

FISCAL YEAR 2015 WORKPLAN & Fiscal Year 2014 Workplan Amendments



Children enjoying books, including CHNEP's book, *Adventures in the Charlotte Harbor Watershed*, at Manatee County's Little Free Library. Photo by Melissa Nell.

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Technical Report 14-1 Adopted 5/29/2014 Amended: 8/25/2014



1926 Victoria Avenue
Fort Myers FL 33901
(239) 338-2556
www.CHNEP.org

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is a partnership of citizens, elected officials, resource managers and commercial and recreational resource users working to improve the water quality and ecological integrity of the greater Charlotte Harbor watershed. A cooperative decision-making process is used within the program to address diverse resource management concerns in the 4,700-square-mile study area. Many of these partners also financially support the Program, which, in turn, affords the Program opportunities to fund projects. The entities that have financially supported the program include the following:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Southwest Florida Water Management District
 South Florida Water Management District
 Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 Florida Coastal Zone Management Program
 Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
 Polk, Sarasota, Manatee, Lee, Charlotte, DeSoto, and Hardee Counties
 Cities and Towns of Sanibel, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Punta Gorda, North Port, Venice,
 Fort Myers Beach, Winter Haven, and Bonita Springs
 and the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.

Table of Contents

Purpose and EPA Guidance	1
Summary Information	2
CCMP Goals Focused On in FY14 and FY15	2
Budget Breakdown.....	3
Staff and their Official Responsibilities.....	11
New and Ongoing Projects	12
Public Outreach Grants	18
Fiscal Year 2014 Micro-Grants	22
Requests approved between October 1, 2013 and April 7, 2014.....	22
Completed Major Projects and Actions	34
FY2013 Completed Major Projects and Actions.....	34
Clean Water Act Funds Used for Travel	40

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

Policy Committee

Mr. Doug Mundrick, Co-Chair
Water Protection Division
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

Mr. Jon Iglehart, Co-Chair
South District Director
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Cities

Hon. Joseph Fink
City of Arcadia

Hon. Adrian Jackson
City of Bartow

Hon. Stephen McIntosh
City of Bonita Springs

Ms. Connie Jarvis
City of Cape Coral

Vacant
City of Fort Myers

Hon. Dan Andre
Town of Fort Myers Beach

Hon. Cheryl Cook
City of North Port

Hon. Nancy Prafke
City of Punta Gorda

Hon. Mick Denham
City of Sanibel

Hon. David Sherman
City of Venice

Mr. Mike Britt
City of Winter Haven

Counties

Hon. Bill Truex
Charlotte County

Vacant
Desoto County

Hon. Grady Johnson
Hardee County

Hon. Larry Kiker
Lee County

Hon. Michael Gallen
Manatee County

Mr. Jeff Spence
Polk County

Hon. Charles Hines
Sarasota County

Agencies

Ms. Patricia M. Steed
Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Dr. Philip Stevens
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Mr. Phil Flood
South Florida Water Management District

Mr. Don McCormick
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Mr. George Mann
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Management Committee Co-Chairs

Ms. Jennette Seachrist
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Mr. Mike Kirby
City of Bonita Springs

Technical Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

Mr. Greg Blanchard **Mr. Keith Kibbey** **Ms. Elizabeth Staugler** **Ms. Shelley Thornton**

Citizens Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

Mr. Warren Bush

Mr. Kayton Nedza

Staff

Lisa B. Beever, PhD, Director

Elizabeth S. Donley, JD, Deputy Director

Maran Brainard Hilgendorf, Communications Manager

Judy Ott, MS., Program Scientist

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

ABM	Agency on Bay Management
BMAP	Basin Management Action Plan
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee
CAMA	Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas
CCHMN	Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network
CCMP	<i>Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan</i>
CFRPC	Central Florida Regional Planning Council
CHEC	Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center
CHEVWQMN	Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network
CHNEP	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
CH-RAMP	Charlotte Harbor-Regional Ambient Monitoring Program
CWPRA	Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
EAR	Evaluation and Appraisal Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
FWC	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWRI	Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPRA	Government Performance and Results Act
HAS	Hydrological Alterations Subcommittee
HCS	Habitat Conservation Subcommittee
LID	Low Impact Development
MFL	Minimum Flows and Levels
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NEP	National Estuary Program
NNC	Numeric Nutrient Criteria
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
PIVOT	Performance Indicators Visualization Outreach Tool
PLRG	Pollutant Load Reduction Goal
PR/MRWSA	Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
R&R	Research and Restoration
RPC	Regional Planning Council
SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
SRPP	Strategic Regional Policy Plan
SFWWMD	Southwest Florida Water Management District
SWFRPC	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
SWIM	Surface Water Improvement Management
SWUCA	Southern Water Use Caution Area
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TBRPC	Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USF&WS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Service
WCIND	West Coast Inland Navigation District
WMD	Water Management District
WQ	Water Quality
WQQOS	Water Quality Quantifiable Objectives Subcommittee

Purpose and EPA Guidance

This document provides annual financial and task-based information to meet federal workplan requirements. The focus of this workplan continues to be the implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

The latest Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance for the development of the workplans is the National Estuary Program FY 2012 Funding Guidance. According to the guidance, NEP Workplans generally include the following items:

1. Summary information
 - a. CCMP goals to be focused on
 - b. Budget breakdown including match
 - c. NEP staff and their official responsibilities
 2. New and Ongoing Projects
 - a. Project Name
 - b. Whether it is New or Ongoing
 - c. Project objective
 - d. Project Description
 - e. CCMP and Workplan priority problem project addresses
 - f. Potential Partners
 - g. Outputs/Deliverables
 - h. Milestones
 - i. Budget
 - j. Anticipated Results
 - Short-term deliverables
 - Intermediate outcomes and long term outcomes
 3. Completed Major Projects/Actions (including highly leveraged partner projects implementing CWA core program)
 - a. Highlight success stories and examples of transferable activities, tools, etc.
 - b. Include:
 - Project objective
 - Lead Project Implementer(s)
 - Amount of Sec. 320 funds spent on project (if under budget how reallocated for drawdown)
 - Project deliverables and outcomes
 - External constraints
 4. CWA funds used for travel
 - a. Section 320 funded travel taken during the fiscal year in which the new workplan is adopted (i.e. the amended year), October 1 to the date the workplan is approved by the Management Conference and the remainder of the FY. Information includes:
 - Number of personnel
 - Travel dates
 - Purpose
 - Location
 - Final and Estimated Cost of trips
- The new fiscal year is not required.

Summary Information

CCMP Goals Focused On in FY14 and FY15

The Management Conference developed program goals as a guide in the development of the first Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP.) With the adoption of the CCMP in 2000, the goals were incorporated into the quantifiable objectives. The quantifiable objectives that CHNEP will focus on in FY14 and FY 15 include:

- **WQ-2:** "By 2020, develop and meet water quality criteria that are protective of living resources for dissolved oxygen, nutrients, chlorophyll *a*, turbidity, salinity and other constituents." CHNEP are working with Sarasota Bay Estuary Program-SBEP and Tampa Bay Estuary Program-TBEP toward developing numeric nutrient criteria for tidal creeks.
- **HA-2:** "By 2020, restore, enhance and improve where practical historic watershed boundaries and natural hydrology for watersheds within the CHNEP study area, with special attention to Outstanding Florida Waters and Class I water bodies." CHNEP will work with partners to design and attract funding to significant hydrologic restoration projects including Dona Bay Restoration, Coral Creek Hydrologic Restoration, Alligator Creek Hydrologic Restoration, Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative, C-43 Reservoir and East Lehigh Acres Weir Project. RESTORE Act funding will be sought.
- **FW-1:** "Protect, enhance and restore native habitats where physically feasible and within natural variability, including: Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV); Submerged and intertidal unvegetated bottoms; Oyster; Mangrove; Salt marsh; Freshwater wetland; Native upland; and Water column." CHNEP will work with The Nature Conservancy toward permitting and constructing oyster reefs restoration.
- **SG-1:** "By 2025, a minimum of 75 percent of all residents will have recalled attending a watershed event, reading watershed material or hearing watershed/estuary information.... A minimum of 10 percent of all residents will be able to claim personal actions that protect the estuaries and watersheds." CHNEP will implement a "Citizens Academy" that will reach a broad cross-section of residents. CHNEP will host events, especially for underrepresented populations. CHNEP will develop its Watershed Education and Training for Ponds, Lawns and Neighborhoods (WET PLAN) program to assist neighborhood groups with their stormwater pond management and building green infrastructure.
- **SG-2:** "By 2020, the CHNEP will expand its role as a recognized resource to elected officials or their agents from local, state and federal government for policy advice." CHNEP will continue to implement its advocacy and review procedures by reviewing and providing comments on critical projects. CHNEP will continue working with local governments to address climate change resiliency.

Budget Breakdown

Table 1: Charlotte Harbor NEP FY14 and FY15 Income

Funding Source	Approved FY13 Funding	FY14 Request	Approved FY14 Funding	FY15 Request
Section 320 Funding	\$598,800.00	\$512,000.00	\$512,000.00	\$538,000.00
Total Federal	\$598,800.00	\$512,000.00	\$512,000.00	\$538,000.00
DEP	\$74,997.85	\$75,000.00	\$74,998.40	\$75,000.00
SFWMD	\$0.00	\$130,000.00	\$0.00	\$130,000.00
SWFWMD	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00
Peace Manasota Water Supply Authority	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00
Subtotal Regional Income	\$208,497.85	\$340,000.00	\$208,498.40	\$340,000.00
Sarasota County	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Charlotte County		\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$15,000.00
Lee County	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Polk County		\$15,000.00	\$250.00	\$15,000.00
Cape Coral	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Fort Myers	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Sanibel	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Manatee County	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Punta Gorda	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Bonita Springs	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Fort Myers Beach	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Venice		\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00
North Port	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Winter Haven	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Bartow		\$500.00		\$500.00
Arcadia		\$500.00		\$500.00
DeSoto County		\$500.00		\$500.00
Hardee County		\$500.00		\$500.00
Subtotal Local Income	\$74,500.00	\$109,000.00	\$104,750.00	\$109,000.00
Donations	\$3,377.00	CHNEP Friends	CHNEP Friends	CHNEP Friends
Watershed Summit Sponsorships	\$9,000.00			
CF Industries			\$50,000.00	CHNEP Friends
Mosaic Company Foundation			\$31,680.00	
CHNEP work on SWFRPC Grants	\$27,500.00		\$15,000.00	
Nature Conservancy, FDEP CPI				\$118,038.50
Resources on hand, end of FY 13			\$238,980.00	
Uninvoiced SWFWMD Contracts, end of 13			\$125,466.50	
Anticipated local reserve, end of FY14				\$27,237.00
Subtotal Grant/Private Income	\$39,877.00	\$0.00	\$461,126.50	\$145,275.50
Match In-Kind: SFWMD Initiatives	\$598,800.00	\$512,000.00	\$512,000.00	\$538,000.00
Subtotal In-Kind	\$598,800.00	\$512,000.00	\$512,000.00	\$538,000.00
Grand Totals in the Fiscal Year	\$1,520,474.85	\$1,473,000.00	\$1,798,374.90	\$1,666,025.50
Program Cash	\$921,674.85	\$961,000.00	\$1,286,374.90	\$998,775.50
End of FY15 Reserve				\$31,600.50

FY14 Budget Amendment

Major changes within the amended FY14 budget included:

- Carry-over amounts from FY13 contracts were added, totaling \$196,840.
- Mosaic Foundation granted CHNEP \$50,000 to expand Coral Creek Restoration monitoring.
- Extra fringe costs from FY13 assessed from SWFRPC.
- Long Range Financial Strategy and grantsmanship increases staff time for Task 1.
- Trimmed travel budget and in-house expenses.

