



CHNEP Management Committee Meeting
Friday September 4th, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Centennial Park Large Multipurpose Room
1120 Centennial Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33953

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Introductions — Jamie Borzym, Co-Chair
2. Agenda Additions or Deletions — Jamie Borzym, Co-Chair
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items — Jamie Borzym, Co-Chair
4. Management Committee May 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes — Jamie Borzym, Co-Chair
5. TAC Report — Arielle Taylor-Manges, TAC Co-Chair
6. CHNEP Update — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
7. Amended FY 2027 Master Work Plan and Budget — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
8. Florida Wildlife Corridor Successes and Next Steps — Kristen Novak, Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation
9. Everglades to Gulf Coast Conservation Area Updates and Opportunities to Advance Progress — Sue Mullins, Florida Conservation Group
10. Management Committee Member Updates — Jamie Borzym, Co-Chair
11. Public Comment — Jamie Borzym, Co-Chair
12. Future Meeting's Topics, Location and Date — Jamie Borzym, Co-Chair
 - Upcoming Meeting Dates: January 8, 2027, May 7, 2027, and September 3, 2027
13. Adjourn — Jamie Borzym, Co-Chair

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION

[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

This meeting is in-person to facilitate the Partnership.

If you are unable to attend in person, please arrange an alternate to do so.

If unable to arrange an alternate, please email Keara Abel at kabel@chnep.org or call (941) 833-6580.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

If any Management Committee member would like to make an addition or deletion to the agenda, this item is the time to suggest such. Members will be asked to vote to approve the final meeting agenda.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MAY 8, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

If any Management Committee member would like to make a revision or addition to the prior meeting minutes, this item is the time to suggest such. Members will be asked to vote to approve the final prior meeting minutes.

Action: Approval of the minutes from May 8th, 2026 meeting.

Attachment: Draft May 8th, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

5. TAC REPORT

The August 6, 2025 CHNEP Technical Advisory Committee meeting was chaired by Arielle Taylor-Manges. The agenda and prior meeting's minutes were approved. The meeting agenda included presentations and discussions on the following topics:

- Courtney Saari, a Research Administrator II of the Fisheries-Independent Monitoring Program at the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, presented on the **Juvenile Sport Fish Study Preliminary Results and Protection Plan**. This project, supported by the NOAA RESTORE Science Program, is focused on protecting and conserving critical nursery habitats for snook and tarpon in Charlotte Harbor. The team is combining habitat modeling, juvenile fisheries monitoring, stormwater modeling, and habitat risk assessments to better understand where these habitats occur, how they have changed, and where they may be most vulnerable to environmental and human impacts. Findings from these efforts will be integrated into a GIS-based planning and decision-support tool to help researchers, resource managers, planners, and stakeholders identify and prioritize areas for conservation, restoration, and informed land-use planning. Ultimately, the project will provide a stronger scientific foundation for protecting nursery habitats and supporting healthy, sustainable snook and tarpon populations. Members asked about whether sea level rise was incorporated into the vulnerability index, which Courtney indicated was. Members also commented on need for developing stronger stormwater and development standards and applying those stronger stormwater standards to future development. Discussion also focused on stormwater pond management and restoration guidelines, land conservation, habitat migration, and opportunities to restore habitat for species such as tarpon and snook. Members also asked whether the findings and GIS approach could be applied to other areas, and Courtney indicated they could be.
- Jon Perry, an Environmental Scientist V with Environmental Science Associates (ESA), and Dr. Jennifer Shafer, President of Shafer Consulting, presented on the **Lemon Bay Watershed Plan Update**. During 2025–2026, Sarasota County Stormwater, in partnership with Environmental

