



## **CHNEP Policy Committee Meeting**

Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Punta Gorda Charlotte Library

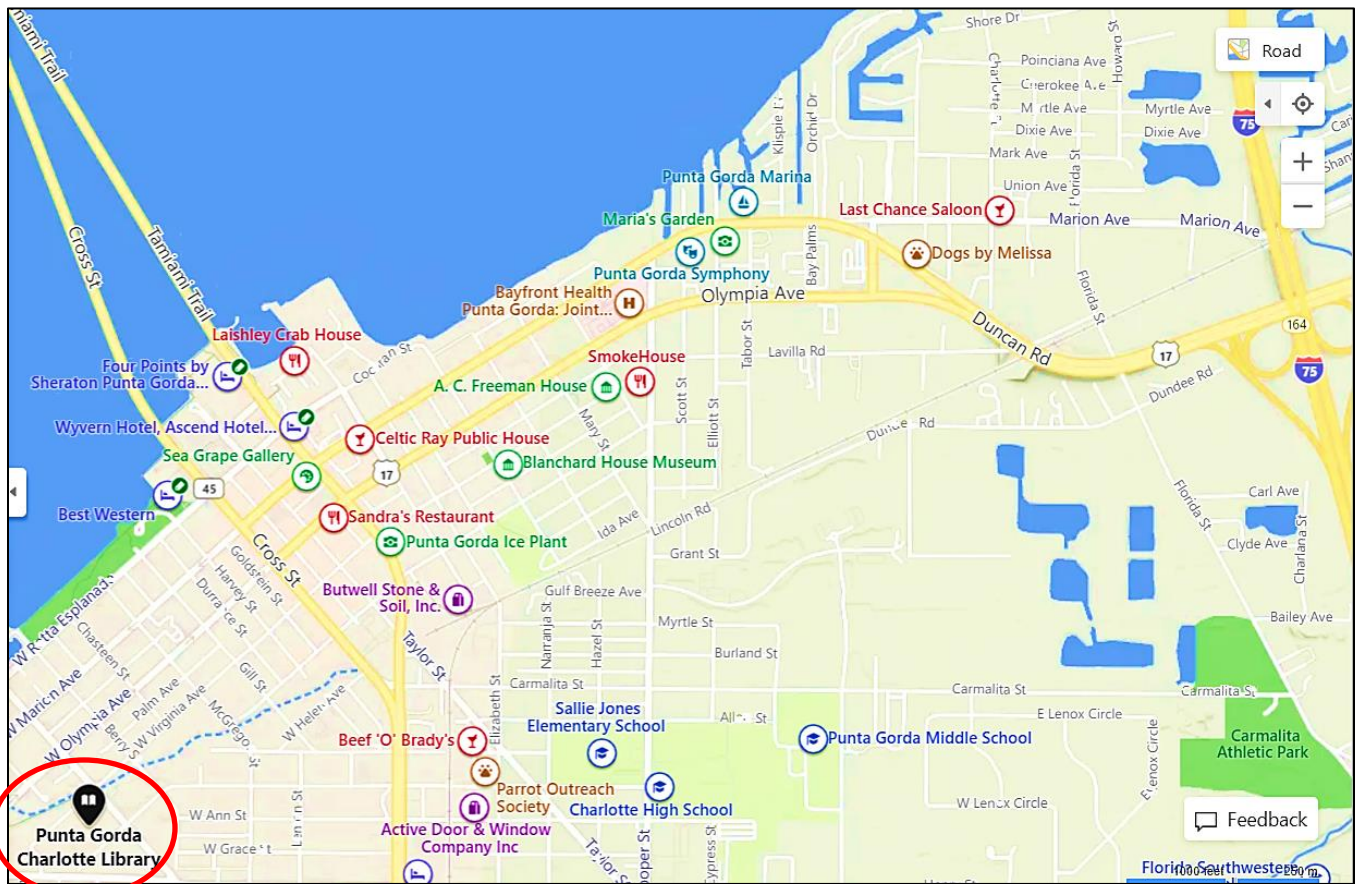
401 Shreve St., Punta Gorda, FL 83950

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order and Introductions — Brian Smith, Co-Chair
2. Agenda Additions or Deletions — Brian Smith, Co-Chair
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items — Brian Smith, Co-Chair
4. Management Committee Report — David Hutchinson, Management Committee Co-Chair
5. CHNEP Update — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
6. Consent Agenda — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
  - a. Policy Committee September 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes
  - b. CAC New Committee Applicant Phyl Wojcik
  - c. Amended FY2023 Work Plan & Budget
7. Hurricane Ian CHNEP and Partner Response Overview — Nicole Iadevaia, CHNEP
8. Post-hurricane Ian Water Quality Dashboard Presentation — Dr. Miles Medina, UF Center for Coastal Solutions
9. Hurricane Recovery Discussion with the Federal Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC) Team — Brian Smith, Co-Chair, Rick Durbrow, USEPA and other IRC Team Members
10. The Effect of Climate Change on Hurricane Ian — Michael Wehner, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
11. CHNEP Technical Projects Updates and New Tools— Nicole Iadevaia, CHNEP
12. Policy Committee Member Updates — Brian Smith, Co-Chair
13. Public Comment — Brian Smith, Interim Co-Chair
14. Future Meeting Dates and Topics — Brian Smith, Co-Chair  
Upcoming Dates for 2023: May 25, 2023 and September 21, 2023
15. Adjourn — Brian Smith, Interim Co-Chair

## DIRECTIONS TO OUR MEETING LOCATION

PUNTA GORDA CHARLOTTE LIBRARY, 401 SHREVE ST., PUNTA GORDA, FL 83950



Coming from the North:

1. Take I-75 S to Exit 164, head onto ramp for US-17 towards Arcadia/Punta Gorda
2. Turn left onto US-17 S/ Duncan Road
3. Turn left onto US-41 S / FL-45/ Cross Street
4. Turn right onto W. Virginia Street.
5. Turn left onto Shreve Street, with Library on your right

Coming from the South:

1. Take I-75 N to Exit 164, head onto ramp for US-17 towards Arcadia/Punta Gorda
2. Turn left onto US-17 S/ Duncan Road
3. Turn left onto US-41 S / FL-45/ Cross Street
4. Turn right onto W. Virginia Street.
5. Turn left onto Shreve Street, with Library on your right

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**If not able to attend in person, the Zoom meeting link is below:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85267499783?pwd=VitjcG9naTM1SEo3Z05yNXkzSHFjUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 852 6749 9783