**Table 3: Budget Changes between
FY14 Budget (amended 8/19/13) and FY14 Budget Amendment (page 5)**

Task #	Task	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Supplies	Other	Indirect	Total
1	Management & Admin.	\$53,000	\$16,600	(\$2,000)	\$1,750	\$10,000	\$30,300	\$109,650
2	Public Outreach	(\$12,700)	(\$4,200)	\$500	\$0	(\$29,948)	(\$10,200)	(\$56,548)
3	Research	(\$7,000)	(\$2,300)	\$500	\$0	\$253,749	(\$5,400)	\$239,549
4	Restoration	(\$29,900)	(\$9,800)	\$0	\$0	(\$500)	(\$21,400)	(\$61,600)
5	Advocacy & Leg Action	(\$3,400)	\$39,870	\$0	\$0	(\$500)	(\$2,500)	\$33,470
	Total	\$0	\$40,170	(\$1,000)	\$1,750	\$232,801	(\$9,200)	\$264,521

Table 4: Ongoing Technical Projects (as of 10/1/13)

Fiscal Year	Project/Contractor	Due Date	Contract	Outlay	Balance
2012	Optical Model Spectral Validation and Water Clarity Reporting Tool Refinement - Mote	4/30/2014	\$80,000.00	\$22,739.55	\$57,260.45
	Subtotal =		\$80,000.00	\$22,739.55	\$57,260.45

2013	CHNEP FY13 Water Atlas Maintenance - USF	9/30/2013	\$52,340.00	\$39,255.00	\$13,085.00
2013	CHNEP FY13 Water Atlas Enhancements - USF	5/30/2014	\$61,112.00	\$12,086.05	\$49,025.95
2013	Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network in 6 Strata - FWC & Charlotte County	9/30/2013	\$55,080.00	\$41,310.00	\$13,770.00
2013	Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network in Lower Charlotte Harbor - FWC & CHNEP	9/30/2013	\$9,180.00	\$6,732.00	\$2,448.00
2013	Alligator Cr Restoration FY13 Fish Monitoring - Mote	6/30/2014	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
2013	Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Tidal Cr Wetlands in SW FL - SBEP	9/30/2014	\$31,000.00	\$0.00	\$31,000.00
	Subtotal =		\$248,712.00	\$99,383.05	\$149,328.95
	TOTAL		\$328,712.00	\$122,122.60	\$206,589.40

Table 5: Ongoing Public Outreach Projects (as of 10/1/13)

Fiscal Year	Project/Contractor	Due Date	Balance
2013	DVD of videos	9/30/2014	\$3,795.00
2013	CCMP Summary	9/30/2014	\$2,261.45
	Total=		\$6,056.45

Outlay=Amount expended on project as of September 30, 2013.

Contract= Contracted amount.

Balance=Unexpended amount left on contract.

Table 6: FY14 Workplan Budget Amendment

Task #	Task	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Supplies	Other	Indirect	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference	\$151,700	\$48,500	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$50,000	\$95,600	\$355,800
2	Outreach	\$55,600	\$17,800	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$162,419	\$35,000	\$274,819
3	Research	\$24,300	\$7,800	\$1,500	\$50	\$410,849	\$15,300	\$459,799
4	Restoration	\$53,300	\$17,000	\$4,000	\$50	\$0	\$33,600	\$107,950
5	Legislation	\$7,600	\$43,370	\$500	\$0	\$4,500	\$4,800	\$60,770
Total		\$292,500	\$134,470	\$15,000	\$5,100	\$627,768	\$184,300	\$1,259,138

Table 7: FY14 EPA Cooperative Agreement

Task #	Task	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Supplies	Other	Indirect	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference	\$71,680	\$20,720	\$5,000		\$16,000	\$58,080	\$171,480
2	Outreach	\$52,962	\$15,288	\$1,250		\$143,360	\$42,900	\$255,760
3	Research							
4	Restoration	\$38,701	\$11,203	\$3,500			\$31,357	\$84,761
5	Legislation							
In-Kind						\$512,000		\$512,000
Total		\$163,343	\$47,211	\$9,750	\$0	\$671,360	\$132,337	\$1,024,000

Table 8: FY14 SWFWMD Contract

Task	Project	SWFWMD	Project Total
1	CCHMN (Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network)	\$55,080	\$55,080
2	Coral Creek and Alligator Creek Restoration Monitoring	\$40,000	\$40,000
3	Staff Support (task 4)	\$34,920	\$69,840
Totals		\$130,000	\$164,920

Table 9: FY14 Funding Sources

#	Task	Federal	FDEP	SWFWMD	SFWMD	Manatee	Local/ Grants	Total
1	Management & Admin.	\$171,480					\$40,150	\$355,800
2	Outreach	\$255,760				\$5,000	\$58,549	\$274,819
3	Research	\$0	\$45,000	\$220,547			\$342,296	\$459,799
4	Restoration	\$84,761	\$30,000	\$34,920			\$97,450	\$107,950
5	Legislation						\$19,500	\$60,770
		\$512,001	\$75,000	\$255,467	\$0	\$5,000	\$557,945	\$1,259,138

Table 10: FY15 Workplan Budget

Task #	Task	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Supplies	Other	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference	\$141,200	\$45,200	\$6,000	\$4,200	\$128,925	\$325,525
2	Outreach	\$57,100	\$18,300	\$3,000	\$0	\$162,850	\$241,250
3	Research	\$34,200	\$10,900	\$2,000	\$0	\$254,000	\$301,100
4	Restoration	\$63,800	\$20,400	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$88,200
5	Legislation	\$5,000	\$1,600	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	\$11,100
Total		\$301,300	\$96,400	\$15,000	\$4,200	\$550,275	\$967,175

Table 11: FY15 EPA Cooperative Agreement

Task #	Task	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Supplies	Other	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference	\$141,200	\$45,200	\$6,000		\$109,730	\$302,130
2	Outreach	\$57,100	\$18,300	\$3,000		\$134,315	\$212,715
3	Research	\$0	\$0	\$2,000			\$2,000
4	Restoration	\$13,035	\$4,120	\$4,000			\$21,155
5	Legislation						
	In-Kind					\$538,000	\$538,000
\$216,020		\$211,335	\$67,620	\$15,000	\$0	\$782,045	\$1,076,000

Table 12: FY15 Proposed SWFWMD Contract

Task	Project	SWFWMD	Project Total
1	CCHMN (Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network)	\$55,080	\$55,080
2	Cattle Dock Point Habitat Enhancement	\$40,000	\$40,000
3	Staff Support (task 4)	\$34,920	\$69,840
Totals		\$130,000	\$164,920

Table 13: FY 15 SWFWMD

Task #	Task	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Supplies	Other	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference						
2	Outreach						
3	Research					\$95,080	\$95,080
4	Restoration	\$26,455	\$8,465				\$34,920
5	Legislation						
Total		\$26,455	\$8,465	\$0	\$0	\$95,080	\$130,000

Table 14: FY 15 FDEP

Task #	Task	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Supplies	Other	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference						
2	Outreach						
3	Research	\$34,100	\$10,900				\$45,000
4	Restoration	\$22,727	\$7,273				\$30,000
5	Legislation						
Total		\$56,827	\$18,173	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,000

Table 15: FY 15 Manatee

Task #	Task	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Supplies	Other	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference						
2	Outreach					\$5,000	\$5,000
3	Research						
4	Restoration						
5	Legislation						
Total		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000

Table 16: FY 15 EPA WPDG-Mangrove Heart Attack

Task #	Task	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Supplies	Other	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference						
2	Outreach						
3	Research	\$26,245	\$16,794			\$75,000	\$118,039
4	Restoration						\$0
5	Legislation						
Total		\$26,245	\$16,794	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$118,039

Table 17: FY 15 Local and Grants

Task #	Task	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Supplies	Other	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,200	\$19,195	\$23,395
2	Outreach	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,535	\$23,535
3	Research	-\$26,145	-\$16,794	\$0	\$0	\$83,920	\$40,982
4	Restoration	\$1,583	\$542	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,125
5	Legislation	\$5,000	\$1,600	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	\$11,100
Total		-\$19,561	-\$14,652	\$0	\$4,200	\$131,150	\$101,137

* Negative values for research personnel and fringe are a function of more FY 15 funding resources than projected expenses. This may be resolved by carrying FY 15 EPA Cooperative Agreement funding into FY 16's Cooperative Agreement amendment.

**Table 17: Summary Public Education and Information Projects List
(for FY14 and FY15)**

Table 14 represents the individual public education and information projects that will be addressed, including carry-over projects as of October 1, 2013 and in FY14 and FY15.

2013	DVD of videos	\$3,550
2013	CCMP Summary	\$2,261
Subtotal =		\$5,811
2014	2015 Calendar	\$23,383
2014	Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival	\$2,500
2014	<i>Adventures</i> Children's book, reprinting and distribution	\$9,922
2014	Collateral, Displays, Reprintings, etc	\$5,000
2014	Grants: Micro-Grants	\$12,000
2014	Grants: Public Outreach Grants	\$25,000
2014	Outreach assistance	\$4,000
2014	Public Information & Education Professional Development	\$525
2014	Quarterly Magazine	\$33,067
2014	Citizens Academy	\$12,000
2014	Target audience programs, including Florida-friendly programming and public conference	\$25,000
2014	Charlotte Harbor Watershed Summit	\$4,211
Subtotal =		\$156,608
2015	2016 Calendar	\$23,000
2015	Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival	\$2,500
2015	<i>Adventures</i> Children's book, reprinting and distribution	\$9,950
2015	Collateral, Displays, Reprintings, etc	\$5,000
2015	Grants: Micro-Grants	\$12,000
2015	Grants: Public Outreach Grants	\$25,000
2015	Outreach assistance	\$4,000
2015	Public Information & Education Professional Development	\$500
2015	Quarterly Magazine	\$34,000
2015	Citizens Academy	\$21,900
2015	Target audience programs, including Florida-friendly programming and public conference	\$25,000
Subtotal =		\$162,850
Total =		\$325,269

**Table 18: Summary Technical Projects List
(for FY14 and FY15)**

Table 22 represents the individual technical projects that will be addressed in FY14 (totaling \$204,260), plus carry-over projects as of October 1, 2013 (\$206,598) and FY15 (totaling \$179,000). Projects in the two fiscal years total \$589,849.