Science Associates (ESA), Jones Edmunds and Associates (JEA), and Shafer Consulting, updated the Lemon Bay Watershed Management Plan to better understand flooding and water-quality deficiencies and identify practical solutions. Watershed modeling was used to evaluate areas that do not meet the County's desired Level of Service standards, identify and prioritize problem areas or "hot spots," and develop conceptual capital improvement projects to address identified deficiencies, with an emphasis on opportunities on County-owned property. Public involvement was an integral component of the planning process, with Community Workshops providing residents opportunities to learn about the project, share local knowledge, and provide feedback that informed the technical analysis and proposed solutions. Neighborhood Workshops were held in areas with recommended projects to provide more detailed information and engage affected residents in discussions about potential improvements. Overall, the plan update integrates technical analysis, project prioritization, conceptual infrastructure improvements, and community input to establish a framework for addressing stormwater and water-quality challenges within the Lemon Bay Watershed. Members discussed the need for the current watershed plan to build on prior planning efforts and completed projects while coordinating with other watershed and resilience initiatives. Key concerns included incorporating nature-based solutions, addressing flooding and limited drainage capacity in dense communities, and accounting for erosion, sediment accumulation, and ongoing maintenance of drainage systems. Members also suggested periodic resurveying, greater attention to sediment impacts on flood levels, and possible education or assistance for property owners maintaining drainage features. Staff noted that some of these issues fall outside the current plan's scope but are being addressed in other county watershed planning efforts.

- Danielle Ivey, a Wetland Restoration Specialist from Audubon Florida, presented on the **Wetland Evaluation Tool (WET)**. Audubon's Wetland Evaluation Tool (WET) uses GIS technology to identify high-priority areas where wetland conservation and restoration can improve water storage, reduce flooding, protect wildlife habitat, and strengthen long-term water security. By identifying opportunities for public-private partnerships, WET helps communities strategically integrate natural wetland systems with traditional water-management infrastructure. Currently focused on the upper Peace River basin within the Central Florida Water Initiative region, the tool is also being expanded into Southwest Florida, including portions of the Charlotte Harbor watershed and estuary. Members discussed ways to make the program more accessible to smaller landowners through partnerships with neighboring properties and funding assistance for engineering and control-structure costs. They also explored opportunities to expand the initiative into Lower Charlotte County by sharing CHNEP's existing hydrologic modeling and coordinating future restoration efforts. Members emphasized the importance of protecting flowways, identifying priority conservation areas, and strengthening collaboration among agencies, landowners, developers, and conservation organizations. Additional suggestions included connecting with SWFWMD's FARMS program to engage more agricultural landowners and using available data to support wetland and wildlife conservation.

The TAC heard the CHNEP Program and Technical Projects Updates presentation and shared updates with each other on their respective counties and communities regarding natural resource-related activities and projects. There were no recommendations formed by the TAC pertaining directly to Management Committee agenda action items this cycle.

This presentation will be given by Arielle Taylor-Manges, TAC Co-Chair.

7. 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 (August):

Program Administration [Task 1]

- Planned and executed both Technical Advisory Committee meeting (4/9) and the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (4/22), Management (5/8) and Policy (5/21) Committee meetings including lining up presenters, drafting agenda packet, updating Committee webpage, creating PowerPoints, drafting minutes, etc. 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, taking 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, Sarah Jooste joined the CHNEP team 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. At the beginning of August, Debra Childs Woithe joined as the new Research & GIS Manager. Debra holds a Bachelor's in Landscape Ecology and a Master's in Environmental Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida and worked in GIS and environmental lands acquisition and management in Southwest Florida.
- 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 11JA 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)

Public Outreach and Presentations [Task 2]

- 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 [Task 2]

- 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 [Task 2]

- 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 [Task 2]

- 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 IJJA 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) [Task 3.1]

- Finalized and issued Purchase Order for FY27 Lower CCHMN sampling to Lee County.
- Completed Quarter 3 Lower CCHMN sampling. Received Q3 report and data sheets and processed invoice.
- Completed annual CCHMN field water quality sampling audits of SWFWMD, Lee County, FDEP, and City of Cape Coral.
- Organized and facilitated the Annual CCHMN meeting, including preparing and presenting audit findings, organizing guest speaker, etc.