**Passcode:** 061927

**Call in Number:** +13052241968,,85267499783#,,,\*061927# US

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The CHNEP Policy Committee Co-Chair will call the meeting to order and then members will introduce themselves, followed by CHNEP staff and any members of the public who are participating.

## **2. AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS**

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

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

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

## **4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Management Committee heard the CHNEP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) report on highlights of the December meeting, many important technical presentations and discussions were held. Presentation topics included the Charlotte County Water Quality Plan, Coastal Acidification Research and Education Efforts, Hurricane Ian response and recovery as well as the CHNEP website landing page, and updates to the Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network (CCHMN) Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance Project Plan. The Management Committee also heard the CHNEP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) report on the highlights of the December meeting, which included many important community outreach discussions and presentations: new format for Conservation Grant Applications, Coastal Acidification Stakeholder Outreach Efforts, and outreach related to the CHNEP Hurricane Ian landing page. There was also presentation and discussion on the planning of the upcoming 2023 Southwest Florida Climate Summit and Watershed Summit Planning and how Committee members can participate in building these important environmental education and outreach events. The CHNEP Program Update was given, highlighting accomplishments since last cycle, which will also be given to the Policy Committee.

Following the committee reports, the Management Committee held Co-Chair elections - electing two new Co-Chairs, Claire Jubb from Charlotte County, and David Hutchinson for the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The Committee was then briefed on the Amended FY23 Work Plan & Budget, an item coming before the Policy Committee for approval. Management Committee members inquired about the changes in fringe benefits and expressed an understanding for the proposed changes needing to be made in response to the host change. Overall, the Management Committee unanimously recommended that Policy Committee approve the Amended FY23 Work Plan & Budget as proposed.

