



CHNEP Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday August 6th, 2026, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm
Centennial Park Recreation Center, Large Multipurpose Room
1120 Centennial Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33953

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call — Arielle Taylor-Manges, TAC Co-Chair
2. Agenda Additions & Deletions — Arielle Taylor-Manges, TAC Co-Chair
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items — Arielle Taylor-Manges, TAC Co-Chair
4. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Minutes — Arielle Taylor-Manges, TAC Co-Chair
5. CHNEP Update — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
6. Juvenile Sport Fish Study Preliminary Results and Protection Plan — Courtney Saari, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
7. Lemon Bay Watershed Plan Update — Jon Perry, Environmental Science Associates & Jennifer Shafer, Shafer Consulting
8. Wetland Evaluation Tool (WET) — Danielle Ivey, Audubon
9. TAC Membership Updates — Arielle Taylor-Manges, TAC Co-Chair
10. Public Comment — Arielle Taylor-Manges, TAC Co-Chair
11. Future Meeting's Topics, Location and Date — Arielle Taylor-Manges, TAC Co-Chair
 - Upcoming Dates: 12/3/26, 4/8/27, 8/5/27, 12/2/27
12. Adjourn — Arielle Taylor-Manges, TAC Co-Chair

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION

[Centennial Park Recreation Center, 1120 Centennial Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33953](#)



Coming from the North:

1. Take I-75 S to Sumter Blvd (exit 182) in North Port.
2. Follow Sumter Blvd for 8 miles to US Hwy 41 S, then Turn left onto US Hwy 41 S
3. Follow US Hwy 41 S for 4 miles to Centennial Blvd., then Turn right onto Centennial Blvd.
4. Follow Centennial Blvd. ½ mile down, turn **LEFT** into Centennial Park/Pool Parking Lot.
5. Check in at Front Desk and they will direct you to the Large Multipurpose Room

Coming from the South:

1. Take I-75 N to Kings Hwy in Charlotte County (exit 170)
2. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Kings Hwy (signs for Port Charlotte/Charlotte Sports Pk)
3. Follow for ½ mile, then Use the right 2 lanes to turn right onto Veterans Blvd.
4. Follow for 7 miles, the Turn right onto US Hwy 41 N
5. Follow for 2 miles, then Turn left onto Centennial Blvd.
6. Follow Centennial Blvd. ½ mile down, turn **LEFT** into Centennial Park/Pool Parking Lot.
7. Check in at Front Desk and they will direct you to the Large Multipurpose Room

CHNEP TAC meetings are in-person. If you are unable to attend in person or to arrange for an alternate do so, please email Keara Abel at kabel@chnep.org or call the CHNEP Office at (941) 833-6580.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

After TAC Co-Chair calls the meeting to order, members will introduce themselves.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

4. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

This item is to review, offer any potential revisions, and approve final meeting minutes from the previous April 9th, 2026 Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Recommendation: Approval of April 9, 2026 TAC Meeting Minutes.

Attachment: Draft April 9, 2026 TAC Meeting Minutes.

5. CHNEP UPDATE

The following represents organizational activities and technical project management highlights since the beginning of the previous Management Conference cycle to the beginning of this one.

Program Administration

- Planned and executed both Technical Advisory Committee meeting (4/9) and the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (4/22), including lining up presenters, drafting agenda packet, updating Committee webpage, creating PowerPoints, drafting minutes, etc.
- Planned May Management (5/8) and Policy (5/21) Committee meetings including lining up presenters, drafting agenda packets, and updating Committee webpages.
- Sent on-boarding materials to new Management Committee member, Shalina Odegard, representing the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority.
- Held an in-person site visit meeting with EPA Region 4 Wade Lehman, where we took him to meet with Arcadia City Manager to discuss CHNEP and the DeSoto County Adaptation Action Planning process that CHNEP is funding, as well as to Punta Gorda to meet CHNEP staff and discuss the CHNEP Water Atlas and observe the Tiki Point Living Shoreline project site.
- In June, CHNEP welcomed Sarah Jooste as the new Restoration Manager, who holds a Bachelor's and Master's in biology and worked in fisheries management in the Pacific Northwest before relocating to Port Charlotte.
- Planned and executed both the Management Committee meeting (5/8) and the Policy Committee meeting (5/28), including lining up presenters, drafting agenda packets, updating Committee webpages, creating PowerPoints, drafting minutes, etc.
- Management and Policy Committee minutes from last cycle were drafted. A special Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was held, relating to evaluating photo contest entries for the annual Calendar.