CHNEP Water Atlas Maintenance and Improvements [Task 3.2]

- Held monthly project management meetings with University of South Florida (contractor).
- Completed improvements including red tide current status on interactive maps, adding Charlotte Aquatic Presenter 2020-2026 macroalgae data to seagrass pages, adding Hardee, DeSoto, and Polk Adaptation Action Area GIS files to resiliency maps, providing Lee County Pond Watch data to that public Atlas page, adding SFWMD seagrass transects, etc.
- Finalized and issued Purchase Order for FY27 Water Atlas Maintenance and Improvements work to University of South Florida.

Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment [Former Task 3.3, now complete]

- Held monthly project meetings with WSP (contractor) until final task completed.
- Reviewed and approved the [Exposure & Sensitivity Technical Memo](#), the [Adaptation Focus Areas Identification Memorandum](#), and the [Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment](#) (VA).
- 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 since been transmitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).
- Working on final project close out and related invoicing currently.

Polk County Vulnerability Assessment Additional Flood Modeling [Former 3.4, now complete]

- [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.
- Completed final project close out and invoicing.

Highlands County Adaptation Action Area (AAA) Plans [Former 3.5, now complete]

- Held monthly project management meetings with Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) EnSafe and Michael Baker International (contractors) and Highlands County.

- Finalized [three AAA plans for the top ranked AAA areas](#) (Lake Jackson, Sebring Parkway, & Downtown Sebring) with the highest priority and amount of vulnerable assets. Each plan provided specific projects, descriptions, conceptual designs, and cost estimates for reducing risks and vulnerabilities to those assets.
- Reviewed Draft Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) presentation and finalized. Final AAA plans presented to the BoCC on August 18th, who approved it. It is being transmitted to FDEP.
- Working on final project close out and related invoicing currently.

[DeSoto County Adaptation Action Area \(AAA\) Plans](#) [Former 3.6, now complete]

- Held monthly project management meetings with Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) and Kimberly Horn (contractors) and DeSoto County.
- Finalized [three AAA plans for the top ranked AAA areas](#) (Arcadia, Brownville, & US Highway 17) 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.
- Reviewed Draft Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) presentation and finalized. Final AAA plans presented to the BoCC on August 11th, who approved. It is being transmitted to FDEP.
- Working on final project close out and related invoicing currently.

[Hardee County Adaptation Action Area \(AAA\) Plans](#) [Former 3.7, now complete]

- Held monthly project management meetings with Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) and Kimberly Horn (contractors) and Hardee County.
- Finalized [three AAA plans for the top ranked AAA areas](#) (Zolfo Springs, Bowling Green, & Wauchula) 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.
- Reviewed Draft Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) presentation and finalized. Final AAA plans presented to BoCC on August 20th, who approved. It is being transmitted to FDEP.
- Working on final project close out and related invoicing currently.

[Sarasota County Adaptation Action Area \(AAA\) Plans](#) [Task 3.3]

- Finalized work assignment with Sarasota County who procured Taylor Engineering as contractor to do this project, with project management by CHNEP and County.
- Kick-off meeting occurred and received agenda and notes from kick-off meeting.

[Lee County Adaptation Plan Focus Areas 15 & 16 Stormwater Planning](#) [Task 3.4]

- Interlocal agreement with the Town of Fort Myers Beach has been fully executed.
- Currently finalizing scope of work and will be incorporating into a work assignment for Town to begin their procurement process to hire contractor.

[Glades County Adaptation Action Area \(AAA\) Plans](#) [Task 3.5]

- Finalized RFP, went out for bid, evaluated bids, and selected proposed contractor together with Charlotte County, who enters into contracts on CHNEP's behalf.
- Currently in contract negotiations. Once contract is approved and signed, project can commence.

