

## APPLICATION FOR CHNEP CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Name: Ashley Cook

Mailing Address: 2585 Liberty Park Drive Apt 8207

City, State and Zip: Cape Coral, Florida 33909

Phone Number with Area Code: 239 443 6762

Email Address: ashley@checflorida.org

Please list all counties that you live and/or work in that you would like to be considered for:

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>REP SEAT APPLYING FOR</u>	<u>POLICY MEMBER CONTACTED</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manatee County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sarasota County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charlotte County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lee County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Glades County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hendry County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hardee County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highlands County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Polk County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	DeSoto County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Please tell us the name of the organizations you affiliate with and how? If the organization may not be well known, please include a brief description. For example, "Peace River Audubon Society, active member since 2000".

I serve as the Director of Conservation for the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) at Alligator Creek Preserve. CHEC is a non-profit organization that provides environmental education, recreation, and conservation efforts to the local community and beyond.

Additionally, I serve as an Advisory Committee member for Florida Sea Grant, helping to provide input on community needs, programming, and research initiatives.

Why do you want to be a voting member of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership's Advisory Committee? What contributions do you feel like you can make to the CAC?

I am deeply rooted in conservation and driven to bring awareness of our precious natural resources so that we may protect, preserve, and restore our unique Florida ecosystems and the wildlife that depend on them. I believe it is important now more than ever to come together to work towards addressing and accomplishing such goals. With me, I bring my passion, innovative ideas, collaboration, and hands-on efforts towards our shared mission.

How will you help implement the *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan*? (A copy of this plan can be found here: [www.chnep.org/our-plan](http://www.chnep.org/our-plan). Pages 186-195 provide an overview of our four priority actions: 1) Water Quality Improvement, 2) Hydrological Restoration, 3) Fish, Wildlife, & Habitat Restoration, and 4) Public Engagement.)

The Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan is a perfect guideline to the work I strive to accomplish each day. My work includes a Vertical Oyster Gardening initiative to help restore oyster populations and improve water quality in Charlotte Harbor and surrounding waterways. The program also features hands-on educational workshops that provide the community with the opportunity to be involved in the project while learning about the importance of oysters as a keystone species. Not only in water but on land, my newly developed program, Animal Neighbors, is an engaging program that helps bridge the gap between people and local wildlife. Inspired by the growing encounters caused by development and habitat loss, it aims to replace fear with understanding. Through myth-busting facts, safety tips, and practical guidance, the program empowers our community to safely and peacefully coexist with the wild animals that share our neighborhoods. Additionally, I am currently working with a community to provide mangrove restoration after theirs were demolished by recent hurricanes. Helping to build back important barriers and vital habitat for countless species. Whether it's on land, in the water, or in the classroom, I'm fully dedicated to implementing the actions included in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

## APPLICATION FOR CHNEP CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Suzanne M. Lindsey \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 181 Lake Otis Rd \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Winter Haven FL 33884 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number with Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_ (863) 698-5531 \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ missysue@aol.com \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all counties that you live and/or work in that you would like to be considered for:

<u>COUNTY REP SEAT APPLYING FOR</u>	<u>POLICY MEMBER CONTACTED</u>
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- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manatee County   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sarasota County  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte County | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lee County       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glades County    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hendry County    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardee County    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highlands County | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polk County - X  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DeSoto County    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

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**Polk Forever** - Active since 2021. We are a volunteer citizen conservation advocacy group, who were responsible for the 2022 voter approved Polk County environmental land funding referendum.

**Green Horizon Land Trust** - Active board member since 2019, currently serving as vice president. Our land trust focuses on conservation and education along The Lake Wales Ridge.

**Polk County Comp Plan Advisory Committee** - active since April 2025. Established to advise on the rewrite and update process, key responsibilities, including making minor updates to comply with state law and presenting recommendations for the major rewrite of the plan, which aims to guide growth through 2050.

**Polk's Youth Naturalist Program** - active since 2024. A free multi-day educational program hosted twice a year by Polk County Natural Resource Division, for ages 14 to 18 years, students gain an understanding of Polk's ecosystems through classroom and field studies.

Why do you want to be a voting member of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership's Advisory Committee? What contributions do you feel like you can make to the CAC?