- The interlocal agreement with the Town of Fort Myers Beach was prepared, legally reviewed, and processed for approval and partial execution by the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners at their 6/23 meeting.

Finance and Grants Management

- Submitted FY26 FDEP SD017 Grant quarter 2 report and attachments.
- Submitted EPA CE-02D41625-0 Section 320 Midyear Progress Report and attachments.
- Submitted EPA 4T-02D42125-0 IIJA Midyear Progress Report and attachments.
- Prepared and submitted the FY27 EPA Grant Forms to the US EPA.
- Received FY26 IIJA award after Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners approved the agenda item at a recent BOCC meeting.
- Final CHNEP City and County dues checks were received and processed.
- Processed \$1,000 from Highlands County (as early FY27 contribution) and all private donations received through checks and PayPal.

Meetings that CHNEP staff attended

- FDEP SOPs for Water and Groundwater Sampling & Meter Testing Meeting (4/1)
- CHNEP Water Atlas Monthly Meeting (4/2)
- Charlotte D3 Discussion Meeting (4/3)
- CHNEP Technical Advisory Committee Co-Chair Prep Meeting (4/6)
- CHNEP-Manatee County Adaptation Action Project Monthly Meeting (4/7)
- Southwest Florida Regional Ambient Monitoring Program (SWF RAMP) Meeting (4/8)
- CHNEP Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (4/9)
- CHNEP-City of North Port Warm Mineral Springs Habitat Restoration Meeting (4/10)
- CHNEP-Hendry County Pollywog Creek Stabilization Project Meeting (4/10)
- Lee County SEASCAPES Project Team Meeting (4/10)
- Charlotte County Public Meeting Outline Discussion Meeting (4/10)
- Gulf Council Fort Myers Workshop Meeting (4/13)
- Lee County Adaptation Action Plan Focus Areas 15 & 16 Meeting (4/13)
- CHNEP-Glades County Adaptation Action Area Project Monthly Meeting (4/13)
- Lee County Pine Island Flatwoods Pre-Construction Site Visit/Project Meeting (4/14)
- Charlotte County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment Project Check-In Meeting (4/15)
- ANEP External Affairs Committee Meeting (4/15)
- Water Quality Trend Assessment Bid Evaluation Review Meeting (4/16)
- Water Quality Trend Assessment & Dashboard Tool Development Meeting (4/16)
- CHNEP-EPA-City of Arcadia Personnel Meeting (4/17)
- Myakka River Management Coordinating Council Meeting (4/17)
- CHNEP Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting (4/22)
- Charlotte County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment Project Check-In Meeting (4/23)
- CHNEP-Highlands Adaptation Action Area Project Monthly Meeting (4/23)
- Hendry County Pollywog Creek Scoping Meeting (4/24)
- CHNEP-Hardee Adaptation Action Area Project Monthly Meeting (4/24)
- CHNEP-DeSoto County Adaptation Action Area Project Monthly Meeting (4/27)
- Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners Monthly Meeting (4/28)
- ANEP Communications Working Group Meeting (4/28)
- Science & Environmental Council Board Meeting (4/28)
- Everglades West Coast BMAP Annual Meeting (4/28)
- RM – Negotiation Meeting RFP 26-162 Tiki Point Living Shoreline Design Meeting (4/29)

