



CHNEP Management Committee Meeting
Friday January 13th, 2023
Charlotte County Centennial Park Recreation Center,
11185 Centennial Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Management Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

January 13, 2023

Members Present:

Rachel Hart	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4
Melynda Brown	Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
Sheila McNamara	Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)
Kali Spurgin	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Margaret Wuerstle	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)
Vivianna Bendixson	Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
David Hutchinson	Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Claire Jubb	Charlotte County
Dawn Ritter (alternate)	Highlands County
Roland Ottolini	Lee County
Charlie Hunsicker	Manatee County
Gaye Sharpe	Polk County
Amanda Boone	Sarasota County
Laura Gibson	City of Bonita Springs
Harry Phillips (alternate)	City of Cape Coral
James Ink	City of Fort Myers
Elizabeth Wong	City of North Port
Holly Milbrandt	City of Sanibel
Kathleen Weeden (alternate)	City of Venice
Devon Moore (alternate)	City of Winter Haven

Others Present:

Jennifer Hecker	Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership
Nicole Iadevaia	Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership
Sarina Weiss	Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership
Megan Sosbe	Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership
Mark Walton	Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
Ernesto Lasso de la Vega	Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District
Miles Medina	UF Center for Coastal Solutions
Michael Wehner	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Kim Fikoski	South Florida Water Management District (SFWMMD)
Daniel Roberts	Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
Coco Hibbits	City of North Port
Johnathan Harrison	Highlands County
Laura Curvey	FEMA Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Milton Cochran	DOC/EDA Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Suzanne Everson	HHS Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Brandon Porinchak	HUD Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Dave Apple	USACE Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Daniel McGoldrick	NCRS Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Cherry Jochum	FEMA Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)

Joe Woody	USDA Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Nancy Young	SBA Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Rick Durbrow	EPA Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Kim Fikoski	South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
Eric Milbrandt	Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF)
Frank Vasquez	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Kyla Breland	NOAA Disaster Preparedness Program
Valerie Malingowski	City of North Port
Ashley Hill	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Shannon Burke	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Emily Stecher	Economic Development Association (EDA)
Beth Waltemath	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Mike Pellant	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Jenna Phillips	Cummins Cederberg
Jessica Stempien	FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy
Deevah Melendez	Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Nancy Gallinaro	City of North Port
Emily Galloway	FEMA Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC)
Colleen Zaremba	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Nancy Sheridan	
Vern Leeman	

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order and Introductions — David Hutchinson, Interim Co-Chair

Interim Co-Chair David Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Introductions were then made.

Agenda Item #2 – Agenda Additions or Deletions — David Hutchinson, Interim Co-Chair

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

VIVIANNA BENDIXSON MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION.

Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments on Agenda Items – David Hutchinson, Interim Co-Chair

No public comments on agenda items were made.

Agenda Item #4 – Management Committee September 9th, 2022 Meeting Minutes — David Hutchinson, Interim Co-Chair

No edits were made to the September 9th, 2022 Management Committee Meeting Minutes.

KALI SPURGIN MOVED, SECONDED BY AMANDA BOONE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION.

Agenda Item #5 – TAC Report — Mark Walton, TAC Co-Chair

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Co-Chair, Mr. Mark Walton, provided a verbal report from the December 1st, 2022 meeting. Highlights are as follows:

The first item was a presentation and facilitated discussion by Brandon Moody of Charlotte County on gathering partner input on Charlotte County's Water Quality Plan. Committee members commented that they would be happy to assist Mr. Moody with this plan and recommended other plans and resources for reference in drafting the Charlotte County plan. Committee members also discussed incorporating tools to take action through a BMP or RAP to require entities to lessen their loading in order to meet appropriate levels and standards. Finally, members discussed the need for watershed-wide projects to address the issues in our region.

The second item was by Dr. Janet Reimer of the University of Delaware on the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Acidification Network's efforts to gather stakeholder input on ocean acidification research efforts. The third item was co-presented by Nicole Iadevaia of CHNEP and Mark Walton of the SWFWMD to cover a de-brief from partners on Hurricane Ian scientific research efforts, including preliminary findings, recover efforts, and lessons learned, as well as an overview of CHNEP's new Hurricane Ian information website page. In preparation for the meeting, TAC members were asked to prepare a few comments that capture overarching themes from their region or area of expertise, problems encountered, and lessons learned. Each participant at TAC had time to share some of their comments during the facilitated group discussion. For instance, a committee member from Lee County shared insights and lessons learned post-Ian. He explained that the biggest issue following the storm was traffic and longer travel time due to traffic lights being down or out. Mr. Armstrong also shared that this was the first storm to affect water supply, causing damage throughout the distribution center.