[Water Quality Trend Assessment and Dashboard Tool](#) (fact sheet in development) [Task 3.6]

- Finalized contract negotiations and hired ECCO Scientific as contractor

- Held kick-off meeting and received agenda and kick-off meeting notes.
- Downloaded WIN data for update period and have been doing data cleaning to curate data for analysis.

[Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve Wetland Enhancement Project](#) [Former Task 4.1, now complete]

- 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 final 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](#) [Task 4.1]

- Finished protracted contract negotiations with selected contractor (Cummins Cederberg) to finalize the contract, which was approved by Charlotte County as CHNEP's host.
- Held kick-off meeting in early August with Contractor, City of Punta Gorda, Four Points Sheraton and other key stakeholders. Received kickoff meeting agenda, minutes and presentation from Contractor.
- Initial site visit held to do a reconnaissance for soil borings and other pre-design monitoring.
- Will be holding project management meetings going forward on work to design and prepare permit applications for this living shoreline project in the City of Punta Gorda. Additionally, geotechnical borings and marine resources survey to begin shortly.

[Yucca Pens Hydrological Restoration Project Phase I](#) [Task 4.2]

- Currently in contract negotiations with selected bidder to finalize contract with selected firm (HDR).
- Conducted preliminary site visit with partner agencies (SFWMD and FWC) and consultants for other agencies (Owen Environmental and Environmental Science Associates).
- Once contract is approved and signed, modeling and design of this hydrological restoration project will commence.

[Lee County SEASCAPES Project](#) [Task 4.4]

- Interlocal agreement executed and work assignment/notice to proceed issued to City of Cape Coral to begin work.
- City of Cape Coral is contracting TetraTech as contractor and in contract negotiations.
- City of Cape Coral held Waterways Committee public outreach meeting regarding project.
- Once a Scope with Tetra Tech has been finalized, Cape Coral will schedule the kick-off meeting with CHNEP and Tetra Tech.

[Manatee County Oyster Restoration Project](#) [Task 4.5]

- This project (formerly AAA project but now to implement an adaptation strategy to restore oyster reefs along vulnerable shorelines) is proceeding to do design and permit application preparation.
- The Interlocal Agreement between CHNEP/Charlotte County and Manatee County is fully executed.
- Presently finalizing scope to issue work assignment to County. Manatee County to procure the contractor using its federalized engineering library.

[Sarasota County Warm Mineral Springs Habitat Restoration Initiative](#) [Task 4.6]

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

[Polk County Lake Idyl Sediment Inactivation Project](#) [Task 4.7]

- Held initial project planning meeting.
- CHNEP to draft Interlocal Agreement with the City of Winter Haven. City and CHNEP to develop Scope of Work, which will be used in issuing Work Assignment to City.
- City to lead project management and procurement. CHNEP to independently review technical deliverables and participate in monthly project management meetings.

[Charlotte County Exceptional Ponds Initiative Project](#) [Task 4.8]

- Held initial project planning meeting.
- CHNEP to draft Memorandum of Understanding with Charlotte County. County and CHNEP to develop Scope of Work.
- County to lead project management and procurement. CHNEP to independently review technical deliverables and participate in monthly project management meetings.

[Hardee Lakes Park Habitat Enhancement & Conservation Initiative](#) [Task 4.9]

- Held initial project planning meeting.
- County and CHNEP to develop Scope of Work.
- CHNEP to procure contractor through Charlotte County's federalized library of engineers.
- CHNEP to lead project management, independently review technical deliverables, and participate in monthly project management meetings.

[Hendry County Pollywog Creek Stabilization](#) [Task 4.10]

- Requests for Letters of Intent and scope prepared, proposals received, evaluated and contractor selected (DRMP).
- Currently in contract negotiations. Once contract is approved and signed, work to design the flow restoration and shoreline stabilization, as well as permit application preparation will commence.