- CHNEP-Polk County Advanced Flood Modeling Monthly Meeting (4/29)
- Lee County Adaptation Action Plan Focus Areas 15 & 16 Meeting (4/29)
- CHNEP-Manatee County Adaptation Action Project Monthly Meeting (4/30)
- Charlotte County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment Project Check-In Meeting (4/30)
- Hendry County Pollywog Creek Project Scoping Meeting (5/1)
- DeSoto County Plan 1 Review Comments Meeting (5/1)
- EPA History of 320 and Lessons Learned Webinar (5/4)
- Hardee County Follow-Up AAA April Meeting (5/5)
- FDEP Quarterly Resiliency Forum (5/6)
- One Water Commission Monthly Meeting (5/6)
- CHNEP Water Atlas Meeting (5/7)
- Warm Mineral Springs Scoping Meeting (5/7)
- CHNEP Management Committee Meeting (5/8)
- Polk County Flood Modeling STAC & BOCC Prep Meeting (5/8)
- Lee County SEASCAPES Scoping Meeting (5/12)
- Manatee County Resiliency Project Discussion Meeting (5/12)
- Highlands County Adaptation Action Area Plan 2 Review Comments Meeting (5/12)
- CHNEP Quarter 2 – Quarterly Business Meeting (5/13)
- Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment Monthly Project Meeting (5/13)
- Pine Island Flatwoods Restoration Monthly Project Meeting (5/13)
- Lee County Adaptation Plan Focus Areas 15&16 Project Meeting (5/13)
- Hardee County Adaptation Action Areas Monthly Project Meeting (5/13)
- Yucca Pens Contract Negotiations Meeting (5/18)
- Water Quality Trend Dashboard Development Contract Negotiations Meeting (5/19)
- ANEP External Affairs Committee Meeting (5/20)
- Lee County SEASCAPES Project Scoping Meeting (5/21)
- Tiki Point Living Shoreline Contract Negotiation Meeting (5/21)
- Warm Mineral Springs Project Scoping Meeting (5/21)
- DeSoto County Adaptation Action Areas Plan 1 Meeting (5/21)
- Highlands County Adaptation Action Areas Plan 2 & 3 Meeting (5/21)
- Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment Public Meeting (5/21)
- Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment Monthly Project Meeting (5/22)
- ANEP Communications Working Group Meeting (5/26)
- Highlands County Adaptation Action Areas Meeting (5/26)
- Hardee County Adaptation Action Areas Meeting (5/27)
- CHNEP Policy Committee Meeting (5/28)
- CHNEP DeSoto County Adaptation Action Areas Meeting (5/28)
- AWRA Technical Meeting (5/29)
- Peace River Collaboration Working Group Meeting (6/2)
- Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment Monthly Project Meeting (6/2)
- Polk County Vulnerability Assessment Stormwater Technical Advisory Meeting (6/2)
- One Water Commission Monthly Meeting (6/2)
- Bivalve-Seagrass Restoration Consortium Meeting (6/5)
- Southwest Florida Ecosystem Restoration Team (SWERT) Meeting (6/10)
- Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative Quarterly Meeting (6/10)
- CHNEP Water Atlas Monthly Meeting (6/11)

- DeSoto County Adaptation Action Areas Monthly Meeting (6/16)
- Sportfish Coastal Ponds Working Group Quarterly Team Meeting (6/17)
- Assoc. of National Estuary Program External Affairs Committee Meeting (6/17)
- Manatee County Oyster Restoration Design Project Meeting (6/19)
- Pine Island Flatwoods Project Site Visit & Meeting (6/22)
- Lee County Adaptation 15 & 16 Focus Areas Planning Project Monthly Meeting (6/22)
- Highlands County Adaptation Action Areas Monthly Meeting (6/23)
- Tiki Point Living Shoreline Project Contract Review Meeting (6/23)
- Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners Meeting (6/23)
- Assoc. of National Estuary Program Communicators Network Meeting (6/23)
- Yucca Pens Hydrologic Restoration Contract Negotiations Meeting (6/23)
- Highlands County Adaptation Action Areas Monthly Meeting (6/23)
- South Florida Water Management District Resiliency Coordination Forum Meeting (6/24)
- Lemon Bay Watershed Planning Workshop Meeting (6/24)
- Lee County SEASCAPES Monthly Meeting (6/26)
- CHNEP Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting (6/25)
- Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment Project Meeting (6/26)
- Hardee County Adaptation Action Areas Monthly Meeting (6/26)
- Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve (EBAP) Meeting regarding algae data on Water Atlas (6/30)
- Tiki Point Living Shoreline Contract Negotiation Meeting (7/2)
- DeSoto Adaptation Action Areas Project Monthly Meeting (7/2)
- Glades County Adaptation Action Areas Project Bid Evaluation Meeting (7/7)
- EPA South FL Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (7/8)
- CHNEP Water Atlas Project Monthly Meeting (7/9)
- CHNEP Water Quality Trends Project Kick-off Meeting (7/9)
- Lee County Adaptation Focus Areas 15&16 Monthly Meeting (7/13)
- Manatee County Oyster Restoration Project Monthly Meeting (7/14)
- SFWMD Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting (7/14)
- SW FL Regional Ambient Monitoring Program (RAMP) Meeting (7/15)
- ANEP External Affairs Committee Meeting (7/15)
- SW FL Regional Planning Council Meeting (7/16)
- Highlands County Adaptation Action Area Plans Meeting (7/16)
- Hardee County Adaptation Action Area Plans Meeting (7/17)
- Lee County SEASCAPES Project Monthly Meeting (7/20)
- Charlotte Harbor Algae Workgroup Meeting (7/21)
- One Water Commission Monthly Meeting (7/21)