FY	Project Title	Amount
2012	Optical Model Spectral Validation and Water Clarity Reporting Tool Refinement - Mote	\$57,260
2013	CHNEP FY13 Water Atlas Maintenance - USF	\$13,085
2013	CHNEP FY13 Water Atlas Enhancements - USF	\$49,026
2013	Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network in 6 Strata - FWC & Charlotte County	\$13,770
2013	Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network in Lower Charlotte Harbor - FWC & CHNEP	\$2,448
2013	Alligator Cr Restoration FY13 Fish Monitoring - Mote	\$40,000
2013	Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Tidal Cr Wetlands in SW FL - SBEP	\$31,000
Subtotal =		\$206,589
2014	Water Atlas Maintenance FY13 – USF	\$50,000
2014	Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network in 6 Strata - FWC & Charlotte County	\$55,080
2014	Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network in Lower Charlotte Harbor - FWC & CHNEP	\$9,180
2014	Coral Creek Restoration Fishery Monitoring	\$40,000
2014	Coral Creek Restoration Juvenile Tarpon Fishery Monitoring - Bonefish and Tarpon Trust	\$50,000
Subtotal =		\$204,260
2015	Water Atlas Maintenance FY14 – USF	\$50,000
2015	Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network in 5 Strata - FWC & Charlotte County	\$60,000
2015	Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network in Lower Charlotte Harbor - FWC & CHNEP	\$10,000
2015	Cattle Dock Point Habitat Enhancement - TBD	\$40,000
2015	EPA WPDG Mangrove Heart Attack - SWFRPC, Robin Lewis, Terry Tattar	\$75,000
2015	CHNEP Watershed Summit 2014 Proceedings Publication - TBD	\$19,000
Subtotal =		\$254,000
Total =		\$664,849

Table 19: Summary Overhead Estimates

FY	Project Title	Amount
2014	Moving expenses, including furniture	\$15,000
2014	Office Expenses	\$15,000
2014	SWFRPC Audit	\$20,000
Subtotal =		\$50,000
2015	City Assessment, support salaries	\$95,500
2015	SWFRPC Audit	\$20,000
2015	Office Lease	\$3,425
2015	Meetings and Support Expenses	\$10,000
Subtotal =		\$128,925
Total =		\$178,925

Staff and their Official Responsibilities

The CHNEP staff includes four professional positions. As shown in the sub-task descriptions, many deliverables are prepared in-house. Several grants have been submitted to a variety of funding agencies.



Table 16: Expected Staff Time Allocations by Task for FY15

Task	Title	Director	Deputy Director	Comm. Manager	Program Scientist	FTE
1	Management Conference	46%	77%	28%	30%	1.80
2	Outreach	4%	3%	72%	1%	0.81
3	Research	13%	0%	0%	40%	0.53
4	Restoration	38%	13%	0%	29%	0.80
5	Advocacy & Legislative Action	0%	6%	0%	0%	0.06
		100%	100%	100%	100%	4.00

New and Ongoing Projects

CHNEP projects are organized according to task. There are five tasks, with subtasks, as follows:

- Task 1: Management Conference
 - 1.1 Management Conference
 - 1.2 General Administration and Overhead
 - 1.3 Grants and Contracts Administration
- Task 2: Outreach
 - 2.1 Communications/Publications
 - 2.2 Events/Outreach
 - 2.3 Public Outreach Grants
 - 2.4 Micro-Grants
- Task 3: Research
 - 3.1 Research Coordination
 - 3.2 Targeted Research
- Task 4: Restoration
 - 4.1 Watershed Coordination
 - 4.2 Targeted Restoration
- Task 5: Legislative Action
 - 5.1 Legislative Agenda
 - 5.2 Advocacy and Review Procedures
 - 5.3 Leveraged Grants

1.1	Management Conference	
Objective: To provide a committee structure that supports the implementation of the <i>Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)</i> .		
Project Objective: Under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act, the CHNEP is required to convene a Management Conference for the seven purposes delineated at §320(b).		
Description: The primary committees of the CHNEP include the Policy Committee, the Management Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).		
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: All		
Potential Partners: Organizations and committee members represented in the Management Conference.		
FY14 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agenda Packets for committees and subcommittees ▪ Advertising and meeting space ▪ Adoption of FY15 Workplan ▪ Workplan Tracking System Update ▪ Evidence of extending CHNEP partnership ▪ Priority Action GPRA Report ▪ Travel to EPA/ANEP meetings ▪ Draft Interlocal Agreement distributed for review ▪ Initiate Triennial review tasks ▪ Long Range Financial Strategy 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transmit and post one week before meeting ▪ Advertise on-line minimum of one week preceding date ▪ May 2014 ▪ September 30, 2014 ▪ September 2014 ▪ September 2014 ▪ November 2013 & Feb. 2014 ▪ August 2014 ▪ September 2014 ▪ August 2014 	
FY15 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agenda Packets for committees and subcommittees ▪ Advertising and meeting space ▪ Adoption of FY15 Workplan ▪ Evidence of extending CHNEP partnership ▪ Priority Action GPRA Report ▪ ▪ Travel to EPA/ANEP meetings ▪ Final Interlocal Agreement distributed for adoption ▪ Triennial Review 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transmit and post one week before meeting ▪ Advertise on-line minimum of one week preceding date ▪ May 2015 ▪ September 2015 ▪ September 2015 ▪ November 2014 and February 2015 ▪ February 2015 ▪ June 2015 	
Budget: \$100,000, staff and travel		
Intermediate Outcomes: Management Conference members and 4 primary committees are actively engaged in CHNEP’s CCMP implementation. Access to citizens, scientific expertise and elected officials has been identified as the most valuable outcome of participating.		
Long Term Outcomes: Management Conference convenes on a regular basis and meets the seven purposes delineated in CWA section 320(b). A broad-based working relationship among various groups toward implementation of the CCMP.		

1.2	General Administration and Overhead	
Objective: To support necessary administration of the CHNEP.		
Project Objective: NEP's in general are hosted by another agency. This task provides the necessary funding for CHNEP to implement those policies and processes.		
Description: General administration includes general staff functions such as staff meetings. Supplies such as postage, rentals, telephone, computer/graphic supplies are included in this task. Unforeseen expenses that are at the Director's discretion such as cellular telephone, special computer equipment or software, training materials, subscriptions, memberships, etc. are included. The CHNEP was chosen in FY12 for in-depth audit of grants compliance. The CHNEP was deemed in compliance by the auditors.		
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: All		
Potential Partners: Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council		
FY14 Deliverables:		Target Dates:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FY13 Audit Report ▪ Weekly SWFRPC staff meetings 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ February 2014 ▪ Weekly
FY15 Deliverables:		Target Dates:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FY14 Audit Report ▪ Weekly SWFRPC staff meetings 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January 2015 ▪ Weekly
Budget: \$12,000 staff, \$121,925 overhead and \$4,200 supplies		
Intermediate Outcomes: Ensure compliance with applicable, Federal, state and SWFRPC policies.		
Long Term Outcomes: Successful implementation of CHNEP personnel, purchasing and administrative policies.		

1.3 Grants and Contracts Administration	
Objective: To implement the CCMP by seeking grants and ensuring compliance with awarded grant requirements, including reporting and invoicing.	
Project Objective: The annual EPA Assistance Grant, and the grants, contracts and purchase orders through which CHNEP partners fund the program contain reporting and invoicing requirements that must be fulfilled. This task supports both the compliance with these requirements and efforts to seek and develop proposal partnerships, and administer grants to implement the CCMP.	
Description: Ensure compliance with conditions of awarded grants, and cooperative assistance from Federal, state, local agencies and private sources. Develop and submit quarterly progress reports and final project reports as required. Invoice funding sources as required; ensure successful project progress and completion. Develop contracts, PO's and agreements with funding partners and for sub-awards and sub-contracts. Identify potential sources of funding for projects that support the CCMP. This task also supports staff time for the management of grants that do not include administrative support in the award, such as the FDEP annual assistance grant.	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: All	
Potential Partners: Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, Organizations and committee members represented in the Management Conference	
FY14 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly Progress Reports as required ▪ EPA semi-annual Progress and MBE/WBE Reports ▪ Final Reports (financial close out, work products) ▪ Invoices for payment ▪ Sub-contracts, sub-awards 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January, April, July, October ▪ April and October ▪ As Required ▪ As Required ▪ As Required
FY15 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly Progress Reports as required ▪ EPA semi-annual Progress and MBE/WBE Reports ▪ Final Reports (financial close out, work products) ▪ Invoices for payment ▪ Sub-contracts, sub-awards 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January, April, July, October ▪ April, October ▪ As Required ▪ As Required ▪ As Required
Budget: \$30,000, staff	
Intermediate Outcomes: Maintain compliance with awarded contracts and grants requirements; ensure full reimbursement of contract and grant funded activities, deliverables.	
Long Term Outcomes: Secure funding for CHNEP CCMP implementation.	

2.1	Communications/Special Publications
Objective: To provide essential ongoing communications so that the CHNEP can address specific requirements and issues associated with the <i>Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)</i> .	
Project Objective: To provide people with information that will assist them in making daily choices that protect and improve estuaries and watersheds.	
Description: SG-1 requires communication with the public. Key methods are through the website, quarterly magazines and special publications. Special publications that reach new audiences, capture the imagination of citizens and broaden our partnerships are tested and improved upon. The annual calendar is very popular, routinely brings in the most number of donations to the program and expands the knowledge of citizens who do not normally participate in our programs. <i>Adventures in the Charlotte Harbor Watershed</i> , the children's book, reaches every child in a certain age class within the study area's public school system. Videos reach the broad television and Internet viewing public.	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: Stewardship Gaps	
Potential Partners: Printers, School Districts, Artists, Environmental Educators	
FY14 Funded Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly Magazine ▪ Website ▪ 2014 Calendar ▪ <i>Adventures</i> Book for Children ▪ Collateral, Displays, Reprintings, etc. ▪ Outreach Assistance ▪ Strategic Communication Plan Initiatives 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January, April, July, October ▪ Ongoing ▪ November 2013 ▪ February 2014 ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing ▪ September 2014
FY15 Funded Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly Magazine ▪ Website ▪ 2015 Calendar ▪ <i>Adventures</i> Book for Children ▪ Collateral, Displays, Reprintings, etc. ▪ Strategic Communication Plan Initiatives 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January, April, July, September ▪ Ongoing ▪ October 2014 ▪ by February 2015 ▪ Ongoing ▪ September 2015
Budget: \$97,850 for communications and special publications projects, plus \$17,500 staff	
Intermediate Outcomes: The CHNEP will provide information about itself, including the CCMP and success of its partners, through a multi-channel multi-media approach appropriate for each particular audience.	
Long-Term Outcomes: Increase number of people engaged in the CHNEP who are aware of the program and issues, who change their behavior and who become a partner helping CHNEP fulfill its plan to protect the natural environment of southwest Florida in order to protect the estuaries from Venice to Bonita Springs.	