The final agenda item in addition to routine Committee business items was a presentation of the Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network (CCHMN) Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) updates. Ms. Iadevaia engaged TAC and CCHMN members to discuss and suggest annual updates as needed based on new techniques or science for the Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network SOP (Standard Operating Procedures-2019) or Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan-2018). Committee members asked Ms. Iadevaia how changes in WIN and communication between lab and field staff is handled within the CCHMN, to which Ms. Iadevaia explained that many of the CCHMN partners upload their own data to WIN and therefore editorial questions are directed to the data uploader directly.

There were no recommendations formed by the TAC pertaining directly to Management Committee agenda items this cycle. There were no comments from committee members.

Agenda Item #6 – CAC Report — Harry Phillips, CAC Co-Chair

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Co-Chair, Mr. Harry Phillips, provided a verbal report from the December 14th, 2022 meeting. Highlights are as follows:

The first item in addition to routine agenda items, was a presentation on the New Conservation Grant Application package by Jennifer Hecker of the CHNEP. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Emily Hall of Mote Marine Laboratory on the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Acidification Network's Stakeholder Feedback Project, where Committee members provided

their responses on ocean acidification awareness and research priority needs. Then, Nicole Iadevaia of CHNEP presented on the Hurricane Ian Webpage for Community Engagement Discussion, followed by Jennifer presenting 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 CAC also provided updates from the respective counties they represent.

There were no comments from committee members.

Agenda Item #7 – CHNEP Update — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP

CHNEP's Executive Director, Ms. Jennifer Hecker, presented on programmatic activity occurring since the last Management Committee meeting. Highlights are as follows:

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 employees in County systems, etc.

Additionally, CHNEP staff created a 2022 Federal Funding Opportunities Factsheet to distribute to stakeholders and community members, as well as finished gathering partner data for 2022 NEPORT Congressional Reporting Survey to report on their annual conservation, management, and restoration accomplishments. This was uploaded into the EPA portal by CHNEP staff in September and included over 75 habitat entries. Two CHNEP abstracts for the 2022 Florida Resiliency Conference were accepted.

Other finance and administrative highlights include:

- Drafted and submitted FY23 EPA BIL FY22 & FY23 application in grants.gov, as well as FY23 FDEP application package
- 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.

CHNEP planned and executed both the CHNEP Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen's Advisory Committee meetings in August and December as well as the Management 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.

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 for the upcoming Restore America's Estuary conference. CHNEP also participated in several partnership meetings to provide comments and technical support. These include: ANEP External Affairs Committee Meetings, ANEP Directors Committee Meetings, ANEP Executive Committee Meetings, Blue-Green Algae Task Force Meeting, Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrological Modeling Project Meetings, Community Water Quality Webinar, Resilient Florida Program Meeting, CHNEP Water Atlas/UF Center for Coastal Solutions Data Analysis Meetings, Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network (CCHMN) Annual Meeting and Audits, SFWMD Science Coordination Group / Working Group Peace River Audubon Society Meeting, Paddle the Gulf Monthly Meetings, CHNEP/FSU FCRC Consensus Center Meeting, Florida Climate Week 2022, Post Hurricane Ian Southwest Florida Water Quality Sampling Coordination Meetings, EPA NEP Environmental Justice (EJ) Workgroup/Community of Practice, SWFL Regional Ambient Monitoring Program Meeting, Restoration Aquaculture Workshop, SOCAN Stakeholder Working Group Call, SEC Member CEOs Meeting, SFWMD's Water Resources Forum Webinar, and the Florida NEP and Florida Chief Resiliency Officer Resiliency Meeting. These partner meetings and post-hurricane discussions have garnered media which include:

- [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](#)

In regard to public outreach, CHNEP hosted an educational Microplastics Event for thirty registered participants to educate on microplastics, their impact on the environment, and how to reduce them. Additionally, staff attended the Restoration Aquaculture Workshop hosted by UF/IFAS at Tampa Bay Watch in St. Petersburg, sharing CHNEP shellfish restoration resources, as well as attended 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.

The CHNEP 2023 Nature Calendar design was completed and sent to the 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. Staff created four new education outreach banners on Mangroves, Seagrasses, Birds of Florida, and Florida Friendly Landscaping for outreach events. CHNEP has 127 new Facebook followers, 339 new Instagram followers, 5,969 subscribers for CHNEP educational mailings, and 1,706 unique visitors to the CHNEP website.

Ms. Hecker concluded by inviting committee members to join the CHNEP at the 2023 Southwest Florida Climate Summit on March 15th and 16th, as well as at the 2023 Watershed Summit on June 21st and 22nd. A committee member asked if the Watershed Summit the 22nd and 23rd or 21st and 22nd of June, to which Ms. Hecker responded that the Watershed Summit is on June 21st and 22nd.