Presentations

- Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment public meeting where CHNEP presented about its funding and role in the project.
- Co-hosted and presented at the Peace River Collaborative Working Group alongside the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) on June 2, 2026. The mission of the working group is to develop joint regional projects and funding proposals for restoring the water quality and ecology of the Peace River basin, as well as improving the protection of the communities within it. Staff presented on the CHNEP Water Atlas waterbody and basin pages, specifically the [Peace River Basin page](#), as well as the Adaptation Action Area (AAA) projects currently ongoing in Hardee, DeSoto, and Polk Counties. CHNEP staff also

presented on the upcoming Peace River water quality trends and pollutant hotspot analysis projects.

- Presented to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners about the completed Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment – explaining CHNEP’s funding of and role in the project. The Board approved the final Vulnerability Assessment as presented.
- Presented to the Polk County Stormwater Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting about the completed Polk County Vulnerability Assessment Additional Modeling and Visualizations – explaining CHNEP’s funding of and role in the project. The STAC approved the final Vulnerability Assessment Additional Modeling and Visualizations as presented.

Publications and Outreach Initiatives

- Participated in the Keep Charlotte Beautiful [Greatest American Cleanup Event](#) where we helped set-up and distribute educational and clean-up materials to volunteers to collect debris around the Harbour Heights Park.
- Provided 500 Kids Activity Books, 750 English CCMP Brochures, 425 Spanish CCMP brochures and 75 nature calendars to be distributed to 740 students for the Hendry/Glades Audubon Society Earth Week event.
- Received and reviewed four Conservation Grant Applications for FY26 funding. Staff recommendations for funding and deliverables were presented to the CHNEP Citizens Advisory Committee for their input and award emails will be going out shortly.
- Social media posts to continue to foster engagement with our work related to environmental holidays included: [National Wildlife Week](#), [National Gopher Tortoise Day](#), and Earth Day.
- Uploaded the CHNEP co-authored [publication](#): “Knowledge Co-production to Inform Fish Habitat Conservation: A Case Study Highlighting Engagement With Local Government”.
- Launched the [2027 Annual Nature Calendar Photo Contest](#) on a number of platforms, including [Constant Contact](#) and [Facebook](#). Flyers were also shared with county libraries within the CHNEP service area and on Instagram as well. Reviewed and edited the 2027 Nature Calendar scope and put into procurement with Charlotte County. Organized submissions for CHNEP Annual Calendar photo contest entries, including filtering through to remove low quality ones and move remaining into appropriate categories.
- Sent emails outlining award amount and expected deliverables to Calusa Waterkeeper and Future Forestry as their projects were selected for the remaining FY26 Conservation Grant funding.
- Sent application materials and CHNEP CCMP summary to a prospective Citizens Advisory Candidate, Tracy Mason, who is hoping to join and represent Manatee County.
- Posted on [Instagram](#) and Facebook for Endangered Species Day, highlighting the Florida Scrub Jay and the work CHNEP and partners are doing to help conserve this species. The post also recognized the photographers who help us educate our community by submitting their nature photographs for our use, encouraging more to submit for our 2027 photo contest.
- Sent personal email invitations to local partners to attend the public meeting hosted by Charlotte County and CHNEP to present the draft Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment and encourage public comment to further community resiliency. Also reposted [Charlotte County Facebook](#) posts advertising the event and shared the story on EcoBeat to connect local reporters with the event.
- Designed a proof for an educational interpretive sign for the Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve project in partnership with Lee County. The final sign will highlight the major

accomplishments towards restoration on the preserve, fun facts about the area to entice readers, and before and after aerial imagery to provide visuals

- Created monthly newsletters to highlight upcoming volunteering and learning events for each month in the CHNEP area.
- Started prepping for the 2026 Southwest Florida Resiliency Summit by sending out a call for abstracts, as well as designing [save the date flyers](#) to distribute at a resiliency forum.
- Created an Ecobeat post to highlight partnership and collaboration between CHNEP and Lee County for restoration efforts on Pine Island.
- Created social media posts about a site visit to Pine Island Flatwoods to see the progress of a current restoration project as well as staff attending a resiliency forum to share best practices on advancing resiliency planning.