2.2	Events/Outreach
Objective: To provide events and outreach programs to address specific requirements associated with implementation of the <i>Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP)</i> .	
Project Objective: Events involve people in the stewardship of their local natural resources. All events are developed in a collaborative way and typically receive funding from a broad partnership. They are developed to fill gaps in opportunities that are provided within the watershed.	
Description: The annual Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival has been held since 2002. It is a regional day-long opportunity for the public to meet with area environmental organizations and others. The CHNEP works with NOAA and others to bring a professional development opportunity to area public outreach and environmental education specialists. A Watershed Summit is held every three years with the next one scheduled for 2014. Since 2003, when the Watershed Summit is not held, the CHNEP works with area partners to bring public workshops, tailored to a particular community's needs. National Estuaries Days is celebrated with our partners as Estuaries Day, Every Day and are often supported with micro-grants. Opportunities to supplement Conservation Landscaping efforts with partners will continue. Opportunities to target audiences as identified in the CCMP will continue.	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: Stewardship Gaps	
Potential Partners: Environmental Educators	
FY14 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival ▪ Professional Development Workshops ▪ CHNEP Environmental Education Program ▪ Conservation Landscaping Programs ▪ Charlotte Harbor Watershed Summit ▪ Guides, workshops, etc. to target audiences ▪ National Estuaries Days/Estuaries Day, Every Day 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ November 23, 2013 ▪ Dec. 5-6, 2012; Jan. 16-17, 2014 ▪ May 30, 2014 and Sept. 2014 ▪ March 25-27, 2014 ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing
FY15 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival ▪ Professional Development Workshop ▪ CHNEP Environmental Education Program ▪ Conservation Landscaping Programs ▪ Guides, workshops, etc. to target audiences ▪ National Estuaries Days/ Estuaries Day, Every Day 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ November 22, 2014 ▪ Dec. 10-11, 2013; TBD ▪ May 2015 and Sept. 2015 ▪ Feb. 21, 2015 ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing
Budget: \$28,000 for events, plus \$17,500 staff	
Intermediate Outcomes: The CHNEP will provide information through a variety of face-to-face meetings, workshops and events that engage various audiences.	
Long-Term Outcomes: Increase number of people engaged in the CHNEP who are aware of the program and issues, who change their behavior and who become a partner helping CHNEP fulfill its plan to protect the natural environment of southwest Florida in order to protect the estuaries from Venice to Bonita Springs.	

2.3 Public Outreach Grants	
Objective: To support CHNEP partners public outreach initiatives to further the <i>Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)</i> .	
Project Objective: Public outreach grants broaden participation of individuals and groups for implementation of the CCMP. Often, the best public outreach grant ideas are replicated elsewhere in the watershed, at no cost to CHNEP.	
Description: Public Outreach Grant projects occur in the CHNEP study area and facilitate public education of environmental issues identified in the CCMP. Projects are typically completed in one year. No matching funds are required and the maximum funding per project is \$5,000. Information on all the projects funded with a grant is posted on the website at www.chnep.org/Grants.html .	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: Stewardship Gaps	
Potential Partners: Grant Applicants	
FY14 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Outreach Grants (POG) FY14 Guidance Document ▪ Approximately 10 public outreach projects 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ December 2012 ▪ Selected October 2013 ▪ Completed September 2014
FY15 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Outreach Grants (POG) FY15 Guidance Document ▪ Approximately 10 public outreach projects 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ December 2013 ▪ Selected October 2014 ▪ Completed September 2015
Budget: \$25,000 in grants, plus \$17,500 staff	
Intermediate Outcomes: To further the partnership to protect and restore the greater Charlotte Harbor estuarine system and watershed, the CHNEP offers Public Outreach Grants to citizens, organizations, businesses, government agencies, schools, colleges and universities. The CHNEP has supported many types of initiatives with Grants but all have furthered the CCMP.	
Long-Term Outcomes: Increase number of partners who are conducting projects that help fulfill the CCMP.	

Public Outreach Grants

Public Outreach Grants typically take one year to complete. The results of these projects are posted at www.chnep.org/Grants/POGAwarded.html. FY14 Public Outreach Grants include:

Garden Elementary and Venice High School Reach into the Community with Conservation

Kay Thorpe Bannon

Third grade students at Garden Elementary will reach into their home communities with native plant gardening, combined with wildlife conservation information, storytelling and presentations. Student and family awareness of habitat loss will increase and a sense of stewardship for our Florida environment will be encouraged. This project is an extension of grants completed with Venice, Taylor Ranch and Garden Elementary Schools, during which students worked with the Venice High School and community groups to address wildlife conservation issues as well as to install native plant gardens on the grounds of each elementary school. Their work will be chronicled in school newspapers and featured in local papers. The CHNEP is providing \$1,534 toward this \$3,774 project. This project helps implement the CCMP by fulfilling SG-H, SG-F and WQ-K.

Strolling Science Seminars

CREW Land & Water Trust

Six half-day strolling science seminars for adults will be developed. Subject experts will lead each walk that will also provide hands-on activities. These programs will provide citizens with information about wildlife and watersheds and give them skills that will enable them to conduct citizen science projects. The CHNEP is providing \$600 toward this \$1,200 project. This project helps implement the CCMP by fulfilling SG-B.

Student Stewards

School District of Lee County

Because of this project, twice as many fourth-grade students will have authentic field experiences in Lee County's estuarine grass flats. Students will investigate the food webs of an estuarine environment. A total of 150 classrooms of 3,300 students, approximately 50 percent of the fourth grade student population, will be able to have this field experience. The CHNEP is providing \$4,992 toward this \$9,984 project. This project helps implement the CCMP by fulfilling SG-H.

Teach a Man About Fish (and he'll eat for a lifetime)

Dr. Carrie D. Robinson Littleton Elementary

Students and adults will work together in a variety of outreach venues to educate the public in ecological relationships between people, animals and their charged resources within the Charlotte Harbor watershed. Students will learn about their interrelationships between themselves and the creatures of the watershed then present lessons regarding the watershed and its inhabitants at two school science nights that are free to the public and three community environmental festivals. Students will learn about the watershed and estuarine environment then present their knowledge in creative performances. The CHNEP is providing \$1,300 toward this \$2,891 project. This project helps implement the CCMP by fulfilling SG-F and SG-H.

Environmental Education Center Field Studies Program at Circle B Bar Reserve for Fourth Grade Schools

Polk County Environmental Lands Program

Approximately 4,000 fourth grade students will participate in this pilot project to increase the students awareness of the Peace River watershed, where water and pollution comes from and goes. Three curriculums aligned with 4th grade standards will be developed, providing options so teachers can select the curriculum and program that best suites the needs of their students. The program will be held at the 1,267-acre Circle B Bar Reserve located on the headwaters of the Peace River. The CHNEP is providing \$4,996 toward this \$39,996 project. This project helps implement the CCMP by fulfilling SG-D and SG-H.

Student Naturalist Program at Circle B Bar Reserve

Polk County Environmental Lands Program

Up to 30 junior and senior high school students will participate in an extra-curriculum program focused on environmental experiences. Students involved in the pilot year will be those who are interested in pursuing a college degree in natural sciences. The program will provide practical experience in water and natural resource management and environmental education. The students will work with researchers and will be required to give back by volunteering and creating environmental education products. The CHNEP is providing \$3,000 toward this project. This project helps implement the CCMP by fulfilling SG-B, SG-4 and SG-H.

EcoCamp 2014

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center

Two five-half day summer camps will be offered to up to 20 children ages 8 to 14 at Alligator Creek in Punta Gorda and Cedar Point Park in Englewood. The campers will have intensive, hand-on studies of water resource issues and concepts, including guest speakers, field trips and outdoor experiences. The children will learn and understand the interconnectedness of life within the estuary and how their action may affect the balance of this ecosystem. They will learn to embrace new experiences, to get out in nature and explore our beautiful and important estuaries and natural resources. The CHNEP is providing \$2,000 toward this \$3,800 project. This project helps implement the CCMP by fulfilling SG-F and SG-H.

Environmental Safaris at Wildflower Preserve

Lemon Bay Conservancy

An 80-acre overgrown and abandoned golf course on the Cape Haze peninsula in Charlotte County is being transformed into a nature preserve. This project with nearby L.A. Ainger Middle School developed three "environmental safari" programs at Wildflower Preserve. Visitors will "hunt" for target plants and animals in three different areas of the preserve: freshwater wetlands, creek/estuarine and terrestrial. Samples will be collected for observation. As species are found, the trail guides will link their finds into broader discussions of environmental topics. The CHNEP is providing \$1,562 toward this \$6,838 project. This project helps implement the CCMP by fulfilling SG-B, SG-D and SG-F.

Citizen's Stormwater Academy

Lee County Natural Resources

As part of the county's water quality improvement projects, a public education program for neighborhood groups is being developed. The goal is to raise awareness of local water pollution issues and how that pollution affects them and to change behavior to reduce pollution. Initially the academy will focus on residents in the Caloosahatchee and Hendry Creeks watersheds through workshops, trainings, printed materials and storm drain stenciling. The CHNEP is providing \$2,200 toward this \$6,425 project. This project helps implement the CCMP by fulfilling WQ-1, WQ-E, SG-1, SG-F and SG-G.

Nature Parks Wetlands Project

City of Punta Gorda with PGI Green Thumbs

The city and the nonprofit volunteer organization will develop a wetland garden within the city's 24-acre nature park located in the center of a large residential community. This project will provide an educational system to teach about the conservation of our watershed, the benefits of using native plants and the sustainability of the natural environment through programs that include classes and lectures on conservation landscaping plants, wading birds, native plant species and habitat protection. The CHNEP is providing \$2,816 toward this \$6,759 project. This project helps implement the CCMP by fulfilling SG-A, SG-B and SG-C.

2.4	Micro-Grants
Objective: To provide year-round support of CHNEP partners public outreach initiatives that furthers the <i>Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)</i> .	
Project Objective: Micro-grants are a wonderful way for individuals or groups with a good idea that needs just a little bit of funding to implement that idea. It is a way to harness the creativity of people and test ideas.	
Description: One of the four initial Public Education Goals is “to establish and maintain environmental educational efforts with organizations, educational centers, and government agencies.” This project is also known as “micro-grants” which provide up to \$250 to support immediate public outreach opportunities. These funds allow the Program Office to respond to requests as they arise. The applicants provide audiences with information about CHNEP. Awards are granted under the Director’s authority to implement the CCMP. Information on all the projects funded with a grant is posted on the website at www.chnep.org/Grants.html .	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: Stewardship Gaps	
Potential Partners: Grant Applicants	
FY14 Deliverables:	Target Dates:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approximately 50 projects and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Available year round
FY15 Deliverables:	Target Dates:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approximately 50 projects and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Available year round
Budget: \$12,000 in grants plus \$17,500 staff	
Intermediate Outcomes: To further the partnership to protect and restore the greater Charlotte Harbor estuarine system and watershed, the CHNEP offers micro-grants to citizens, organizations, businesses, government agencies, schools, colleges and universities. The CHNEP has supported many types of initiatives with Grants but all have furthered the CCMP.	
Long-Term Outcomes: Increase number of partners who are conducting projects that help fulfill the CCMP.	

