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and is a national grant competition.

Next steps: The deadline has passed for this year's call for projects, but you can plan now for next year's application. You can start with scheduling community outreach and engagement and identifying the number of jobs that will be created or sustained due to grant funding. Secure letters of support from local and regional stakeholders that highlight the project's regional focus. Good projects show strong partnerships with federal, state and local agencies.

National Coastal Zone Management (NCZM) Program

The [NCZM program](#), which is directed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has \$207 million in funding in competitive and noncompetitive grant competitions that are administered at the state level. Coastal states and territories invest directly into the restoration and protection of ecologically significant habitats. In Texas, funds are administered through the [Coastal Management Program](#) by the Texas General Land Office. In Florida, funds are distributed through the [Coastal Partnership Initiative](#) grant program, and in Louisiana, the grant is administered through the [Louisiana Department of Natural Resources](#).

Next steps: Contact the relevant state or local district office listed above to discuss your projects, including land conservation, as soon as possible. Restoring ecologically significant habitats plays a critical role in your community becoming more resilient to natural hazards.

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost Saving Transportation (PROTECT)

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) is releasing a new program that supports

resilience planning. These plans include fortifying and securing evacuation routes. They also increase the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure from the impacts of extreme weather events such as flooding, sea-level rise, wildfires and other natural disasters. The new [PROTECT grants](#) are formula and discretionary competitive grants. These grants are valued at \$1.4 billion for eligible highway, transit and port projects.

Next steps: State departments of transportation (DOTs) and local governments are eligible to apply for PROTECT funding. That means your state DOT will likely submit the number of projects it is allowed. While the program is still pending and under a continuing resolution (no date yet for release), it is the optimal time to discuss potential projects with your district DOT and gain a competitive edge. The DOT may either submit your project or help with a letter of support. You can gather support from MPOs and other stakeholders, too.

Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program

Funding is available through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program for projects that reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development. This program will award projects between \$100,000 to \$1 million. *The application deadline is October 13, 2022.*

How to Apply: [Grants.gov](#); Opportunity #: DOT-RCP-FY22-01

National Fish Passage Program

The National Fish Passage Program is providing financial and technical assistance for projects that improve the ability of fish or other aquatic species to migrate by reconnecting habitat that has been fragmented by barrier such as a dam or culvert. There is no maximum funding amount, however, they are awarding, on average, about \$70,000 per project. *Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis.*

How to Apply: <https://www.fws.gov/service/fish-passage-technical-and-planning-assistance>

Jennifer Hecker of the CHNEP will be presenting this item.

Attachments: Federal Funding Fact Sheet

13. CHNEP TECHNICAL PROJECT UPDATES

In addition to the items featured earlier on the agenda, several other research and/or restoration projects (or phases of projects) in the program area are currently underway with CHNEP FY19-22 funds. A brief overview will also be given on projects currently identified in the FY23 Work Plan (Including both EPA and FY22-23 BIL funding).

Additionally, the CHNEP Water Atlas is nearing completion on several enhancements from the current year that will be beneficial to multiple users; these pages will be previewed during the discussion so that TAC members will be able to dive in and access resources easily. There will also be a brief overview of upcoming improvements on the CHNEP Water Atlas scheduled for FY23.

Current Projects:

- CHNEP Water Atlas /CHNEP Water Atlas Trends Enhancements
- Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrological Modeling Project
- Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network Project
- Myakka Headwaters Preserve Restoration Project
- Pine Island Flatwoods Restoration Project
- Tiki Point Harborwalk Living Shoreline Restoration Project
- County Climate Vulnerability Assessments

Project fact sheets are available on the CHNEP website: <https://www.chnep.org/chnep-fact-sheets>.

Nicole Iadevaia of the CHNEP will be presenting on this item.

14. MANAGEMENT MEMBER UPDATES

Each Management Committee member is encouraged to bring and share an update with the rest of the Committee on their respective research, restoration, public education and engagement projects currently being completed to protect and restore the CHNEP program area.

Management Committee Co-Chair Corey Anderson will be leading and facilitating this discussion.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

Each participating member of the public is afforded up to 3 minutes total to speak at this point in the meeting.

16. FUTURE MEETING'S TOPICS, LOCATION AND DATE

The next Management Committee meeting will be January 13, 2023, and subsequent scheduled meetings are available on the Management Committee webpage at <https://www.chnep.org/management-committee>. Please contact Jennifer Hecker if you have topics you would like to suggest for the agenda.

17. ADJOURN