Digital Outreach Insights/Media

- Uploaded the “Sea life: It’s all about real estate” [article](#) that highlights sea life in Charlotte Harbor and the work that a member of our Citizens Advisory Committee is spearheading in our community.
- Updated the [Funding Opportunities Factsheet](#) with recent large state and federal funding opportunities of interest.
- Updated the [2025 CCHMN Field Sampling QAPP](#) and [2025 CCHMN Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#) on the Resources page on the CHNEP.org website. Uploaded the EPA-approved [2025 CCHMN Field Sampling QAPP & SOPs](#) on the [CCHMN webpage](#).
- Created a button in the header of the website to direct all traffic to the 2027 Photo Contest page and to encourage people to submit their photos.
- Updated the Southwest Florida [Resiliency Summit page](#) with the finalized dates and information for the upcoming summit, and added a “Call for Abstracts” button at the top of the website to attract users to navigate to summit page and submit an abstract for the Summit.

Outreach Metrics

- 5,342 subscribers for CHNEP educational mailings
- 1,961 unique visitors and 2,608 page views of CHNEP website since last cycle
- 20 new Instagram followers for a total of 661
- 20 new Facebook followers for a total of 2,098
- YouTube: 20,231 views, 122 subscribers, and 370 videos

In addition to the items featured earlier on the agenda, below are research and/or restoration projects recently completed or currently underway with CHNEP EPA IJA FY22-25, EPA 320 FY22-25, and EPA 320 FY26 funds. A brief overview will be given on project progress since the previous TAC meeting. Project fact sheets are available on the CHNEP website:

<https://www.chnep.org/resources>.

Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network (CCHMN)

- Finalized and issued Purchase Order for FY27 Lower CCHMN sampling to Lee County.
- Quarter 3 Lower CCHMN sampling complete. Received Q3 report and data sheets and processed invoice.
- Annual CCHMN audits underway and Annual CCHMN meeting scheduled for July 30th.

CHNEP Water Atlas Maintenance and Improvements

- Held monthly project meetings. Finalized and issued Purchase Order for FY27 Water Atlas Maintenance and Improvements work to University of South Florida.
- Improvements included fixing red tide current status on maps, provided Charlotte Aquatic Presenter 2020-2026 macroalgae data to be added to seagrass pages, provided Hardee, DeSoto, and Polk Adaptation Action Area GIS files for uploading to resiliency maps, provided Lee County Pond Watch data to be included on their public Atlas page, added missing SFWMD seagrass transects, etc.

Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment

- Held monthly project meetings.
- Reviewed and approved the Exposure & Sensitivity Technical Memo, as well as the Adaptation Focus Areas Identification Memorandum.
- Reviewed presentations and co-presented to the Board of County Commissioners at the end of June, who approved and accepted Final Vulnerability Assessment Report. The Report has been transmitted to the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection.
- Working on final project close out and invoicing currently.

Polk County Vulnerability Assessment Additional Flood Modeling

- Finalized flood modeling and flood visualizations of some strategic vulnerable assets. Presented results and visualizations to Polk County Stormwater Technical Committee, which approved the final deliverables.
- Working on final project close out and invoicing currently.

Highlands County Adaptation Action Area (AAA) Plans

- Finalized three AAA plans for the top ranked AAA areas with the highest amount of vulnerable assets. Each plan provided specific projects, descriptions, conceptual designs, and cost estimates for reducing risks and vulnerabilities to those assets.
- Final AAA plans will be presented to Board of County Commissioners on August 18th for their approval. The draft presentation was reviewed and is being finalized. Afterwards, the project will be closed out and invoices paid out.