Fiscal Year 2014 Micro-Grants
Requests approved between October 1, 2013 and April 7, 2014

Contractor	MicroGrant Support
The Ding Darling Wildlife Society: Wendy Erler	Ding Darling Days 2013: October 20-26
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife	Burrowing Owl Festival: February 22, 2014 -- 12th annual
Cape Coral Historical Society: Richard Roux	Cape Coral Historical Museum Florida Native Plant Signs and Stakes
Lee BCC: Nancy Kilmartin	Industrial thermometer for Manatee Park
City of Cape Coral: Honey Archey	Little Free Libraries in the City of Cape Coral (with focus on environmental literature)
Keep Lee County Beautiful: Tricia Francher	Monofilament Madness - Marine Cleanup: October 26, 2013
Estero Bay Buddies: Reggie McNeill	Paddling the Estero River: November 2, 2013
FNPS Mangrove Chapter: Jane Wallace	Plant Native Day: February 22, 2014
Laurel Rhodes	Sarasota County Legacy Trail Butterfly Interpretive Materials Installation
Southwest Florida Gulf Coast Regional Envirothon	Southwest Florida Gulf Coast Regional Envirothon: December 13, 2013
East Lee County High School: Lee Moody	Biodiversity at Harns Marsh
Cape Coral Historical Society: Pascha Donaldson	Burrowing Owl Burrow Stakes
Team Parkside Lakes and Waterways Committee: Kathryn Preston	Parkside Lakes and Waterways Environmental Education Information and Resource Brochure
Pete Quasius and Don Eslick	EcoVoice: Environmental Voice of Southwest Florida: 2009 sponsorship
AWRA Florida Section: Karen Bickford	Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference: January 23, 2014 -- 23rd annual Sea Level Rise Flight or Fight
Venice Area Audubon Society: Alena Capek	Venice Area Audubon Bird Study Awards: Alena Capek
Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park	Bonneted Bat Housing Project: Ryan S. Brown
L.A. Ainger Middle School: Natalia Shea	Florida Native Beautification Landscape Projects at L.A. Ainger Middle School: Natalia Shea
Green Horizon Land Trust: Rachelle Selser	Green Horizon Land Trust Annual Meeting: March 2, 2014
East County Water Control District: Carla Ulakovic	Harns Marsh Wings Over Water Festival: Feb. 28-March 1, 2014
Venice Area Audubon Society: Brenda Bossman	Venice Area Audubon Bird Study Field Trip: Brenda Bossman
Calusa Group of the Sierra Club: Connie Langmann	Bag It
Nature Connections: Mary Lundeberg, Betty Baust	Coastal Native Plants Brochure for Stump Pass State Park
Happenhatchee Center: Genelle Grant	Mangrove Gathering Eco Café: March 22, June 21, Sept. 20 and Dec. 20, 2014
Lakes Education/Action Drive: Corine Burgess	Project E.A.G.L.E.
Englewood Sailing Club: Hugh Moore	Summer Sailing Camp for Youngsters 9 to 15: 2014
Polk County Utilities: Jacqueline Hollisters	7 Rivers Water Festival: May 3, 2014
Explorations V Children's Museum: Sue Schluender	Children's Festival: April 12, 2014
FDEP South District: Terry Cerullo	FDEP South District Veterans Memorial Native Florida Plant Garden

3.1	Research Coordination	
Objective: To coordinate resource monitoring to assure availability of consistent, reliable, technically sound estuarine, freshwater, wetland and upland data throughout the CHNEP study area and identify research needs that can be implemented through partnerships.		
Project Objective: To protect and restore natural systems, sufficient region-wide water quality, biological and physical data and analyses are needed to understand the status, trends and complex interactions of the systems. Activities focus on coordinating partner organizations to collect, analyze and communicate scientific information from throughout the CHNEP study area. Funding under this program supports staff coordination of data collection and monitoring efforts.		
Description: CHNEP coordinates and assists partners with water quality, seagrass and shellfish monitoring including: Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network (CCHMN), Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network (CHEVWQMN), Regional Ambient Monitoring Program (RAMP), FDEP seagrass transect monitoring, Water Management District seagrass aerial mapping, and FWC/Sea Grant shellfish monitoring. Participate in the Southwest Florida Tidal Creek, Seagrass, and Shellfish Working Groups. Identify opportunities to fill gaps and enhance consistency in water quality, vegetation and shellfish data. Provide partners with natural resource data and analyses throughout the CHNEP for studies including: Shellfish Restoration Plans, Southwest Florida Feasibility Study, Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan, Impaired Waters determinations, Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Supply Plans.		
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: Water Quality Degradation and Fish and Wildlife Habitat loss		
Potential Partners: FDEP, SWFWMD, SFWMD, Counties, Cities, Conference Members		
FY14 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly CCHMN water quality monitoring. ▪ Annual CCHMN field audits, reporting and meeting. ▪ Monthly CHEVWQMN water quality monitoring. ▪ Quarterly RAMP meeting of partners. ▪ Annual FDEP seagrass transect monitoring. ▪ Bi-annual SWFWMD and SFWMD seagrass aerals. ▪ Bi-annual FL Water Resource Monitoring Council 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly ▪ May 2014 ▪ Monthly ▪ Quarterly ▪ September 2014 ▪ January 2014 ▪ Spring and Fall 2014 	
FY15 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly CCHMN water quality monitoring. ▪ Annual CCHMN field audits, reporting and meeting. ▪ Monthly CHEVWQMN water quality monitoring. ▪ Quarterly RAMP meeting of partners. ▪ Annual FDEP seagrass transect monitoring. ▪ Triennial Watershed Summit Proceedings ▪ Bi-annual FL Water Resources Monitoring Council 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly ▪ May 2014 ▪ Monthly ▪ Quarterly ▪ September 2014 ▪ September 2015 ▪ Spring and Fall 2015 	
Budget: \$12,000 in staff		
Intermediate Outcomes: CHNEP will coordinate monthly water quality sampling throughout the estuaries and assist with field sampling in Lower Charlotte Harbor. CHNEP will assist partners with seagrass transect monitoring and aerial photography. CHNEP will ensure availability of water quality and seagrass data to partners through the CHNEP Water Atlas.		
Long Term outcomes: Increase in water quality and seagrass data available for status and trends analyses, resource management, implementation of regulatory programs and education of the public and elected officials throughout the watershed.		

3.2 Targeted Research	
Objective: To conduct research targeted to implement the <i>Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan</i> (CCMP) Priority Actions and fill Environmental Indicators gaps through partnerships.	
Project Objective: To continue to effectively restore water quality, hydrology and habitat conditions throughout the CHNEP study area in the future, targeted research is conducted to fill critical gaps in knowledge needed to support resource management and decision-making. Research focuses on topics identified by the TAC and implemented through partnerships with assistance from the CHNEP scientific community.	
Description: CHNEP contracted with Mote Marine Laboratory to develop estuary-specific modeling and reporting tools that explain water quality and clarity relationships. CHNEP is working with Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP), Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and local counties to develop rational numeric nutrient criteria for tidal creeks based on water quality, fishery and benthic macroalgae relationships. CHNEP contracted with University of South Florida-Center for Community Design to enhance the CHNEP Water Atlas with fecal coliform contour mapping, water quality trend analyses tools and Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring, Shoreline Survey and Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods information.	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: All	
Potential Partners: Mote, SBEP, TBEP, FWC, SWFWMD, USF, Conference Members	
FY14 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Optical Model Spectral Validation and Water Clarity Reporting Tool ▪ CHNEP Water Atlas Enhancements ▪ Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Tidal Creek Wetlands field sampling for water quality, fishery and benthic macroalgae ▪ CHNEP Water Atlas Maintenance ▪ Alligator Creek Restoration Fishery Community Monitoring 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 2014 ▪ May 2014 ▪ May 2014 ▪ Ongoing ▪ October 2014
FY15 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Tidal Creek Wetlands analysis and reporting ▪ CHNEP Water Atlas Maintenance ▪ Cattle Dock Point Habitat Enhancement ▪ Coral Creek Restoration Juvenile Tarpon Fishery Monitoring ▪ Coral Creek Restoration Monitoring 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2015 ▪ Ongoing ▪ December 2017 ▪ September 2015 ▪ June 2015
Budget: \$179,000 in projects, \$20,700 in staff	
Intermediate Outcomes: CHNEP will assist partners in conducting field sampling, analyzing and reviewing data and developing estuarine water quality-water clarity models and tidal creek numeric nutrient criteria throughout the study area and southwest Florida. CHNEP will ensure availability of water clarity models, water quality and fishery data and suggested tidal creek numeric nutrient criteria to partners through the CHNEP Water Atlas, partners' websites and Management Conference meetings.	
Long Term Outcomes: Increase in water quality-water clarity analytical tools and numeric nutrient criteria available for resource management, implementation of regulatory programs and education of the public and elected officials throughout the study area.	

Targeted Research

Targeted Research Projects are initiated to fill in Environmental Indicators gaps, provide topic-specific data and answer questions raised by the TAC to improve resource management throughout the CHNEP and fulfill the CCMP. The complex technical projects are implemented with CHNEP support to one or multiple partners and generally take more than one year to complete to allow for adequate data collection and analysis and review by the TAC. Results of the Targeted Research Projects are available on the CHNEP website and Water Atlas. Targeted Research Projects to be completed in FY14 and FY15 are described briefly below.

Targeted Research Projects to be Completed in Fiscal Year FY14 and FY15

Optical Model Spectral Validation and Water Clarity Reporting Tool

Mote Marine Laboratory, FY12 funding, \$80,000, due April 2014

Building on with previous CHNEP water quality targets and seagrass light requirements, Mote Marine Laboratory is developing statistical models for each estuary segment that relate key water quality parameters (nutrients, chlorophyll *a*, color and turbidity) to light availability (photosynthetically active radiation or PAR measurements). The models are being used to develop a water clarity reporting tool that allows both hind- and forecasting of water clarity using historic and future commonly collected water quality parameters. The optical models and water clarity reporting tool will be available on the CHNEP Water Atlas and enhance resource managers' ability to estimate water quality trends throughout the CHNEP estuaries. The Optical Model and Water Clarity Reporting Tool project implements many CCMP Priority Actions, including: WQ-C, WQ-G, SG-D and SG-R.

CHNEP Water Atlas Enhancements

University of South Florida, FY13 funding, \$61,112, due May 2014

To continue and improve public access to the wealth of natural resource data available on the CHNEP Water Atlas, University of South Florida-Florida Center for Community Design is adding tools to allow users to create fecal coliform contour maps and water quality status and trend analyses, as well as learn about Volunteer Water Monitoring, Shoreline Survey and the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative. Improved access to water quality and shoreline condition data and analysis tools allows resource managers, elected officials and the public make better informed decisions. The Water Atlas Enhancement and Maintenance Projects implement many CCMP Priority Actions, including: WQ-C, SG-D, SG-K, SG-R and SG-S.

Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Tidal Creek Wetlands

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, FY13 funding, \$31,000, due September 2015

To fill geographic and data gaps between recently adopted quantitative nutrient criteria for fresh and estuarine waters, CHNEP is working with SBEP, TBEP, and local partners to develop suggested numeric nutrient criteria for tidal creeks throughout southwest Florida. The project is evaluating the relationships between key water quality parameters (dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity, nitrogen and phosphorus), fishery communities and benthic algae (chlorophyll) in a wide range of tidal creek conditions between TBEP and CHNEP. The project includes developing the field and data analyses methods, field sampling and analysis and reporting of data and results. The results will be available on the CHNEP Water Atlas and

enhance resource managers and regulators ability to determine water quality conditions and impairments in tidal creeks in southwest Florida. The Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Tidal Creek Wetlands project implements many CCMP Priority Actions, including: WQ-B and WQ-G.

Alligator Creek Restoration Fishery Community Monitoring

Mote Marine Laboratory, FY13 funding, \$40,000, due August 2014

To assist the SWFWMD, FDEP and other partners with assessing the functional effects of hydrologic restoration activities adjacent to Alligator Creek, CHNEP contracted with Mote to conduct juvenile fishery monitoring in the creek. The study design is consistent with previous juvenile fishery monitoring conducted by Mote in the same location prior to habitat restoration. Implementation of the project allows the monitoring results to be used to compare before and after, control and response fishery conditions. Field monitoring will be conducted bi-monthly in two creeks at 20 locations from April to October 2013. The results, including a data base and analyses and GIS shapefiles, will be reviewed by the TAC and approved by the Management Conference. The fishery monitoring project implements several CCMP Priority Actions including: WQ-E, FW-C and HA-N.

Coral Creek Restoration Fishery Community Monitoring

FWC, FY14 funding, \$40,000, due August 2015

To assist the SWFWMD, FDEP and partners with assessing the functional effects of hydrologic and restoration activities adjacent to Coral Creek, CHNEP contracted with FWC Fisheries Independent Monitoring to conduct fishery community monitoring in the creek prior to initiation of restoration activities. The fish community information will augment other fish, water quality, seagrass and wetland vegetation monitoring to evaluate the response of the habitats and biological community to the restoration. The project includes monthly sampling within the creek utilizing FWC tidal creek juvenile fishery methods and gear design for one year (February 2014 – January 2015). Deliverables, including data, analyses, GIS shapefiles and reports, will be reviewed by the TAC and approved by the Management Conference. The fishery monitoring project addresses several CHNEP CCMP Priority Actions and Environmental Indicators including: FW-F, WQ-E, HA-N and FW-d.

Coral Creek Restoration Juvenile Tarpon Fishery Community Monitoring

Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, FY14 Mosaic funding and CHNEP staff support, \$50,000, due September 2015

To assist the SWFWMD, FWC and Bonefish and Tarpon Trust (BTT) with better understanding how restoration project design can enhance juvenile tarpon habitat, CHNEP will implement a research project to compare fishery response to different hydrologic restoration designs in six finger canals along Coral Creek. CHNEP, FWC and BTT scientists will assist SWFWMD resource managers with designing a series of configurations of ponds and wetlands in the finger canals that will be incorporated into the SWFWMD restoration activities along Coral Creek. CHNEP will contract with BTT, who will provide match, to conduct before and after, control and response juvenile tarpon fishery monitoring to assess fishery response to the different restoration techniques. Deliverables, including data, analyses, GIS shapefiles and reports, will be reviewed by the TAC and approved by the Management Conference. The project addresses CHNEP CCMP Actions and Indicators including: FW-F, WQ-E, HA-N and FW-d.

Cattle Dock Point Habitat Enhancement

TBD, FY15 funding, \$40,000, due December 31, 2017

This project will assist the SWFWMD in enhancing and preserving the habitat created at the Cattle Dock Point site in 2005. The total acreage of the site is 25 acres, including 9 acres restored in 2005. This project will enhance the site by removal and/or control of non-native and nuisance vegetation, followed by one year of quarterly maintenance and, if funding permits, installation of additional site suitable plants.

4.1 Watershed Coordination	
Objective: To develop and update a CHNEP Restoration Plan and participate in activities which implement the plan and CCMP objectives and actions relating to restoration.	
Project Objective: To most effectively restore water quality, hydrology and habitat, CHNEP participates in a variety of partnership resource management and planning activities. Funding under this program supports CHNEP staff review of watershed assessments and plans and provision of maps and data to partners which guide restoration priorities and track implementation of projects.	
Description: CHNEP provides staff support for restoration mapping efforts, including hosting the master restoration database and Shapefiles. Funding is allocated to support SWFRPC graphic services and GIS equipment costs. Tracking of restoration plan implementation is performed annually through development of the Government Performance and Review Act (GPRA) report. This subtask also include staff participation in watershed initiatives such as: Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) Recovery Strategy, Minimum Flows and Levels, Reasonable Assurance Plans, Basin Management Action Plans, Southwest Florida Feasibility Study, SFWMD Water Supply Plan, Caloosahatchee River Visioning process, and development of basin water budgets and management plans. CHNEP also participates in state and federal processes to develop landscape scale conservation corridors with public and private partnerships to provide habitat and species migration and climate change adaptation. Finally, partners, such as EPA and NOAA, frequently request data and supporting information about restoration and conservation efforts within CHNEP. As opportunities arise, CHNEP assists partners in restoration activities including: Water Planning Alliance, Estero Bay AB, Lemon Bay League, Forked Creek and Hendry Creek “Walk the Watershed”, Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative meetings and other activities.	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: All	
Potential Partners: EPA, ACOE, FDEP, Water Management Districts, Conference Members	
FY14 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GPRA Report ▪ Public/Private Conservation Cooperative Support ▪ Staff support for regional watershed efforts including: CERP/SWFFS, SWIM planning, TMDLs, BMAPs, SWUCA, Caloosahatchee Regional River Visioning, Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative and Water Supply Plans 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2014 ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing
FY15 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GPRA Report ▪ Public/Private Conservation Cooperative Support ▪ Staff support for regional watershed efforts including: CERP/SWFFS, SWIM planning, TMDLs, BMAPs, SWUCA, Caloosahatchee Regional River Visioning, Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative and Water Supply Plans 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2015 ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing
Budget: \$50,000 in staff	
Intermediate Outcomes: CHNEP will provide annual summaries of partners’ restoration activities through the GPRA report and will assist partners with compiling and analyzing data to develop and implement technically sound, consensus-based resource management plans.	
Long Term Outcomes: Increase in the number and effectiveness of implemented water quality and resource management Best Management Practices (BMPs), plans and restoration activities.	

4.2	Targeted Restoration
Objective: To conduct restoration targeted to address the <i>Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Priority Problems</i> through partnerships.	
Project Objective: To restore priority water quality, hydrology and fish and wildlife habitat conditions identified by the TAC and resource managers, site-specific restoration projects are designed and implemented through partnerships with CHNEP support. Projects are designed to be technically sound and include monitoring to assess effectiveness.	
Description: CHNEP provides technical review of partners' oyster habitat restoration general permit and pilot project development and implementation, including monitoring to assess effectiveness. CHNEP provides funding, technical review and staff support for priority restoration projects identified by the TAC and scientific community, with a current focus on Alligator and Coral Creek hydrologic restoration and monitoring to assess the restoration effectiveness on fishery and vegetation communities. CHNEP also provides data and technical assistance to FDEP Estero Bay Aquatic Preserves and University of Florida Estero Bay Seagrass Restoration planning efforts.	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: All	
Potential Partners: FDEP, TNC, Mote, FWC, Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, Conference Members	
FY14 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statewide General Permit for Oyster Restoration ▪ Punta Gorda Oyster Restoration Pilot Project ▪ Estero Bay Seagrass Restoration Plan 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 2013 ▪ September 2014 ▪ Ongoing
FY15 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Estero Bay Seagrass Restoration Plan ▪ Restoration Monitoring - TBD 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing ▪ TBD
Budget: \$11,000 in staff	
Intermediate Outcomes: CHNEP will provide technical review of oyster restoration project and monitoring design and Alligator and Coral Creek hydrologic restoration fishery monitoring design. CHNEP will make restoration designs and results available through the CHNEP Water Atlas and Management Conference.	
Long Term Outcomes: Increase in healthy oyster and fishery habitats within the CHNEP estuaries and tidal creeks.	

Targeted Restoration

Targeted Restoration Projects are implemented to focus restoration efforts into priority habitat, hydrology and water quality conditions and locations identified by the TAC and CHNEP resource management community. Targeted Restoration Projects address the CCMP Priority Problems. The multi-faceted restoration projects are implemented by partners with CHNEP staff and funding support for technical design, including monitoring to assess effectiveness. Targeted Restoration Projects generally take more than one year to complete to allow for adequate design and implementation, data collection and analysis and review by the TAC. Results of the Targeted Restoration Projects are available on the CHNEP website and Water Atlas. Targeted Restoration Projects to be completed in FY14 and FY15 are described briefly below.

Targeted Restoration Projects to be Completed in Fiscal Year FY14 and FY15

Statewide General Permit for Oyster Restoration

TNC and FDEP, FY13 CHNEP staff support, due October 2013

To partially implement the CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Plan (2012), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) lead a working group to facilitate discussions between regional, state and federal resource managers and regulators to develop a general permit for oyster habitat restoration. Restoring oyster habitat under previous regulations was challenging because the ecological values of oysters were not considered. When Florida initiated modifications to the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) rule in 2012, it provided an opportunity to review the regulatory process relating to oyster restoration. The working group drafted a General Permit (GP) to provide criteria for small scale oyster restoration projects (low profile and less than 0.25 acres). The GP was included in the ERP adopted in October 2013 as 62-330.632, F.A.C General Permit for the Restoration, Establishment and Enhancement of Low Profile Oyster Habitat. The GP facilitates permitting of oyster restoration in a timely manner to meet grant funding constraints, thereby facilitating oyster restoration throughout the CHNEP and other Florida estuaries. The GP does not preclude the need for ACOE, NOAA or other state authorizations for permits that don't meet the specified criteria. Adoption of the GP implements several CCMP Priority Actions including: FW-A, FW-F and FW-G.

Punta Gorda Oyster Restoration Pilot Project

TNC, FY13 Mosaic funding and CHNEP staff support, due September 2014

To partially implement the CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Plan (2012), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) successfully acquired funding support from Mosaic to implement a pilot oyster habitat restoration project in Punta Gorda in the near-shore waters of the Peace River. The site has habitat conditions likely to support successful oyster habitat re-establishment, including appropriate salinity and water depths, existing oysters, adjacent mangroves and a high suitability rating in the Habitat Suitability Index from the Plan. The project area will be ≤ 0.25 acres, include 9-12 patch reefs, three methods and inter- and sub-tidal locations. Monitoring will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the different methodologies. Volunteers will assist with substrate deployment and monitoring. The project is located within federally endangered Smalltooth Sawfish critical habitat, which is a consideration in project design and permitting. Permits are currently obtained and deployment is expected to begin in the spring of 2014. The oyster habitat restoration project implements many CCMP Priority Actions including: FW-A, HA-1 and SG-B.