The Committee then heard a series of presentations coming before the Policy Committee this cycle. First, they were given an overview on Hurricane Ian impacts, lessons learned, and partner recovery efforts and a preview of the CHNEP Hurricane Ian landing page. Discussion related to this topic was focused on the need for better coordination between emergency managers and water quality scientists and resource managers to include environmental water quality monitoring in the response and recovery plans as it also has human health impacts for those out in the environment following a storm event. Committee members also discussed the importance and difficulty of educating the public about what was in the water. Additionally, the Committee heard an overview of the post-

Hurricane Ian water quality dashboard tool and key insights derived from it, which was presented by Dr. Miles Medina with the UF Center for Coastal Solutions. They discussed further developing the dashboard in the future to map scheduled sampling trips to facilitate coordination with partners and identify monitoring gaps. Next, Committee members shared the challenges they are facing with Hurricane Ian recovery and heard from the federal government Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC) team about what the federal government can be doing to further assist them in filling community identified gaps to recovery. Discussion was focused on the challenges and lack of funding for debris removal projects. Committee members also discussed opportunities for beach renourishment and large-scale restoration projects, as well as the need to streamline the federal permitting process for restoration and recovery-related projects. Finally, the Committee heard a presentation by Dr. Michael Wehner, Senior Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, on the effect of climate change on Hurricane Ian. They discussed the importance of understanding that climate factors are causing storms and rainfall to become more extreme and how this information should be used to inform stormwater management planning.

Concluding the meeting, the Management Committee heard the CHNEP Program and Technical Project update presentations that are also coming before the Policy Committee today and shared updates with each other on their respective natural resource related activities and projects.

## 5. CHNEP UPDATE

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

### Program Administration

- CHNEP staff and partners continue recovery efforts from Hurricane Ian, which made landfall in Southwest Florida on 9/28 as a Category 4 hurricane. Multiple estuaries and watersheds within CHNEP area were severely impacted. CHNEP spent time at the end of September and beginning of October putting together an emergency Water Quality task force for event sampling to aid public safety efforts and information gathering and dissemination- creating a spreadsheet to coordinate where data was being collected and where data gaps existed (Note: many partners had damage to offices and equipment and were without power for up to a month afterward.) CHNEP staff also participated in [sampling efforts](#) to as an additional service to our partners. We were interviewed in the [Washington Post](#) and [Business Insider](#) regarding the hurricane and recovery efforts.
- CHNEP transferred to new fiscal host Charlotte County on October 1. Many aspects of the host transition logistics have been affected by Hurricane Ian, as both the previous fiscal host City of Punta Gorda and new host Charlotte County operations were in the landfall direct impact zone. Despite these difficulties, CHNEP, City and County staff are continuing to push forward host transfer tasks; creating the operational frameworks needed including creating new account and project codes, inputting EPA 320 and BIL grants through County grant approval process and submitting them on Grants.gov, getting all personnel set up as County employees in County systems, etc.
- The [Washington Post](#) conducted a follow up interview with CHNEP regarding the long term impacts an event like this may have on water quality.

- Planned and executed both the CHNEP Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen’s Advisory Committee meetings in August as well as the Policy Committee and Policy Committee meetings in September. At the September meeting, the CHNEP Policy Committee Meeting approved new CHNEP host Charlotte County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as well as approved the amended work plan and budget for FY22 and FY23 work plans and budgets.
- Created 2022 Federal Funding Opportunities Funding Fact Sheet (<https://www.chnep.org/federal-funding>) to distribute to stakeholders, community members, and anyone who can benefit from current funding opportunities.
- Two CHNEP abstracts for the 2022 Florida Resiliency Conference were accepted.
- Provided letters of support for the following projects and funding opportunities: 1) EPA Region 4 2022 South Florida Program application “Refining a Habitat Suitability Index model for hard clam and seagrass co-restoration in the Charlotte Harbor and Caloosahatchee River Estuaries”, submitted by the Florida Gulf Coast University for the 2022 South Florida Program Funding Opportunity (Number: EPA-I-R4-SFL-2022-01); 2) South Florida Program application titled “Machine Learning, Hydrodynamic and Ecological Models, and in situ Validation to Prioritize Oyster Restoration in the Caloosahatchee Estuary” submitted by the South Florida Water Policy District (SFWMD) for the 2022 South Florida Program Funding Opportunity (Number: EPA-I-R4-SFL-2022-01); and 3) Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Observing Network Project application submitted by Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), to be considered for a 2023 South Florida Geographic Program Grant provided through the Region 4.
- Finished gathering partner data for 2022 NEPORT Congressional Reporting Survey to report on their annual conservation, Policy, and restoration accomplishments. This was uploaded into the EPA portal by CHNEP staff in September and included over 75 habitat entries.