DeSoto County Adaptation Action Area (AAA) Plans

- Finalized three AAA plans for the top ranked AAA areas with the highest amount of vulnerable assets. Each plan provided specific projects, descriptions, conceptual designs, and cost estimates for reducing risks and vulnerabilities to those assets.
- Final AAA plans will be presented to Board of County Commissioners on August 11th for their approval. The draft presentation was reviewed and is being finalized. Afterwards, the project will be closed out and invoices paid out.

Hardee County Adaptation Action Area (AAA) Plans

- Finalized three AAA plans for the top ranked AAA areas with the highest amount of vulnerable assets. Each plan provided specific projects, descriptions, conceptual designs, and cost estimates for reducing risks and vulnerabilities to those assets.
- Final AAA plans will be presented to Board of County Commissioners on August 20th for their approval. The draft presentation was reviewed and is being finalized. Afterwards, the project will be closed out and invoices paid out.

Sarasota County Adaptation Action Area (AAA) Plans

- Finalized work assignment with Sarasota County who will procure a contractor to do this project, with project management by CHNEP and County.

- Currently in contract negotiations and expect contract to be finished and kick-off meeting to occur in late July.

Manatee County Oyster Restoration Project

- This project (formerly AAA project but now to implement an adaptation strategy to restore oyster reefs along vulnerable shorelines) is proceeding, in starting with design and permit application preparation.
- The Interlocal Agreement between CHNEP/Charlotte County and Manatee County planned to be executed and work assignment to County to be done in next couple months. Meanwhile, monthly scoping meetings with County staff are occurring to finalize the contractor scope of work for Manatee to procure a contractor using its federalized engineering library.

Glades County Adaptation Action Area (AAA) Plans

- Finalized RFP, went out for bid, evaluated bids, and selected proposed contractor that is now going to Charlotte County as CHNEP's host for approval (since they enter into contracts on CHNEP's behalf).
- In next couple months, contract negotiations will take place to finalize contract so project can commence.

Water Quality Trend Assessment and Dashboard Tool (fact sheet in development)

- Finalized contract negotiations and held kick-off meeting

Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve Wetland Enhancement Project

- This restoration project to restore old shrimp ponds into restored tidal wetlands commenced and the construction phase was completed since last cycle. Held post-construction site visit meeting to inspect work.
- Currently working on interpretative educational signage to be designed, fabricated, and installed on site. Once that occurs, the project will be closed out and invoices paid out.

Tiki Point Living Shoreline Project

- Finished protracted contract negotiations and was able to finish contract, which is now going to Charlotte County as CHNEP's host for approval (since they enter into CHNEP project contracts on CHNEP's behalf).
- In the next couple months once contract is approved, design and permit application preparation for this living shoreline project will commence.

Yucca Pens Hydrological Restoration Project Phase I

- Currently in contract negotiations with selected bidder to finalize contract.
- In the next couple months once contract is approved, modeling and design of this hydrological restoration project will commence.

Lee County SEASCAPES Project

- Interlocal agreement executed and work assignment/notice to proceed issued to City of Cape Coral to begin work.
- City has initiated procurement to hire contractor and has begun planning an outreach event in next month or two once the project commences.

Sarasota County Warm Mineral Springs Habitat Restoration Initiative

- Interlocal agreement executed and work assignment/notice to proceed issued to City of North Port to begin work.
- City of North Port is now beginning procurement process to select contractor to undertake work.

Polk County Lake Idyl Sediment Inactivation Project

- Initial project planning scheduled, where procurement and project management decisions will be made that will determine if interlocal agreement and work assignment are needed (likely to be the case if Polk wants to procure and project manage directly).

Charlotte County Exceptional Ponds Initiative Project

- Initial project planning scheduled, where procurement and project management decisions will be made that will determine if memorandum of understanding is needed (likely to be the case if Charlotte wants to procure and project manage directly).

Hardee Lakes Park Habitat Enhancement & Conservation Initiative

- Initial project planning scheduled, where procurement and project management decisions will be made that will determine if interlocal agreement and work assignment are needed (or if Hardee wants us to procure and project manage with them).

Lee County Adaptation Plan Focus Areas 15 & 16 Stormwater Planning

- Interlocal agreement partially executed and sent to the Town of Fort Myers Beach for full execution.
- In next couple months, work assignment and NTP will be issued to Town who will use their procurement process to hire contractor and begin work.