Agenda Item #8 – Management Committee Co-Chair Elections — David Hutchinson, Interim Co-Chair & Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP

Management Committee bylaws stipulate that Co-Chairs are elected on an alternating basis annually at each spring meeting for 2-year terms. The staggered two-year terms ensure that a

new Co-Chair will be paired with an experienced Co-Chair. However, if one of the elected Co-Chairs their position early, then an election is held to fill the vacancy. Management Co-Chair duties include alternate chairing of Management meetings, as well as alternating attendance of Policy Committee meetings to brief them on Management comments on items before the Committee for discussion. The Management Co-Chair attending the Policy Committee meeting has voting privileges at that meeting as well. CHNEP staff provides email meeting notices of future Management meetings to the Co-Chairs, as well as personal pre-meeting briefings to assist the Management Co-Chairs in their role.

In this case, both of our existing Co-Chairs have been promoted, with one moving out of area and another moving up to become a Policy Committee representative for their organization. Corey Anderson had been serving as CHNEP Management Committee Co-Chair since 2021 and his term was set to end this Spring. Additionally, Jennifer Codo-Salisbury had been elected in 2022 so her term was to be until Spring 2024. Therefore, this meeting involved electing two new Co-Chairs, one for a two-year term and one for a three-year term to be able to resume a staggered annual Co-Chair election in a term's length (2 year) timeframe.

Nominations for the Co-Chair positions were sought in advance and two nominees were provided to CHNEP including Claire Jubb of Charlotte County and David Hutchinson of the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization. There were no additional nominees offered at the meeting. The Co-Chair election voting was facilitated by CHNEP staff. Claire Jubb and David Hutchinson were elected as Co-Chairs.

ELIZABETH WONG MOVED, SECONDED BY DANIEL ROBERTS TO ELECT CLAIRE JUBB AND DAVID HUTCHINSON AS CO-CHAIRS. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION.

Agenda Item #9 – Amended FY2023 Work Plan & Budget — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP

CHNEP Executive Director, Ms. Jennifer Hecker, presented the Amended FY2023 Work Plan & Budget, which was originally reviewed by the Management 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 was updated 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 over 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 Management 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.

A committee member asked why the fringe benefits changed so much, to which Ms. Hecker responded that the CHNEP did confer with Charlotte County HR and were given a 30% fringe rate as an estimate. Ms. Hecker added that there are things that are different at the City of Punta Gorda versus Charlotte County, including a better health care package with the County which includes a County clinic and is an enhancement to the CHNEP staff, though is more expensive. Ms. Hecker concluded that the current fringe rate is around 50%, quite a bit higher than the previous estimated 30%, however, the host fee is coming in lower than expected and so they are balancing each other out. Co-Chair David Hutchinson commented that the fringe rate can be a high number when you have a small staff and that it sounds like the CHNEP is getting a good deal that is not much different than what was estimated, just higher fringe, so great job.

Another committee member asked who the coordinator is for the aforementioned *Vallisneria* study, to which Ms. Hecker responded that the Angler Action Foundation is working together with FGCU and Lee County on the study.

The Management Committee was asked to review the FY2023 Amended Work Plan & Budget to provide any input and a formal recommendation as to whether or not the Policy Committee should approve at their January 26, 2023 meeting.

HOLLY MILBRANDT MOVED, SECONDED BY CHARLIE HUNSICKER TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED FY2023 WORKPLAN & BUDGET. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION.

Agenda Item #10 – Hurricane Ian CHNEP and Partner Response Overview — Nicole Iadevaia, CHNEP

CHNEP Director of Research and Restoration, Ms. Nicole Iadevaia, led discussion about Hurricane Ian and provided a short preview of a CHNEP Hurricane Ian webpage that staff hope to grow into a useful communication tool for our partners and the public. Highlights are as follows:

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 of the partners of the CHNEP were impacted in one way or another by the recent storm event. 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. The results from these information gathering efforts will be shared with the Management Committee and could potentially be used to collaborate and build tools to make the Partnership and the region more resilient in our responsiveness to storms and other ‘environmental disaster’ events for the future.

CHNEP staff provided a short preview of a [CHNEP Hurricane Ian webpage](#) that staff hope to grow into a useful communication tool for our partners and the public.

A committee member asked if there is a list of partners and stated that one of the purposes listed in the CHNEP calendar is to provide environmental education experiences to youth, adult, and underserved populations. The committee member added that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is focused on helping underserved vulnerable communities in their disaster work and would love to see how they can help with educating those populations.

Another committee member mentioned that there were many private potable wells that were subject to bacteria contamination due to prolonged standing water for days at a time in the Myakka River valley in eastern Manatee County, and many citizens calling the County to ask what they’re doing about it. The committee member stated that the health department should be a part of the response plan and should play a role in post-hurricane water quality monitoring throughout the effected floodplains in both coastal and inland areas.

A committee member commented that citizens were asking what the impacts were on water quality and on fisheries and whether the fish were edible or contaminated. The committee member suggested providing education through a story board and having tools to educate the public on a large-scale, so that when citizens come to the CHNEP Hurricane Ian page, they understand that assessing all of the impacts can take months and the on-going work being done to address these impacts.