#### Finance and Grant Policy

- Drafted and submitted FY23 EPA BIL FY22 & FY23 application in grants.gov.
- Worked with County fiscal staff to input County financial coding (ledger and project strings) into CHNEP’s spreadsheet of budget details by account for FY23.
- Received and reviewed 6 Conservation Grant Applications for the FY23 program, presented all 6 to the CAC presentation on 8/24 with a recommendation to grant a total of \$10,200 for 4 of the projects.
- Reviewed final reports and deliverables for Conservation Grants due to be completed on or before September 30, 2022 and submitted requests for payment from the City for a total of \$12,690 in reimbursements.
- Processed all final FY22 invoices (e.g., FWC, WSA, Lee County, Direct Impressions, Calusa Waterkeepers, etc.) and submitted a final list of Purchase Order activities and final balances to the City.
- Drafted a tool to calculate staffing costs by project code (e.g., CHEPA1, CHEPA2, CHSWF3, CHSWF4, etc.) to reconcile hours to County’s new fixed cost allocation system and ensure CHNEP has hourly and cost details required for reimbursement requests.
- Finalized Boater Grant 4th Quarter Report, coded all receipts, and submitted for reimbursement on 10/7/2022.

- Prepared required City board documents for council to approve SWFWMD assignment of agreements from City to County.
- Drafted and submitted for review the drafts of SWFWMD 4th Quarter Reports for FY2019, FY2021, and FY2022 (FY2020 is closed).
- Reviewed and approved final bid for Calendar printing.
- Prepared statement of donations (checks and PayPal) and submitted first deposit request to County. Also, closed out PayPal account with City and opened one with County.
- Completed Purchase Requisition and PCard training and started purchasing necessary supplies and equipment for new office.
- Input financial information into the finance tables for the EPA Sec 320 End of Year Report, which was submitted on October 31, 2022.
- Drafted and assigned agreements to new host by working with our partners, the City of Punta Gorda, and Charlotte County. The agreements were uploaded on 8/31 for Charlotte County's 9/13 commission meeting.
- Developed budget files to understand year-to-date balances in the City's accounting system and created spreadsheets to track Purchase Order payments and outstanding balances as required for Fiscal Year 2022 closing and the host transition.
- Input requisitions into the City's procurement process for Harbor Happenings, Kids Activity, 2023 Calendar, and other projects that need completed by end of the Fiscal year 2022.
- Paid fall sponsorship invoices.
- Attended four grant webinars (9/7, 9/13, 9/20, 9/22) about grants.gov, grant preparation, and grant compliance.
- Compiled a summary report for the EPA by 9/15 highlighting activities completed the last 6 months of FY22.
- Drafted Boater Grant 4th Quarter Report and coded all receipts to be submitted for reimbursement with the report.
- Other monthly activities, such as payroll, PCard coding and reporting, and invoice payments, as well as prepping annual and monthly subscriptions so they can be transferred from the City to the County's payment systems.

Regional and multi-jurisdictional organizational meetings CHNEP staff participated in

- Hosted CHNEP Fall Policy Committee Mtgs. (4)
- ANEP External Affairs Committee Meetings
- ANEP Directors Meeting
- ANEP Executive Committee Meetings
- Blue-Green Algae Task Force Meeting
- CHNEP/Charlotte County/City of Punta Gorda Meetings to discuss host change
- Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrological Modeling Project Meetings
- Community Water Quality Webinar
- Resilient Florida Program Meeting
- CHNEP Water Atlas Meetings with USF