As an alternate (under Tom Palmer) CAC member of Polk county, I hope to better understand the committees role in policy making decisions and providing public outreach. As new residents move in to the Peace River watershed, I hope to help educate the importance of their backyard role in protecting this valuable water resource. Inform and encourage the public to participate in CHNEP events.

How will you help implement the *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan*? (A copy of this plan can be found here: [www.chnep.org/our-plan](http://www.chnep.org/our-plan). Pages 186-195 provide an overview of our four priority actions: 1) Water Quality Improvement, 2) Hydrological Restoration, 3) Fish, Wildlife, & Habitat Restoration, and 4) Public Engagement.)

This is great timing for Polk's comp plan update.

- 1) I can try and help to be sure that this activity is implemented - *Support urban BMPs that return freshwater inputs to receiving waters to a more natural pattern of quantity, timing, and distribution and that reduce pollutant loadings. Identify locations to install stormwater treatment areas and pursue installation in priority areas. Support new and retrofit projects to increase stormwater retention and reduce pollution loadings. Support development and implementation of green infrastructure practices, including permeable surfaces.*
- 2) Local elections matter here (and everywhere) as our city councils decide on annexations, land code changes and density increases. I would definitely work to improve this activity - *Increase aquifer recharge by supporting local plans and codes that decrease impervious surfaces; incorporate green infrastructure practices; protect recharge and wellfield areas; and protect and restore wetlands; and support and encourage communities to use low impact design and nature-based solutions.*
- 3) Civic engagement and voting at local levels is key. Our county is working on this, but we need more private, state and federal funding support to protect our uplands, wetlands and floodplains that are under threat of development - *Encourage and support the permanent conservation of environmentally sensitive lands and critical habitat areas through land acquisition and conservation easements held in perpetuity, including freshwater wetlands, flowways, corridors, and uplands adjacent to coastal habitats necessary for habitat resilience and migration.*
- 4) I have found that middle school student councils are interested in the local policy processes, and sharing the Polk 2022 environmental land funding referendum process is relatable. This is an on-going effort to reach out to people of all ages, backgrounds and interests, to help them understand why this matters to them now and in the future - *Promote environmental literacy, awareness, and stewardship through expanded education and engagement opportunities for the general public.*

## APPLICATION FOR CHNEP CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Name: Stephen Buczynski

Mailing Address: 832 Sweet Lake Circle

City, State and Zip: Clewiston, FL 33440

Phone Number with Area Code: (863) 233-3528

Email Address: stephenbuczynski@gmail.com

Please list all counties that you live and/or work in that you would like to be considered for:

COUNTY REP SEAT APPLYING FOR	POLICY MEMBER CONTACTED
<input type="checkbox"/> Manatee County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
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<input type="checkbox"/> Glades County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Hendry County</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hardee County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Highlands County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Polk County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> DeSoto County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Please tell us the name of the organizations you affiliate with and how? If the organization may not be well known, please include a brief description. For example, "Peace River Audubon Society, active member since 2000".

I have been a member of the Hendry-Glades Audubon Society since its inception in 2003 and have been serving as our chapter President since 2019. In addition, since 2019, I have also been an active member of the Southwest Florida Conservation Committee for Audubon Florida. In addition, I served as a chapter representative on the Audubon Florida Board of Directors from 2019 – 2023.

Why do you want to be a voting member of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership's Advisory Committee? What contributions do you feel like you can make to the CAC?

As a Hendry County resident who has been engaged with land, water, and wildlife conservation and educational activities on a local and state level for the past 6 years I hope to bring an important voice to the table from this part of the CHNEP watershed.

How will you help implement the *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan*? (A copy of this plan can be found here: [www.chnep.org/our-plan](http://www.chnep.org/our-plan). Pages 186-195 provide an overview of our four priority actions: 1) Water Quality Improvement, 2) Hydrological Restoration, 3) Fish, Wildlife, & Habitat Restoration, and 4) Public Engagement.)

Through the on-going activities with the Hendry-Glades Audubon Society such as our monthly chapter meetings with invited speakers addressing conservation topics related to south Florida, guided birding outings, and conservation activities in our community such as Audubon's "Plants for Birds" program, I hope to increase awareness, knowledge, and engagement of our local residents with critical issues in our region related to water conservation and protecting and appreciating native wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Buczynski, President

Hendry-Glades Audubon Society