Another committee member commented that the emergency managers know what they're doing, but coordination outside of those first responders trying to address these types of issues is flawed. The committee member added that working with water scientists should be in the curriculum for emergency managers. The committee member also asked, how do we measure the economic value of the environment?

Switching focus to the impacts on habitat, a committee member commented that a lot of the mangroves and coastal scrub and beach dunes on Sanibel were affected, which in turn impacts water quality. The committee suggested that the survival of the beach dunes and other habitats should be looked at as well as what their role was in mitigating impacts. Another committee member commented that it may take awhile to understand what was really impacted by the storm in terms of natural habitats such as seagrass and mangroves. The committee member commented that they're looking at doing mangrove restoration and habitat restoration for nesting birds. The committee member also commented that, in terms of marine debris, there were many cars and boats in the water, and the response plan should outline who the responsible entities are, who is involved, and outline the steps and who to contact. Another committee member added that the NOAA Marine Debris Program has a Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide that would provide great value in drafting the response plan.

Another committee member commented that it is important to address the public health of the first responders and volunteers who will be in the water and to amplify the importance of what is in the water. Ms. Hecker responded that CHNEP posted on social media days after the storm stating to try to avoid coming in contact with the water and to immediately wash with soap and clean water, and that post went viral because people were desperately looking for some guidance. Ms. Hecker added that CHNEP knew there was widespread sewage failure and overflows and felt it was important to educate the public on this. The committee member commented that it would be ideal to train the first responders so that they can also give that messaging.

A committee member commented that local jurisdictions are currently going through their long-term recovery planning piece which incorporates many different aspects of what we want our recovery to look like. The committee member added that this discussion is a good piece to include in the long-term recovery plan and encourages CHNEP and committee members to reach out to their emergency managers and the folks leading the recovery efforts to try to include the environmental piece in their recovery plans. The Co-Chair concluded by recommending a technical memorandum summarizing this discussion and lessons learned be provided to emergency managers.

Agenda Item #11 – Post-hurricane Ian Water Quality Dashboard Presentation — Dr. Miles Medina, UF Center for Coastal Solutions

Dr. Miles Medina, from the UF Center for Coastal Solutions, provided an overview of the post-hurricane Ian water quality dashboard tool and key insights derived from it. Highlights are as follows:

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 provisional water quality data in near-real time. The dashboard can be found here: https://ufccs.shinyapps.io/post_ian/. Note that data is provisional.

Mr. Medina provided committee members with an overview of the dashboard. He suggested that it may be worth further developing the dashboard in the future. For example, to look at trends on a basin or watershed level or to visualize depth profiles. Additionally, Mr. Medina recommended using the dashboard to map scheduled sampling trips in order to facilitate coordination with partners and identify monitoring gaps, and to have the dashboard ready-to-go for the next major storm event. Mr. Medina commented that the weekly coordination calls among stakeholders and scientists were very helpful to understand what was going on. Understanding the longer-term impacts may require continued coordination, for example the red tide bloom. Mr. Medina asked committee members if there is interest in continuing these coordination calls on a monthly basis.

A committee member commented that Mr. Moody would be very interested in furthering this dashboard and that he found the weekly coordination calls very meaningful. Another committee member commented that the dashboard would contribute to the types of collaborative approaches that are needed. The committee member added that, other than FWC and DEP, a lot of the law officers that were out there were saying that it wasn't safe to go out on the water because they didn't know what was in the water, and that this dashboard could help with the robust post-storm sampling efforts and keeping everyone informed.

Ms. Hecker commented that though the government has a role in recovery, there are challenges to being nimble and reactive. The CHNEP had to think outside of the box to gather every partner and resource and this dashboard would not be possible without the regional effort to collect this data. Ms. Hecker stated that collecting the data post storm was a herculean task because, understandably, public health and safety had to come first so labs and staff were diverted to focus only on public health and safety. The CHNEP had to bring in partners from outside of their region to bring manpower and equipment to fill the data gaps. The CHNEP is committed to doing a whole reworking of the [CHNEP Water Atlas](#), working with UF and others, to introduce new features and analytical tools and to bring in all publicly accessible data into one place. It will be very user-friendly, organized by waterbody with interactive mappers for water quality, hydrology, wildlife habitat, and climate change data. In addition, there will be a dashboard looking at the most recent water quality data across all sources and measuring that against the established thresholds for each waterbody in the CHNEP area. Ms. Hecker commented that there is a place for Mr. Medina's dashboard to be woven into the Water Atlas. She expressed that the lynchpin is collecting the data post storm since there are existing and developing tools to house and analyze the data, but we aren't yet prepared to pull together the people and equipment for another storm that is the caliber of Ian. Ms. Hecker added that the CHNEP ran into all sorts of constraints getting and processing those samples and with lab capacity, and engaged committee members to use this opportunity to think through how we can do better for the next major storm.