- CHNEP Water Atlas/UF Center for Coastal Solutions Data Analysis Meetings
- CHNEP/NOAA Meeting to discuss CHNEP Policy Committee/Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding
- Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network (CCHMN) Annual Meeting and Audits
- CHNEP Meeting to discuss Climate Change Resiliency/Vulnerability Assessments
- SFWMD Science Coordination Group and Working Group
- Peace River Audubon Society Meeting
- Paddle the Gulf Monthly Meetings
- CHNEP/FSU FCRC Consensus Center Meeting
- CHNEP Coastal Purchasing Discussion for FY23
- Florida Climate Week 2022
- Post Hurricane Ian Southwest Florida Water Quality Sampling Coordination Meetings
- EPA NEP Environmental Justice (EJ) Workgroup/Community of Practice
- EPA NEP Environmental Justice (EJ) Forum
- CHNEP/UF Hydrology Monitoring Meeting
- SWFL Regional Ambient Monitoring Program Meeting
- Restoration Aquaculture Workshop
- CHNEP/SFWMD Meeting to discuss FY19 No Cost Extension Amendment
- SOCAN Stakeholder Working Group Call
- SEC Member CEOs Meeting
- SFWMD's Water Resources Forum Webinar
- Florida NEP and Florida Chief Resiliency Officer Resiliency Dinner

#### CHNEP staff presentations

- CHNEP staff recorded a presentation on moving water to restore rivers and wetlands for the Florida Climate Week 2022 virtual conference.
- Staff also prepared two poster presentations on both the Habitat Restoration Needs Project as well as CHNEP Hydrological Restoration Planning Projects at the Restore America's Estuary Conference.

#### Publications and Outreach Events

- Attended the [Sustainable Communities Workshop](#) in Sarasota County to distribute CHNEP publications.
- Posted regularly to [social media](#) to inform the public of CHNEP's efforts to collect and analyze water quality data post Hurricane Ian, as well as posted for International Sawfish Day with facts and images specific to the CHNEP area.
- Updated [CHNEP Factsheets](#) with updated project information and the new CHNEP address and phone number and uploaded to the CHNEP Website.
- [CHNEP 2023 Nature Calendar](#) design was completed and went to printer, though unfortunately delayed several weeks due to Hurricane Ian affecting print company located in Fort Myers, FL. 30,000 copies will be sent out to all individual subscribers, as well as shipments and deliveries to numerous counties. Copies printed and mailed in December in time for the New Year. The educational Harbor Happenings insert in this year's calendar features information about the blue carbon and the important role that natural systems such as seagrass meadows, mangroves, and

salt marsh play. Staff has been working on the project since April to gather and vet volunteer photos and to design, print, and mail this annual centerpiece of CHNEP outreach.

- Attended the Restoration Aquaculture Workshop hosted by UF/IFAS at Tampa Bay Watch in St. Petersburg. During this workshop, CHNEP staff met with stakeholders throughout Florida to discuss restoration aquaculture and its growing role in Florida as a tool to improve water quality focusing on existing data gaps, as well as legal challenges around the expansion of restoration aquaculture, including permitting and policy. The workshop included speakers and discussions to establish a statewide “community of practice” to develop the knowledge base and provide the opportunity to form collaborations that may assist future policy framework for restoration aquaculture.
- Attended the [7 Rivers Water Festival](#) in Winter Haven in Polk County to distribute CHNEP publications and provided kids with hands-on marine animal themed art activities.
- Hosted an educational [Microplastics Event](#) for thirty registered participants to educate on what microplastics are, their impact on the environment, and how to reduce them. The event featured a hands-on activity where participants created a plastic wrap alternative with bee’s wax for home use, as well as a Coastal Clean Up in Punta Gorda at the Ponce de Leon Park.
- Posted daily to [social media](#) for Estuaries Week with custom designed facts and images specific to the CHNEP with the ANEP hashtags #EstuariesWeek, #NationalEstuariesWeek, and #WadeIn. Shared out these designs and links to the ANEP communications group.
- Created four new education outreach banners on Mangroves, Seagrasses, Birds of Florida, and Florida Friendly Landscaping for outreach events.
- Participated in a [community planting project](#) with a local non-profit tree group in North Port to create a Florida Friendly garden at the local Art Center along with the Florida Native Plant Society and North Port High School. CHNEP also provided educational brochures, marketing materials and literature during the event and was given a static location inside the Art Center for materials to stay year-round for distribution to the public.
- Attended the [Hardee County Wildcat Tailgate Event](#) in the city of Wauchula and distributed educational publications, environmental posters, and marketing items while engaging citizens in dialogue about the mission of the organization. Multiple new volunteers and or interested citizens and other non-profit organizations signed up to receive more information about partnering with the CHNEP. A social media post to both Facebook and Instagram documented the event.
- Hosted a [Citizen Scientist training](#) in cooperation with the FWC on the Horseshoe Monitoring Program with twenty-two registered attendees for the three-hour Saturday workshop held at the Laishley Community Room in Punta Gorda on August 20th from 9:00am-12:00pm. Participants engaged in an informational PowerPoint presentation and hands-on training stations to learn how to complete field data on horseshoe crabs including: weight, gender, size, spawning habits, and tagging procedures. The CHNEP also provided attendees with programmatic materials and educational publications.
- Completed design of [Spring/Summer edition](#) of the Harbor Happenings magazine with printing and distribution to 6,000 direct households via the subscription list as well as drop shipments to the ten libraries in each county CHNEP services. The PDF version was placed online.