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

7. AMENDED FY27 MASTER WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

For fiscal year 2027, CHNEP prepared a master EPA320 Work Plan for the Policy Committee, who approved on May 28, 2026. It was then submitted to US EPA on June 1, 2026 to accompany the FY27 EPA grant applications for federal funding. As is customary, amendments are made throughout the year to reflect changes in funding amounts or timing, new identified projects coming online in need of approval, and other factors. Amended Work Plans and Budgets are posted on the CHNEP website once approved by the Policy Committee, but are not formally submitted to US EPA, as the grant application Work Plan already submitted and is still in the review/award process. Below is a list of the amendments being proposed this Management Conference committee cycle:

Table 1

Revenue

- Revenue from Partner Contributions increased from \$143,000 to \$144,250 (due to \$1,000 new contribution from Highlands County and added \$250 from City of Bartow to \$750 from prior \$500). This resulted in Total Revenue increasing by \$1,250 from \$1,124,000 to \$1,125,250.

Expenditures

- Moved some funding (\$13,896) from Research & Restoration to Public Outreach, decreasing from \$147,000 to \$133,104 on Research & Restoration line and increasing Public Outreach line from \$109,500 to \$123,396.

- Added the increased \$1,250 Revenue to Reserves to reach \$33,250, increasing Total Expenditures to \$1,125,250.

Table 4

- Added FY27 contributions of Highlands County (new contributing member) in amount of \$1,000 and City of Bartow in the amount of \$750 (increased from previous \$500).
- This increased Total Local Government Revenue from \$143,000 to \$144,250, the Non-Federal FY26 Revenue from \$274,000 to \$275,250, and the Total FY27 Revenue from \$1,124,000 to \$1,125,250.

Table 6

- Moved \$13,896 of FY27 EPA 320 funding not used from Water Atlas to CHNEP Events for 2027 Watershed Summit (an additional outreach event in FY27 on top of annual Resiliency Summit). [Note: additionally moved \$3,000 of FY26 EPA 320 and \$368 of FY22-25 EPA 320 unprogrammed funds also to this category for a total event budget of \$17,264 (though only the FY27 funds reflected in table total).]

Table 7

- Removed completed technical projects from table including:
 - Pine Island Restoration Project (2022 EPA IJA \$113,450 and 2024 EPA IJA \$11,550)
 - Charlotte County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment (2022 EPA IJA \$200,000)
 - Polk County Vulnerability Assessment Enhancements (2023 EPA IJA \$200,000)
 - Desoto County Adaptation Action Planning (2024 EPA IJA \$200,000)
 - Hardee County Adaptation Action Planning (2024 EPA IJA \$200,000)
 - Highlands County Adaptation Action Planning (2023 EPA IJA \$200,000)
 - Water Atlas Improvements (FY26)
 - Water Atlas Maintenance (FY26)
 - Lower CCHMN (FY26)
- Changed “Manatee County Vulnerability Assessment” to “Manatee County Oyster Restoration Project”
- Removed Clean Water Research & Restoration TBD (2025 EPA IJA FY22-25 \$3,869) and moved that money into the Manatee County Oyster Restoration Project, so that project now is \$203,869 in total in EPA IJA FY25, increasing total from \$779,800 to \$783,669.
- Moved \$3,000 of unprogrammed FY26 EPA 320 to “CHNEP Events (Watershed Summit) budget, which together with removed completed FY26 Water Atlas Improvements results in FY26 Total Research and Restoration project funding now being \$700,000 in total.
- Revised FY27 Water Atlas from \$112k to the \$98,104 final PO amount. Resulted in FY27 Research & Restoration new project funding being \$133,104 in total.

Narrative

- Removed Tasks 3.3-3.7 as those were the completed Charlotte, Polk, Highlands, DeSoto, and Hardee projects
- Moved up to make the new 3.3-3.7 the Sarasota, Lee, Glades, Water Quality Trends and Peace River Hotspot projects, with Lee County Adaptation Plan Focus Areas 15 & 16 Stormwater Planning project moving up from Task 4.5 because now more of a hydrological design project.
- Former 3.9 Manatee County project was moved from research to 4.5 restoration project as now design of an oyster restoration.