5.1	Legislative Agenda
Objective: To provide a structure for pursuing legislative action to support the implementation of the <i>Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)</i> .	
Project Objective: Several priority actions of the CCMP necessitate legislative changes. Funding under this task goes toward staff support to identify needed legislation, to track legislation at the state and federal levels, and draft support letters and comments to rulemakings for review by the Management Conference.	
Description: The Legislative Agenda is a formal document that presents projects, identified by the Management Conference, that implement the CCMP and which require additional support, either fiscal or policy, in order to be successfully completed. The Legislative Agenda is updated and revised to reflect the current and anticipated legislative opportunities for CHNEP to ensure that the CCMP is considered by elected officials when policy and funding decisions are being made. Moreover, with the updating of the CCMP in 2013, the Legislative Agenda is more dynamic. The Legislative Agenda is presented to policy-makers and decision-makers annually. Membership with the Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) and attendance at its meetings is encouraged by EPA. A portion of the \$4,500 dues is not eligible for EPA funding. Finally, this task also supports the Legislative Subcommittee.	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: All	
Potential Partners: Management Conference Members, elected officials, state and federal agencies.	
FY14 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Present agenda to State and Federal Legislative Officials throughout the CHNEP study area ▪ Tracking of relevant legislation ▪ Electronic updates to Subcommittee members ▪ Letters of support as appropriate to legislators and policy makers ▪ ANEP membership ▪ Revised Legislative Agenda 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ November 2013 – August 2014 ▪ As Appropriate ▪ As Appropriate ▪ As appropriate ▪ As Opportunities Arise ▪ ▪ January 2014 ▪ Spring 2014
FY15 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Present agenda to State and Federal Legislative Officials throughout the CHNEP study area ▪ Tracking of relevant legislation ▪ Electronic updates to Subcommittee members ▪ Letters of support as appropriate to legislators and policy makers ▪ ANEP membership ▪ Revised Legislative Agenda 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ November 2014 - April 2015 ▪ As Appropriate ▪ As Appropriate ▪ As Opportunities Arise ▪ January 2015 ▪ Spring 2015
Budget: \$2000 in staff plus \$4500 ANEP Dues	
Intermediate Outcomes: CHNEP and the CCMP is recognized and utilized as a resource by legislators (local, state and Federal) and their staff.	
Long Term Outcomes: New, revised and re-authorized Federal and state Statutes, and rules, local ordinances, and Federal, state and local policies that assist in implementing the CCMP.	

5.2 Advocacy and Review Procedures	
Objective: To implement the Advocacy and Review Procedures adopted in February 2003. To provide federal consistency review as required by EPA and incorporate the existing federal consistency review process of the State Clearinghouse as set forth in the CCMP on page 219.	
Project Objective: Review and commenting on proposed legislation and rules has been identified as a key function of the CHNEP Management Conference. Since adoption of the Advocacy and Review Procedures on February 21, 2003, CHNEP has submitted over 60 letters of either support or comment to other agencies. Funding under this task goes toward staff support to review proposed rules and draft letters requesting modification.	
<p>Description: The Management Conference developed a list of major categories of actions that may require CHNEP review, comment or letters of support. Staff will continue to develop letters of review, comment, support and inquiry as directed by the Management Conference. Based on the Advocacy and Review Procedures, eleven categories of actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Land Acquisition and Conservation ▪ Water Quality rules ▪ Hydrology rules ▪ Changes in structures specified in HA-4 ▪ Projects which improve water quality of Lake Hancock and the water exiting the lake ▪ Projects which significantly affect at least one of the habitats listed in FW-1 ▪ Projects which significantly affect hydrology in sub-basins ▪ Rules which reduce propeller damage to seagrass beds ▪ Projects that remove invasive exotic species ▪ Legislation that restricts citizen participation on environmental issues ▪ General permits affecting waterways ▪ Review of local comprehensive plans by the CHNEP partnership for implementation of the CCMP ▪ Participation in development of the Management Plan for the Babcock Ranch Preserve. <p>In FY13, the CHNEP drafted 3 significant letters for Management Conference review and submittal, and actively participated in drafting revisions to legislation regarding the Babcock Ranch Preserve management structure.</p>	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: All	
Potential Partners: Management Conference Members, elected officials, state and federal agencies	
<p>FY14 Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review, Comment, Support and Inquiry Letters ▪ Public Testimony • Review of at least 2 Comprehensive Plan Updates 	<p>Target Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As required ▪ As appropriate ▪ By end of FY14
<p>FY15 Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review, Comment, Support and Inquiry Letters ▪ Public Testimony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As required ▪ As appropriate
Budget: \$2000 in staff	
Intermediate Outcomes: Submission of Management Conference comments, remarks and suggested language in response to proposed rules and legislation.	
Long Term Outcomes: Incorporation of CHNEP Management Conference comments, revisions into adopted rules and legislation.	

5.3 Leveraged Grants	
Objective: To supplement implementation of the <i>Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan</i> (CCMP) through funding of projects from sources other than the EPA Cooperative Agreement.	
Project Objective: Leveraging grants for partners to implement the CCMP is a key component of the Long Range Funding Strategy. Funding under this program goes toward staff support to grant objectives and to match them with partner needs toward CCMP implementation.	
Description: CHNEP staff are actively applying for and winning funding through grants from Federal, State and private organizations for our partner organizations to support the implementation of the CCMP. The Research Needs Inventory, in conjunction with the CCMP, guides CHNEP staff when reviewing grant opportunities. In FY13 CHNEP staff were successful in assisting partners in capturing grant funding from government and private sources for unfunded projects and programs. CHNEP staff assists partners in identifying, applying for and administering grants from various sources, including Federal and State agencies and private foundations. Staff also searches for funding for specific projects that are being conducted by partners, notify partners of grant opportunities and work with partners to form teams and partnerships for proposal submissions. Staff is maintaining a grants database to track annual grant opportunities to facilitate developing teams and projects in advance of the Request for Application announcements. In addition, CHNEP provides project specific letters of support to granting agencies on behalf of partners.	
CCMP Priority Problem Addressed: All	
Potential Partners: Management Conference Members, elected officials	
FY14 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal Templates for Grant Opportunities ▪ Email notification of available grants ▪ Support letters for inclusion with grant applications ▪ Draft and Final Grant applications 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing, usually bi-monthly ▪ As Requested ▪ As Appropriate
FY15 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal Templates for Grant Opportunities ▪ Email notification of available grants ▪ Support letters for inclusion with grant applications ▪ Draft and Final Grant applications 	Target Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing, usually bi-monthly ▪ As Requested ▪ As Appropriate
Budget: \$3,400 in staff	
Intermediate Outcomes: Provide partners with assistance in identifying and capturing funding for projects that implement the CCMP.	
Long Term Outcomes: Maintain and nurture the culture of granstmanship among CHNEP partners in order to facilitate CCMP implementation throughout the CHNEP Study Area.	

Completed Major Projects and Actions

FY2013 Completed Major Projects and Actions

Oyster Restoration Plan

Project Objective: The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Oyster Habitat Restoration Plan is the product of a partnership between the CHNEP and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The purpose of the Plan is to provide a technically sound, consensus-based approach for identifying oyster habitat restoration goals, methods and partnerships for the estuaries within the CHNEP. The Southwest Florida Oyster Working Group (SWFOWG), a diverse group representing local stakeholders, was convened to assist in the development of this plan. The plan provides the guidelines for native oyster habitat restoration within the CHNEP study area using a regional partnership approach. For the purposes of the plan oyster habitat is defined as substrate upon which a self-sustaining native oyster community develops, providing habitat for commensal flora and fauna.

Lead Implementers: CHNEP and TNC

§320 funds spent: \$2,765 CHNEP staff time

Project Deliverables/Outcomes: Restoration Suitability Model, Restoration Plan for CHNEP Study Area. The Plan was immediately utilized in the development of projects within Charlotte Harbor

External constraints: The Plan identified actions need to accomplish full implementation. To accomplish the long term goal, the following actions are recommended over the short term:

- Map oyster habitats by type within the CHNEP by 2020.
- Design, implement and monitor the success of pilot oyster restoration projects in a variety of habitats in 50% of the CHNEP estuary segments by 2020.
- Increase public awareness of the ecosystem value of native oyster habitats by including community stewardship components in each oyster restoration project.
- Assist partners in seeking state, federal and organizational funding opportunities to support oyster habitat restoration projects.

Shoreline Survey

Project Objective: In 2005, the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) adopted a list of environmental indicators to aid in assessing the relative condition of the estuaries and associated watersheds. During 2006 and 2007, the CHNEP was updating its *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP). A gap of knowledge was identified regarding priority action 'FW-D: Enhance fish and wildlife habitat along shorelines...', with special reference to quantifiable objective 'FW-1: ... Manage natural mangrove habitats to their historic

extent (1980) to enhance and improve their ecological functions and, where feasible, restore mangrove habitats in urban areas.”

For 2013, CHNEP pursued a Coastal Partnership Initiative grant, offered by the Coastal Management Program of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The grant also allowed for a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) shape file to be developed tied to the volunteer surveys, so that data from all three triennial volunteer surveys could be viewed spatially, for the first time.

Lead Implementers: CHNEP, FDEP

§ 320 funds spent: \$34,413 CHNEP staff time reporting and invoicing.

Project Deliverables/Outcomes:

- Regional and site maps and data entry forms to incorporate survey data into the CHNEP Water Atlas.
- Develop volunteer coordinators, volunteer recruitment, review, revise and test volunteer packets and train volunteers.
- Develop project database and Water Atlas entry screens.
- Conduct shoreline survey and quality assurance visits, and compile/check data.
- Prepare summary maps and reports; report results to CHNEP Management Conference.
- Publish results in *Harbor Happenings* magazine and post to Water Atlas.
- Maps of volunteer areas and results by sub-basin included in the indicators report, Water Atlas and on the CHNEP website.
- Database of parcels of shoreline by habitat type by sub-basin, county and entire study area.
- Written summary of Shoreline Survey Update 2013.
- On-line Water Atlas page with data and tools for analyses and GIS mapping.
- Final Project Report posted to CHNEP website.
- 2013 Shoreline Survey article published in *Harbor Happenings*.

External Constraints: Since the project was funded through a grant, there was a period performance constraint.

Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Project Objective: The *Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan* (Regional Plan) was developed to advise the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) and the State of Florida regarding restoration needs in Southwest Florida as they make Gulf-wide decisions under the 2012 RESTORE Act. Furthermore, the plan provides a regional vision for restoration needs for any partnership interested in the health of Southwest Florida’s natural resources.

Lead Implementers: Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP), Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), and Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP)

§ 320 funds spent: ~\$494 for printing, ~\$ 48,800 in CHNEP staff time:

Project Deliverables/Outcomes: Deliverables included - meeting notices, meetings, meeting notes, presentations, published document. Outcomes included FDEP incorporating the *Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan project* database into the on-line FDEP RESTORE Act database, local counties utilizing the report to inform their decisions, and most significantly a Regional vision for restoration needs and priorities.

External Constraints: Lack of guidance from the Department of Treasury concerning the manner in which RESTORE Act funds would be disbursed.