A committee member recommended that the response plan be written now and not to wait. They suggested looking at a variety of future scenarios and making plans and arrangements in advance, including identifying who will do what and when and how, to get the paperwork in order. The committee member also suggested thinking about climate change and sea level rise and how the storm response will get more complicated as time goes on, sort of like a continuity of operations plan. Ms. Hecker responded that creating a response plan now was an action item that came out of the CHNEP TAC meeting, including creating a plan B to the plan with a

second-line of options to pursue. Ms. Hecker added that it will also be important to work with emergency managers to try to integrate this environmental response element into the overall emergency response plans that are being developed.

A committee member commented that their operations plan had staff locked into other duties and they couldn't help with the environmental response due to their protocols and what is laid out in their EOC. Finally, a committee member concluded by recommending to think about advocacy and make this something that is recognized at the state-level because this type of action plan could provide suggestions for other locations that are going to be impacted in the future.

Agenda Item #12 – Hurricane Recovery Discussion with the Federal Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC) Team — David Hutchinson, Interim Co-Chair and IRC Team

Members

The federal government Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC) team traveled down to personally discuss with CHNEP Management 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 leadership shared FEMA's strategy for leveraging existing federal resources to support community resiliency. In addition, brief comments were offered by each IRC member to explain their respective roles and agency recovery assistance resources.

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 team members introduced themselves and provided an overview of some assistance approaches that may help aid local recovery efforts in the impacted region. The IRC leadership team members consist of the following:

- Deputy Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator - Leda Khoury
- Federal Disaster Recovery Officer - Christy Grant
- Community Assistance, Federal Emergency Management Agency - Laura Curvey
- Economic Recovery, Economic Development Administration - Milton Cochran
- Health and Social Services, HHS - Suzanne Everson
- Infrastructure, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Dave Apple
- Natural and Cultural Resources, Department of Interior - Daniel McGoldrick
- Philanthropic Advisor, Federal Emergency Management 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

Management Committee members shared introductory comments on their community needs and/or significant issues that would help in their recovery efforts. This included projects related to any of the priorities the community may have, the status of current recovery efforts, or ideas that could help the community manage risks from future storms.

A committee member from Lee County commented that they're very concerned about the natural infrastructure around us, including acreages of mangroves, oyster reefs, and beaches that were significantly damaged. The committee member stated that we have messed the hydrology up in

many cases and that there are some significant intervention and restoration opportunities, especially with regards to hydrology, mangroves, and oyster reefs. The committee member explained that we have a wonderful endangered species here, the smalltooth sawfish, which becomes a significant hurdle for Lee County and others to do projects on natural infrastructure that are for public benefit. Large-scale restoration projects are very difficult due to the need for consultation. Mr. Rick Durbrow from EPA responded that the governor has taken the lead on the coastal resiliency project, which is looking at the entire coast and trying to make it more nature-based and exploring opportunities to support long-term resiliency. The project aims to identify what those priorities are from the coastal and intracoastal communities and which benefit the hydrology from the heartland side. Mr. Durbrow explained that they heard a lot of Duane DeFreeze, Executive Director of the Indian River Lagoon NEP, about the importance of the inland hydrology and how that ties in all the way to the estuary and shoreline. Mr. Durbrow concluded that hearing these priorities first-hand from the committee will help the IRC to take that back and think about how multiple federal agencies may be able to support that work.

Another committee member commented that Lee County's biggest concern now is the debris removal. Early on, much of the focus for the public was getting the debris in their front yards removed. As time goes on and people are getting back out on the water, they are noticing trees down and debris in the waterways. Understanding that the State has assigned contractors for the navigable waters, the committee member explained that Lee County is at an impasse for the upland waterways, including the creeks, streams, canals and ditches that are maintained. The county was initially under the impression that these debris removal projects were going to be FEMA reimbursed, though has now been told to explore other funding opportunities through the Army Corps or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Lee County approached NRCS, who came out to do an inspection and found that the projects are eligible but that there is no available funding. The committee member explained that they will have to get congressional add or some sort of appropriation to fund the county's work. In the meantime, Lee County is at an impasse because they can't afford the millions of dollars to do their own clean up without the ability to get reimbursed in some fashion. The committee member expressed that there is now a gap in time and that there are a lot of potential issues out in the field as we approach rainy season. The committee member concluded by asking about ways to bridge that gap.

A committee member responded that Sarasota County is dealing with very similar issues. Sarasota County had massive stormwater blowouts and debris in the waterways as well, and the recovery is sitting within NRCS with no funding, meanwhile the county has private property that is in jeopardy of being lost.