- In Task 4, removed former Task 4.1 of Pine Island project in Lee County as completed, moving rest up a number, removing the aforementioned Lee County Adaptation Plan Focus Areas 15 & 16 Stormwater Planning and inserting aforementioned Manatee projects.
- Budget adjustments in above tables were carried through all the appropriate narrative project descriptions.

CHNEP Executive Director Jennifer Hecker will be presenting this item.

Attachments:

Draft Amended FY27 Master Work Plan and Budget

Action:

Vote on whether to recommend Policy Committee approve the Draft Amended FY27 Master Work Plan and Budget

8. FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR SUCCESSES AND NEXT STEPS

This presentation will provide an update on the Florida Wildlife Corridor, highlighting recent conservation progress and opportunities across the CHNEP region. Officially recognized by the state through the unanimous, bipartisan passage of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act in 2021, conservation groups, landowners, and state agencies are actively working to secure the remaining unprotected acreage before critical bottlenecks are. The Florida Wildlife Corridor is an ambitious, statewide network of interconnected public and private lands spanning nearly 18 million acres—stretching from the Everglades all the way north to the Georgia and Alabama borders. It is designed to ensure that native wildlife can roam freely, clean water flows uninterrupted, and Florida's unique natural and rural heritage survives.

The presentation will focus on the importance of protecting the connected lands and waters, including rural landscapes, floodplains and wetlands, and exceptional wildlife habitat in the CHNEP area. It will also highlight new funding opportunities, recent conservation successes, and the role of state and federal conservation programs in advancing the goals of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Additionally, the presentation will touch on practical opportunities for local governments to support and advance conservation within their communities, including ways local staff and elected officials can partner with state and federal agencies, leverage existing conservation programs and funding, and engage in policy or legislative efforts that strengthen land conservation. Particular attention will be given to the fiscal considerations associated with conservation, especially as they relate to local issues.

Kristen Nowak, Conservation Director for the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation, will be presenting on this agenda item.

9. EVERGLADES TO GULF COAST CONSERVATION AREA UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE PROGRESS

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge System established the [Everglades to Gulf Conservation Area](#) in April 2024. This 4-million-acre conservation area borders the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area and spans 12 counties west of Lake Okeechobee from Lakeland to Naples, including the watersheds of the Peace River, Myakka River, Fisheating Creek and Caloosahatchee River.

The new unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System will allow the USFWS to work with landowners to secure conservation easements over ecologically sensitive lands, protecting those lands in perpetuity while allowing continued agricultural operations.

The Everglades to Gulf overlaps with a major portion of the CHNEP boundary. Florida Conservation Group (FCG) has been working with willing landowners in the region to protect their

lands via conservation easements, utilizing local, state and federal funds. FCG engages in conservation science, planning, outreach and land protection; the organization assists landowners with conservation easement and incentive programs to ensure that Florida's highest-priority lands are identified and protected.

This presentation will speak on land protection efforts with private landowners within the Everglades to Gulf Conservation Area portion that is within the CHNEP. It will also cover the role local governments can play to support continued state and federal resources to be allocated to continue to give landowners the option to maintain their working landscapes through state and federal conservation easements.

Sue Mullins, Director of Public Affairs for the Florida Conservation Group, will be presenting on this agenda item.

10. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Each member will have time to update the Committee on research or restoration currently underway or recently completed to protect and restore natural resources in the CHNEP area. This time also serves as an opportunity for members to make announcements or discuss other topics of interest to the Committee members.

Management Committee Co-Chair Jamie Borzym will be leading and facilitating this discussion.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

12. FUTURE MEETING'S TOPICS, LOCATION AND DATE

Please mark your calendar for upcoming Management Committee Meetings on January 9, 2026, May 8, 2026, and September 4, 2026. All meetings will be held in the same location as this cycle's meeting at Centennial Park.

13. ADJOURN