## Outreach analytics

- 5,969 subscribers for CHNEP educational mailings.
- 1,706 unique visitors and 2,471 page visits to CHNEP website.
- 339 new Instagram followers (480 total followers)
- 127 new Facebook followers (1,877 followers)
- 74 new Facebook Likes (1,566 total likes)
- 4,791 YouTube Views/45 New Subscribers

## Media/Press

- [11/2 After Ian, Florida's waterways could remain polluted for months](#)
- [10/5 Hurricane Ian Hit Southwest Florida - Business Insider](#)
- [9/30 Researchers Collect Samples Post Hurricane - Sanibel Captiva Insider](#)
- [9/30 Hurricane Ian Leaves Environmental Hazards - Washington Post](#)

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

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda for this meeting contains the following items:

### **a. POLICY COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

This item is to review, offer any potential revisions, and approve final meeting minutes from the previous September 22, 2022 Policy Committee meeting.

### **b. CAC NEW COMMITTEE APPLICANT PHYL WOJCIK**

The CHNEP CAC meeting had a virtual introduction from Ms. Wojcik at their meeting last month. Phyl Wojcik has applied to fill a vacant Charlotte County seat, for consideration by the Policy Committee for appointment at this meeting. She is a retired high school environmental science teacher and has been involved in several CHNEP events including the earth echo water challenge, seagrass and horseshoe crab monitoring, and Earth Day cleanups. Other volunteer activities include her work on the burrowing owl survey in Cape Coral and as a park interpreter at Manatee Park. Phyl is currently the vice-president and co-founder of Heal Our Harbor, a 501c3 organization dedicated to the improvement and protection of the Charlotte Harbor watershed. Mrs. Wojcik brings a lifetime of experience and dedication to the environmental and life sciences. She has worked in zoos, veterinarian practices, primatology labs, and field ecology over a period of 2 decades. For 23 years, Phyl taught high school specializing in environmental sciences and forensics.

### **c. AMENDED FY2023 WORK PLAN & BUDGET**

The FY2023 Work Plan and Budget was originally reviewed by the Policy Committee and approved by the CHNEP Policy Committee in May 2022, and then amended in September 2023. Now that FY2023 is underway, it is customary to update and amend the Work Plan and Budget with any changes given actual costs, needed adjustment to accommodate project or staffing change needs, etc. Below is a summary of amendments proposed this cycle:

Cover Page

- Updated Amended date from September 22, 2022 to January 26, 2023

Table 1

- Increased Personnel to \$639,997.85 from \$604,708 (based on higher actual fringe rates)
- Decreased Overhead to \$229,649 from \$264,939 (due to host fee adjustment)
- Eliminated rounding on Public Outreach from \$95,782 to \$95,782.15

Table 2

- Decreased Host Fees to \$165,000 from \$200,290 (to reflect more accurate estimated costs)
- Updated Total to \$229,649 from \$264,939 (reduces by same amount above)