Hendry County Pollywog Creek Stabilization

- Requests for Letters of Intent and scope prepared and now going out to Charlotte County/CHNEP engineering library for responses to procure contractor.
- Once contractor is selected, project will commence.

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

6. JUVENILE SPORT FISH STUDY PRELIMINARY RESULTS AND PROTECTION PLAN

This presentation will be the preliminary results from co-production efforts to protect and conserve snook and tarpon nursery habitat in Charlotte Harbor. This collaborative work is funded by NOAA's RESTORE Science Program. To ensure the sustainability of Charlotte Harbor's valuable snook and tarpon fisheries, the project team has taken a multi-faceted approach to better document the essential nursery habitats for these two iconic fish. A local habitat evolution model has been completed, juvenile fisheries monitoring efforts and stormwater modeling are underway, and a habitat risk assessment is being conducted. Data from these efforts are being incorporated into a GIS-based tool that will be used to prioritize locations for restoration, conservation, and land-use planning.

For more information, visit the project websites: <https://chnep.wateratlas.usf.edu/fishery-conservation/> and <https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/projects/recreational-fishery-habitat-conservation>

Courtney Saari, Research Administrator II of the Fisheries-Independent Monitoring program at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, will be presenting on this item.

7. LEMON BAY WATERSHED PLAN UPDATE

During 2025–2026, Sarasota County Stormwater partnered with consultants from Environmental Science Associated (ESA), Jones Edmunds and Associates (JEA), and Shafer Consulting to update the County’s Lemon Bay Watershed Management Plan. The consultant team modeled flooding and water quality Level of Service deficiencies in the Lemon Bay Watershed, prioritized hotspot areas, and developed potential capital improvement project concepts on County-owned land to mitigate issues. During development of the Update, Community Workshops shared project goals, objectives, progress, and findings with the public. Workshop participants provided valuable input to the consultant team and engaged in productive feedback and discussion. Once final project concepts were developed, Neighborhood Workshops provided details to neighborhoods where projects were recommended.

Community Workshop agendas, minutes, and presentation side decks, as well as the Neighborhood Workshop slide deck are available on the project’s webpage:

<https://www.scgov.net/government/stormwater/watersheds/lemon-bay-watershed-management-plan>

Jon Perry, Environmental Scientist V with Environmental Science Associates, & Dr. Jennifer Shafer, President of Shafer Consulting will be presenting on this item.

8. WETLAND EVALUATION TOOL (WET)

Rapid growth in Central and South Florida is increasing pressure on water supplies, natural habitats, and communities already vulnerable to flooding. Conserving and restoring historic wetland hydrology can provide additional water storage during wet periods, reduce chronic flooding, and retain water longer into Florida’s dry season. These projects can also improve habitat, reduce pressure on existing infrastructure, and lessen harmful downstream flows to rivers and estuaries. For municipalities, they offer a nature-based approach to flood resilience, water management, and long-term planning.

To support this work, Audubon has developed the Wetland Evaluation Tool (WET), a GIS-based platform designed to help identify the most promising sites for surface water storage and hydrologic restoration. Whether in urbanized landscapes or on private lands, WET supports decision-making by highlighting locations where public-private partnerships can deliver multiple benefits such as water retention, improved habitat, and eligibility for cost-share or Payment for Environmental Services (PES) programs.

The current WET footprint covers the headwaters and upper portion of the Peace River basin in the Central Florida Water Initiative region and efforts are underway to expand into Southwest Florida. This presentation will explore how Audubon is leveraging WET to build public-private partnerships and advance smart, site-specific conservation in rapidly developing regions that include portions of the Charlotte Harbor watershed and estuary.

Danielle Ivey, Wetland Restoration Specialist with Audubon Florida, will be presenting this item.

9. TAC MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Each member will have time to update the Committee on research or restoration projects currently underway or recently completed related to clean water and natural resources in the CHNEP area.

TAC Co-Chair Arielle Taylor-Manges will be leading and facilitating this discussion.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Each participating member of the public is afforded up to 3 minutes total to give comment.

11. FUTURE MEETING'S TOPICS, LOCATION AND DATE

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming CHNEP TAC Meeting dates: 12/3/26, 4/8/27, 8/5/27, and 12/2/27

12. ADJOURN