Another committee member commented that FWC is working with the governor's office and there is currently a request for federal fisheries disaster funding which is going through the long process with NOAA. The committee member explained that, with a lot of those funding opportunities, if approved and a disaster is declared, the funds are not available to the commercial and environmental fishermen until a year or more later. FWC staff often get asked about opportunities for short-term assistance, to which the committee member directs them towards the Small Business Loan program. However, the committee member explained that commercial and charter captains may not have a consistent stream of income, and so there are concerns about how to pay those back in the schedule FEMA allows. The committee member concluded that there is a need for more available resources to educate on this issue. Ms. Nancy Young from the Small Business Administration (SBA) responded that the first and best resource is to go to the SBA, which is directed by the Stafford Act to do disaster loans to businesses, non-

profits, homeowners, renters, small agriculture cooperatives, and business in aquaculture. She explained that these loans are up to 30-year repayment at very low rates. The deadline for those loans was yesterday, though there is likely a grace period and it is not too late. Ms. Young explained that the SBA deals with seasonal businesses all the time and the loan officers know how to average that out and calculate whether someone will be able to make the repayment.

A committee member from the City of Sanibel commented that 98% of their structures were damaged in some degree or fashion. The committee member explained that there are significant financial challenges to the recovery, for example, the cost estimate for debris management alone exceeds the City's annual budget, thankfully the State of Florida is picking up those costs. The committee member asked how a local government interacts with the IRC, to which Ms. Laura Curvey from FEMA responded that Community Assistance (CA) tends to be the first one to get introduction, and based on the conversation other RSFs are brought in that have applicable support of the identified areas that they can provide. Ms. Curvey commented that they've been doing a round robin of all the different counties and are coordinating with the State. She explained that when those local municipalities are also saying they want to have a conversation, she coordinates with the county to speak to the local municipality. Ms. Curvey concluded that if there's interest for local municipalities to speak with FEMA, to make sure their county knows to bring them to the table. Mr. Milton Cochran from the EDA commented that for economic development driven opportunities, EDA has a network of Economic Development Representatives who work with the Regional Planning Councils. Mr. Cochran also mentioned Florida's Emergency Regional Programs as an immediate source of funding.

Additionally, the committee member explained that the surge tidal flow found a path of least resistance that was through a beach access or walkover for almost every resort or residential property for at least two-thirds of the island. This created tremendous scours and those areas are still filled with water, maybe replenishing on tidal cycles or just sitting there stagnant. The committee member explained that Sanibel is unique because they maintain natural beaches that are not renourished or raked, though their beaches lost a lot of sand to Ian. Unfortunately, this puts Sanibel beaches in a different category that is much less common than those engineered beaches that have known footprints and are able to go through a USACE or FEMA process to replace sand. The committee member explained that there will be a massive need for beach renourishment throughout the region and asked if there are opportunities that can be coordinated or if it will be every beach for themselves? Will there be a region wide approach to beach renourishment knowing that our beaches are not only a tremendous economic driver but also the environment that they provide as well.

The committee member also commented that Sanibel Island is two-thirds conservation land, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as their biggest land owner. The committee member explained that the National Wildlife Refuge system has been underfunded and understaffed for a long time, and there were massive tracks of land that have been severely damaged by Ian. She stated that, regarding habitat restoration needs, immediately they'll look at some of the vegetation concerns through the dry season and potential risk for wildfire.

A committee member from the City of North Port echoed concerns regarding debris removal and issues with funding. The committee member explained that work to better harden the system often may trigger a 404 permit, and it is a nightmare trying to get through the Army Corps permitting system. The committee member expressed that time is of the essence and asked if there is anything that can be done to help local municipalities on projects which have 404

requirements. Ms. Hecker added that we are fortunate to have federally endangered species in our water, but their efforts need to be balanced with the recovery needs of the region. Ms. Hecker stated that if there is a way to streamline or assist with permitting, that would be very helpful.

Finally, Mr. Cherry Jochum from FEMA commented that the philanthropy advisor can provide recovery resources in the form of grants, technical assistance, and other resources simply by submitting an email to philanthropy-fl@fema.vhs.gov with “subscribe” in the subject line. Mr. Jochum added that he would be happy to send committee members information on FEMA’s max tracks disaster recovery library which provides access to the public to research resources and could be used to conduct research on Ian’s impacts.

Agenda Item #13 – The Effect of Climate Change on Hurricane Ian — Michael Wehner, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Michael Wehner, Senior Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, provided an overview of the effect of climate change on hurricane Ian. Highlights are as follows:

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. Wehner emphasized that there is a lot of climate change that is still baked into the system regardless of what we do to reduce our emissions. He stated that the new law, the Inflation Reduction Act, goes a long way to reducing the U.S. emissions, though it doesn’t go far enough to halt climate change.

Committee members thanked Dr. Wehner for his important work and strong analysis. Ms. Hecker commented that understanding that the future will have more and more of these extreme rainfall events should inform our stormwater planning to build in extra capacity beyond what is needed for normal storm events to handle these extreme events as best we can.