Table 5

- Eliminated rounding on Harbor Happenings from \$22,863 to \$22,863.15
- Updated total to \$95,782.15

Task 1

- Increased Personnel to \$475,955.85 from \$440,665.85
- Reduced Overhead to \$165,000 from \$200,290
- Updated Note on Total personnel to \$639,997.85 from \$604,707.72
- Eliminated rounding in Total Budget to \$844,646.85 from \$844,647

Staff Organizational Chart

- Public Outreach Specialist modified to Administrative Specialist

CHNEP also put out a call for projects to use TBD funds in the FY23 budget and received 8 project proposals. CHNEP staff collectively reviewed and evaluated the proposals and determined two proposals to be best suited to the funder’s objectives, funding amount, funding logistical constraints (timeline, procurement requirements), and other important considerations. The first proposed project is the Final design and permitting for the Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative. This large-scale restoration will improve the hydrology of >8,000 acres of wetlands, increase the coastal resiliency of Cape Coral, and substantially improve water and habitat quality for fish and wildlife species of concern. The other project is a *Vallisneria americana* (aquatic vegetation) BMP Study which would be to implement and study the effects of using *Vallisneria americana* restoration as nature-based ‘green’ infrastructure for nutrient removal in stormwater systems. This would involve physical aquatic habitat creation, as well as research to determine the effectiveness of this as a stormwater Best Policy Practice. The CHNEP will need to have further meetings with applicants to confirm that these projects can meet all funding requirements and to further flesh out a potential scope of work. In the meantime, the funding remains TBD Research/Restoration in the current proposed amended Work Plan and Budget since BIL funding award has not yet occurred as well as to allow flexibility to adjust or reappropriate funding if need be. In the coming months, CHNEP will be conducting another Call for Projects for FY24 funding for additional projects for the coming fiscal year.

Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP Executive Director, will present these Consent Agenda items for Policy Committee approval.

**Recommendation:** Approval of the consent agenda  
**Attachment:** Draft September 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes  
CAC New Committee Applicant Phyl Wojcik  
Amended FY2023 Work Plan and Budget

**7. HURRICANE IAN CHNEP AND PARTNER RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

The region continues recovery efforts from Hurricane Ian, which made landfall in Southwest Florida on 9/28 as a Category 4 (nearly a 5) hurricane. Multiple estuaries and watersheds within CHNEP area were severely impacted. Partnership members at local and state governments and agencies continue clean-up and rebuilding, which may last months or years.

All the partners of the CHNEP were impacted in one way or another by Hurricane Ian. A discussion was held at both Technical and Citizens Advisory Committee meetings as an opportunity to hear from various entities regarding their initial experiences, data collection and early observations following the storm and the highlights of those discussions were presented to the Management Committee, who added their input. The results from all these information gathering efforts will be shared with the Policy Committee to potentially be used in collaborating and building tools to make the Partnership and the region more resilient in our responsiveness to storms and other ‘environmental disaster’ events for the future.

Nicole Iadevaia, CHNEP Director of Research & Restoration, will present on this item.

**8. POST-HURRICANE IAN WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD PRESENTATION**

Within days after Hurricane Ian made landfall, CHNEP staff reached out to the University of Florida’s Center for Coastal Solutions (CCS) to request assistance mobilizing personnel, resources, and equipment for post-event water quality sampling. CHNEP and its members and partners coordinated sampling efforts, and CCS led weekly coordination calls to share information across groups. To facilitate coordination, Charlotte County’s Water Quality Manager Brandon Moody and CCS research scientist Dr. Miles Medina collaborated to organize water quality data collected by various partners and quickly deployed a centralized web-based visualization dashboard to share water quality data in near-real time. This presentation describes the dashboard tool and key insights derived from it.

Dr. Miles Medina, UF Center for Coastal Solutions will be presenting on this item.