Estimating and Forecasting Ecosystem Services from Habitat Condition Analyses within Pine Island Sound, and on Sanibel and Captiva Islands

Project Objective: The range and quantity of ecosystem services provided by existing habitats will be estimated, including the marine, estuarine and freshwater wetlands, and associated native uplands of Pine Island Sound, Sanibel Island, and Captiva Island. An ecosystem services topography (ECOSERVE) layer will be generated that can be combined with other geographic information system (GIS) layers for functional analyses by service type, by geographic boundary (watershed, municipality, etc.), and in combination. This process will become a tool that can generate projections of ecosystem services that may result from land use changes, anticipated climate changes, natural and man-made disasters, the implementation of alternative wetland protection and land conservation programs, or which would reflect the eventualities resulting from making no changes to current land use, management or regulatory policy.

- Accurately identify of all the existing habitat types found in the study area through GIS analysis of existing aerial imagery.
- Describe the ecosystem services provided by each habitat type in terms of functional, energy, carbon, and monetary currencies using widely available and scientifically defensible values
- Produce maps of ecological services topographies (ECOSERVE) using GIS.
- Intersect ECOSERVE GIS information layers to generate combined analyses of provided ecosystem services.
- Generate existing past and alternate future ECOSERVE topographies related to anticipated land use changes, climatic changes, and alternate wetland protection and conservation land acquisition programs.
- Report the results in a format useful to decision makers, land managers and the public.

Lead Implementers: EO Dunn Foundation, CHNEP, SWFRPC, SCCF

§ 320 funds spent: \$20,000

Project Deliverables:

1. GIS mapping of the current habitat areas including wetland and upland extents and types using the most recent existing aerial photography, with ground truthing,
2. Analyses of ecosystem services provided by those habitats, as established by the literature, including:
 - A quantification of observed habitat condition information linked to ecosystem services and their contributions to human well-being,
 - A quantification of the pollution prevention or mitigation services (e.g., chemical pollutant removal, sediment removal) provided by ecosystems with a comparison to the cost of providing them through built infrastructure,
 - A quantification by habitat of the amount of food or fiber produced per unit area in well-protected areas versus that of poorly protected or unprotected areas,
 - The economic value of recreational opportunities provided by a specific habitat provision or by protection of fishable/swimmable water,
 - Construction costs avoided by the presence of habitats that slow and absorb floodwaters (flow mitigation or flood control),
 - Useful and practical indicators for assessing ecosystem services delivery,
 - Development of an ArcView-friendly protocol for statistical and geographical analysis and interpretation that can be used with the types of information generated by surveys of ecological condition indicators to quantify ecosystem services,
 - Statistical and geographical analysis and interpretation that can be used to quantify the relative importance of perturbation stressors (e.g., land clearing, hydrologic alteration, development, climate change) that impact habitats and the ecosystem services they provide,
 - Creative and innovative applications of statistical and geographical analysis and interpretation to provide new information on ecosystem services and habitat condition surveys,
 - A GIS tool that can be used to develop regionally relevant ecosystem services measurement and assessment programs and that can be used to assist in implementing efficient and effective decision-making by local and regional regulatory, mitigation, enforcement programs,
 - An updated map of conservation lands for the study area, and
 - An updated GIS GREENPRINT map for potential future conservation land acquisition in the study area.

External Constraints: Given more time and resources the maps and tables of this project could be improved by a detailed mapping of mangrove forest type to better estimate the ecosystem services provided by each type and better represent the relative functions of each forest type in location and landscape. As indicated by an internal separate analysis of salt marsh combined

average vs. salt marsh by detailed type estimates significant TEV differences can be obtained. We would expect the difference for a detailed mangrove forest type could be even more pronounced. Another refinement would be to apply a sea grass extent light extinction model to predict future sea grass extent losses as estuarine waters deepen. In this analysis the level of sea level rise (one foot) would not cause major sea grass bed losses as new shallow water is generated. With higher level of sea level rise the deeper edge of sea grass beds would move landward as light attenuation losses occurred in the deeper waters.

More alternate futures could be evaluated with additional climate change perturbations, alternate land use plans, and regulatory environments. The differential benthic habitats in the Gulf of Mexico could be further refined and mapped with methods utilized in identifying the source locations of benthic drift algae.

CHNEP Special Edition FL Scientist - FAS

Project Objective: The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) hosts triennial conferences for area scientists, resource managers, planners, industry and citizens to learn more about the current research and restoration efforts as well as critical environmental issues affecting the Charlotte Harbor watershed. The 2011 Watershed Summit was held March 30 and 31, 2011 in Punta Gorda, FL and had over 180 participants for the 2-day event. The theme of the 2011 Watershed Summit was *The State of Our Estuaries and Watersheds*. The technical community again requested that the CHNEP publish the proceedings of the Watershed Summit in a scientific, peer-reviewed journal. Following review of available technical journals, it was determined that the most appropriate venue for the special issue is the *Florida Scientist* published by Florida Academy of Sciences. The research and management efforts included within this special issue would pertain specifically to Charlotte Harbor, Florida but will be designed to be of interest to researchers and others outside the region.

Lead Implementers: CHNEP

§ 320 funds spent: \$17,990 (printing) + \$23,186.96 CHNEP staff time

Project Deliverables/Outcomes: Special Issue published and delivered; 2011 CHNEP Watershed Summit presenters are now published in a peer-reviewed journal; articles are available for review and reference on line.

External Constraints: Since the guest editors and the authors were working full-time jobs, the editing process took a little longer than usual.

Communities of Practice: Environmental Educators, Conservation Land Resource Managers, Scientists and Engaged Citizens

Project Objectives: Network | Collaborate | Brainstorm | Learn

In FY2013 the CHNEP provided opportunities for partners to network, collaborate, brainstorm and learn across disciplines and with subject matter experts. The focus in FY2013 included programs developed and presented by partners such as the NOAA Coastal Services Center, and ELI, and formal programs developed by CHNEP staff: including conservation lands workshops, environmental education workshops and restoration and management project review forums on Caloosahatchee River, Coral Creek Restoration, Central Florida Phosphate Mine Area-wide EIS, There were more than 350 unique participants in these training/learning events.

Lead Implementers: CHNEP; NOAA, ELI, SWFWMD, USACE, Conservancy of SWFL, NWF, Charlotte County

§ 320 funds spent: \$29,390 CHNEP staff time

Project Deliverables/Outcomes: Presentations with audio uploaded to CHNEP website; program summaries and next steps, networking among participants; new project development by participants;

External Constraints: Due to decreases in partner budgets, participation and attendance by some organizations was limited.

Clean Water Act Funds Used for Travel

Travel funds are used for purposes such as travel to NEP Directors Meetings, National and state conferences, meetings with EPA staff in Atlanta and Washington D.C., and other overnight travel as needed. Funds are also programmed to support additional special travel and local travel, tolls and parking expenses; including travel that is ineligible for federal reimbursement. See Table 18 for details.

Table 18: Completed and Projected Travel in FY14 (FY14 EPA Budget Sheet)

Date	Purpose	# Travelers	Location	Length of Stay	Travel Mode	Reg. Fee	Estimated Cost
10/16-17/2013	State Grants Training	1	Tallahassee	2	auto	\$0	\$205
October 23- 26, 2013	North American Simulation and Gaming Association	1	Sarasota, FL	4	Auto	\$625	\$1,150
Nov-13	ANEP Tech Transfer Meeting	2	Mobile. AL	4	Air	\$600	\$2,708
12/15-17/13	SE Tidal Creek Workshop	1	Wilmington, NC	3	Air	\$125	\$1,018
1/9-11/2014	Everglades Coalition Meeting	1	Naples, FL	1	Auto	\$100	\$200
FY2014	Environmental Educational Workshops	1	Tampa, FL, and other cities	4	Auto	\$0	\$800
Feb-14	NEP/EPA Spring Mtg.	2	Washington, DC	5	Air	\$300	\$2,500
Spring 2014	Gulf of Mexico Program	2	MS	4 days	Air	\$0	\$1,600
Spring 2014	Social Media/Elearning	1	Orlando, FL	4 days	Auto	\$1,567	\$2,815
Spring 2014	Meet with Region 4 Staff	1	Atlanta, GA	3 days	Air	\$0	\$675
Jun-14	Florida Stormwater Association	1	Fort Myers, FL	3 days	Auto	\$250	\$250
FY 14	Local Travel	4	Various	<1 day	Auto	\$100	\$1,079
			Total				\$ 15,000

FY 13 Actual versus Adopted Expenses

Actual

Sub-Task #	Sub-Task	Personnel	Fringe	Indirect	Travel-	Supplies	Contracts	In-House Other	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference	\$81,618	\$35,786	\$66,459	\$5,750	\$3,642		\$20,572	\$213,827
2	Outreach	\$56,757	\$25,022	\$46,469	\$8,677	\$613	\$191,227	\$50	\$328,814
3	Research	\$49,425	\$21,790	\$40,466	\$1,571		\$273,429	\$80	\$386,761
4	Restoration	\$40,544	\$17,874	\$33,195	\$3,092			\$988	\$95,693
5	Legislation	\$6,369	\$6,819	\$1,203				\$4,500	\$18,891
	Total	\$234,712	\$107,290	\$187,793	\$19,090	\$4,255	\$464,656	\$26,190	\$1,043,985

Actual versus Adopted

Sub-Task #	Sub-Task	Personnel	Fringe	Indirect	Travel-	Supplies	Contracts	In-House Other	Total
1	Mgmt. Conference	\$3,482	\$1,414	\$3,641	\$4,250	\$3,608	\$0	(\$3,872)	\$12,523
2	Outreach	\$9,043	\$3,678	\$7,731	(\$6,177)	\$387	\$4,281	\$250	\$19,194
3	Research	(\$28,125)	(\$12,490)	(\$22,966)	(\$571)	\$50	\$318,633	\$170	\$254,701
4	Restoration	\$42,256	\$18,326	\$35,005	\$3,908	\$50	\$0	(\$988)	\$98,557
5	Legislation	\$2,031	\$17,991	\$5,697	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$26,719
	Total	\$28,688	\$28,920	\$29,107	\$1,910	\$4,095	\$322,915	(\$3,940)	\$411,695

- Personnel, fringe and indirect are over primarily because we had programmed funding to support RPC staff services, which were not used.
- Research is over and Restoration is under (on salaries, fringe, indirect and associated travel) primarily because early in the year, we were consumed with RESTORE Act planning. Later in the year, it switched more heavily to shoreline survey analysis, restoration monitoring and Tidal Creek research than anticipated.
- The Director approved Communications Manager Maran Hilgendorf attend the EPA Community Involvement Conference in Boston, Learning Solutions e-Learning Guild in Orlando and Customer Experience for Public Sector in Arlington VA. She was able to approve this since the GOMA and ANEP meetings were held locally and sufficient travel funding was available elsewhere in the budget.
- The \$988 deficit in restoration was from printing the Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan and contributions to hosting the meetings.
- Overages on the in-house other were off-set by funding available under supplies. Most of the Task 1 in-house overage is attributable to charges for copies made with SWFRPC copier.