Another committee member asked Dr. Wehner if he analyzed any of the California storms or other places, and commented that it seems that more severe droughts and more severe flooding is happening in a lot of places. Dr. Wehner responded that he looked at soil moisture in a warmer climate and concluded that there was no place on the entire planet where soil moisture increased in a warmer world, even in places where rainfall does increase because evapotranspiration due to increased temperatures out-paces soil moisture. Dr. Wehner commented that the atmospheric river extreme precipitation would increase by about 5% because the warming is a little bit less off the coast of California and the storms are different. Dr. Wehner and his colleagues found that the atmospheric rivers that have an extratropic cyclone associated with them are very sensitive to climate warming. Dr. Wehner also commented that his research is being used by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to revise their intensity-duration-frequency (IDF) currencies for their design tool for their wastewater management sources. He explained that they are trying to use this information to manage the urban storm runoff and that this kind of information is critical to be able to plan for the inevitable.

A committee member asked if Dr. Wehner considered climate change effects on the speed of storms because it seems like our hurricanes are slowing down, or even going backwards with Harvey, and Ian was very slow which contributed to the precipitation and storm surge. Dr. Wehner responded that his colleague, Jim Costing, found that hurricanes over the U.S. are slowing down after they make landfall and become remnant, and there is some evidence that is attributable to climate change. Dr. Wehner explained that in the case of Hurricane Harvey and the stall, that is a different scenario and such a rare event that we can't make any climate change assumptions from that. Dr. Wehner added that if there is a stall or slow-down, that does contribute to increased precipitation in any given situation because the storm sits there longer.

Another committee member commented that it seems like 100-year storms are more frequent than the 1% change of happening and that maybe regulatory agents should call them a 25-year storm. Dr. Wehner responded that this can be quantified, but we cannot use past historical records for the present day. Dr. Wehner explained that to quantify what a 100-year storm was based on past data is not accurate for what it is today, and certainly not accurate for the future. Dr. Wehner concluded that there is a reckoning to be had here as much of our planning for damages is based on outdated data.

Agenda Item #14 – CHNEP Technical Projects Update and New Tools — Nicole Iadevaia, CHNEP

CHNEP's Research and Outreach Manager, Nicole Iadevaia, presented on updates to technical projects that are already underway, in-progress, or have been completed since the last cycle. Highlights are as follows:

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. The [CHNEP Water Atlas](#) has recently completed several enhancements that will be beneficial to multiple users; this includes a new Coastal Conditions Map and Dona and Roberts Bay Data on the Seagrass Pages. The Coastal Conditions Map shows fixed coastal monitoring sites as well as locations where adverse water quality conditions have recently been reported. The latter may include red tide/harmful algal blooms, bacteria, or pollution. Updates to seagrass pages, site specific water quality criteria for CHNEP waterbodies, Clam Habitat Suitability Map, and UF Trend Analysis were recently added as well.

Coming 2023, the CHNEP Water Atlas will include new waterbody and watershed pages with new water quality, hydrology, wildlife/habitat, and climate change interactive mappers. Other enhancements are also planned for FY23, including the addition of Mote 'Healthy Beaches' data on the Coastal Conditions Map, Freshwater Caloosahatchee River Basin Habitat Restoration Needs (HRN) page, Winter Haven Lake Assessments on lake pages, and algae and epiphyte data on seagrass pages.

In addition to the Water Atlas enhancements, several other research and/or restoration projects in the program area have recently been completed or are currently underway. The Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrological Restoration Project is a recently completed modeling project to create integrated surface/groundwater models for hydrological restoration of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods area. This project aimed to restore more natural water flows, improve water quality and environmental conditions, increase natural water storage and moderation of flooding events by modeling the best way to restore areas to meet natural system needs and is already

being utilized. The Final Report and appendices are available on the CHNEP Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative webpage: <https://www.chnep.org/lower-charlotte-harbor-flatwoods-initiative>.

The Myakka Headwaters Restoration project is a 2022-2023 project to remove exotic invasive species and re-plant native species on the Myakka Headwaters property. The property is located in the Myakka Watershed and was recently conserved by the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast (CFGC). The project is on 363 acres of conserved land within Flatford Swamp, the Myakka River's largest forested wetland in Manatee County.

The Pine Island Flatwoods Project is to complete a shovel-ready restoration of four abandoned shrimp ponds on conservation land in order to enhance and expand native habitat for wading birds and aquatic life and also improve the hydrology and freshwater flows downstream from the site into tidal creeks, the estuary, and then out into the Gulf of Mexico. This restoration project is located in Lee County and was selected to receive CHNEP EPA21-funding. Staff have met with fiscal host City of Punta Gorda staff Lee County and the Engineer of Record to determine best course for procuring this federally-funded construction project, including a 'Request for Qualified Bidders' for engineering firm that will help to hire and oversee construction firm completing project and 'as-builts' according to design plans from engineer of record.