**9. HURRICANE RECOVERY DISCUSSION WITH THE FEDERAL INTERAGENCY RECOVERY COORDINATION (IRC) TEAM**

The federal government Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC) team is traveling down to personally discuss with CHNEP Policy Committee members the challenges they are facing with Hurricane Ian recovery and what the federal government can be doing to further assist them in filling community identified gaps to recovery that could include providing additional resources, technical assistance, services, etc. The IRC supports state, local, tribal, and territorial government in the development and pursuit of their resilient outcomes by identifying long-term recovery needs and facilitating whole community solutions.

The IRC leadership team members attending consist of the following:

- Deputy Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator - Leda Khoury
- Federal Disaster Recovery Officer - Christy Grant
- Community Assistance, Federal Emergency Policy Agency - Laura Curvey

- Economic Recovery, Economic Development Administration - Milton Cochran
- Health and Social Services, HHS – James Gooch
- Housing, Housing and Urban Development - Brandon Porinchak
- Infrastructure, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Dave Apple
- Natural and Cultural Resources, Department of Interior - Daniel McGoldrick
- Philanthropic Advisor, Federal Emergency Policy Agency - Cherry Jochum
- Rural Development Advisor, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Joe Woody
- Small Business Advisor, Small Business Administration - Nancy Young
- Sustainability Advisor, Environmental Protection Agency - Rick Durbrow
- Hazard Mitigation, FEMA - Shannon Burke
- Public Assistance, FEMA - Beth Waltemath
- Deputy Bureau Chief of Recovery, Florida Division of Emergency Management – Douglas Roberts

IRC leadership will provide a brief presentation highlighting federal resources to support community resiliency and then each Policy Committee members will have the opportunity to share brief comments on their community needs and/or significant recovery effort issues. Once all Policy Committee members have had an opportunity to share comments, IRC members will provide responses given time available and following the meeting, a formal comment response document will be prepared with additional IRC input to send back out to Policy Committee members, including IRC contact info. for follow-up.

#### **10. THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HURRICANE IAN**

Hurricane Ian's rainfall was at least 10% wetter because of climate change while the storm was still impacting Florida, according to a rapid analysis conducted at Stony Brook University and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The analysis used the same methodology as [recent peer-reviewed studies](#) that examined the influence of climate change on the entire 2020 hurricane season and on other previous individual hurricanes. Noting their result as a "conservative estimate, they found that the physical relationship between air temperature and water vapor alone would suggest that Hurricane Ian's rainfall should have only been around 5% higher due to climate warming. This research and analysis concluded that climate factors are making storms more efficient at precipitating the available moisture, causing the storms to be wetter than they otherwise would be – with more intense and larger volumes of rainfall.

Dr. Michael Wehner, Senior Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, will discuss the implications of this finding and the likelihood that other impacts of Hurricane Ian were also worsened by global warming in his presentation of this item.

#### **11. CHNEP TECHNICAL PROJECTS UPDATES AND NEW TOOLS**

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

Additionally, the CHNEP Water Atlas is nearing completion on several enhancements from the current year that will be beneficial to multiple users; these pages will be previewed during the discussion so that Policy Committee members will be able to dive in and access resources easily.

There will also be a brief overview of upcoming improvements on the CHNEP Water Atlas scheduled for FY23.

Current or Recently Completed Projects:

- CHNEP Water Atlas /CHNEP Water Atlas Trends Enhancements
- Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrological Modeling Project
- Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network Project
- Myakka Headwaters Preserve Restoration Project

Nicole Iadevaia, CHNEP Director of Research & Restoration, will be presenting updates of progress made on these projects since the last CHNEP Policy Conference committee meeting cycle. Project fact sheets are available on the CHNEP website: <https://www.chnep.org/chnep-fact-sheets>

**12. POLICY MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

Each member will have up to 5 minutes to update the Committee on projects currently being completed to protect and restore natural resource in the CHNEP program area. This time also serves as an opportunity for members to discuss topics of interest to the Committee members.

Policy Committee Co-Chair, Brian Smith, will be leading and facilitating this discussion.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**14. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TOPICS**

Future meeting dates this year are May 25, 2023 and September 21, 2023. Please hold these dates on your calendars, with location and other details including agenda being sent via email one week in advance. If you have ideas for future meeting topics, please send to [jhecker@chnep.org](mailto:jhecker@chnep.org).

**15. ADJOURN**