The Tiki Point Harborwalk Living Shoreline Pilot project is an upcoming project with the City of Punta Gorda to develop solutions to mitigate and adapt to the risks of flooding along the Charlotte Harbor shoreline by implementing nature-based features. The Living Shoreline will involve the creation of oyster and mangrove areas in front of existing seawall that will reduce wave action and flooding as well as add habitat. The project will increase resilience and mitigate the risks of flooding and sea level rise using a hybrid nature-based solution to improve habitat and water quality, reduce erosion, and buffer storm effects. The CHNEP was awarded an FDEP Resilient Florida award to fund project activities.

Starting in 2023, CHNEP will partner with Counties to complete Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments over the next 5 years. The goal of vulnerability assessments are to identify local climate change impacts and vulnerabilities and present adaptation responses that can help reduce community vulnerability and/or increase resilience in CHNEP Counties. For more information on CHNEP restoration projects, visit the Project Factsheet page on the CHNEP Website: <https://www.chnep.org/chnep-fact-sheets>.

Ms. Iadevaia concluded that CHNEP is having a call for abstracts for the upcoming 2023 Southwest Florida Climate Summit and 2023 CHNEP Watershed Summit. Abstracts are due March 1, 2023. Details and instructions are available on the CHNEP Website at www.chnep.org/2023-climate-summit or www.chnep.org/2023-watershed-summit.

A committee member asked if the CHNEP uses a wetland credits mechanism to help fund some of the restoration projects, to which Ms. Iadevaia responded that CHNEP's partners may use wetland credits but the CHNEP funding does not use a wetland credits mechanism.

Mr. Brandon Porinchak from HUD commented that his partners at FEMA also have two tools, the [Risk Analysis Planning Tool \(RAPT\)](#) as well as the [National Risk Index](#), which is an analysis by county of 18 known potential disasters and it takes in all types of data including social vulnerability index. Mr. Porinchak explained that there may be some datasets within both of

those tools that support the work the CHNEP is doing with vulnerability indices. Mr. Porinchak also asked if the CHNEP is looking holistically around Lee County or looking specifically along known flooding areas and waterways when looking at the vulnerability impacts. Ms. Hecker responded that the CHNEP covers inland counties because they're part of watersheds that feed these coastal estuaries, and so the CHNEP does take a holistic watershed approach. Ms. Hecker explained that the CHNEP puts equal emphasis on their inland and upland areas that are at the top of the watershed as they do their coastal communities. Ms. Hecker also commented that the State of Florida has a Resiliency Florida Program and has been a partner with the CHNEP. Ms. Hecker anticipates that the State will be granting funds to the same communities that the CHNEP is going to help with the CCVAs. The CCVAs meet state statutory requirements as well as bring in additional analysis looking at disadvantaged communities within those different counties. Ms. Hecker concluded that the CHNEP is using these two federal and state resources together to try to create something bigger and broader than the CHNEP could do independently.

Another committee member commented that the Southwest Water Management District also does their Watershed Management Plans, which are specific to each watershed, not on a county basis. The committee member explained that some of this may overlap with CHNEP's work but that there may be some existing work that is already done in those areas. Ms. Hecker responded that it would be wonderful to pull in some of the information from those plans into CHNEP's CCVAs. Ms. Hecker explained that the issue with the emergency response plans is that environment is not always a prominent aspect, and the vulnerability assessment is focused on key tangible assets such as schools and firehouses, so by participating in this process, CHNEP is hoping to bring added resources to really make natural resources part of the conversation and to really focus on vulnerabilities that exist there and what we need to do to mitigate those risks. The committee member responded that the CCVAs will build on top of the work that the District has done with those watershed plans because the watershed plans were not looking at all of those things. The committee member explained that the watershed plans are built for flood protection purposes and water quality is just now being added into those plans, though the plans can contribute some of the foundation for the vulnerability assessments.

A committee member asked where housing fits in, to which Ms. Hecker responded that pieces of homes blew out into the water and became debris that then affected water quality. Ms. Hecker added that FEMA was trying to figure out how to provide housing on the barrier islands, and they didn't want trailers out there in case of another storm next year, trailers could then be floating in the water. Instead, they are looking at RVs so that they can be moved off of the island if need be. Ms. Hecker concluded that we need to be coordinating with HUD and other agencies to advance our thinking. Mr. Porinchak responded that HUD looks at areas such as Babcock Ranch and explained that though HUD doesn't own or build anything, they can certainly focus that conversation to consider that when housing authorities are looking to rebuild or multifamily housing developers are looking to develop. Mr. Porinchak commented that this is a major focus of the agency, and the more and more damages they are seeing to HUD assisted properties, the more they realize that they have to take into account positive things like Babcock Ranch among others as best practices to support holisticness.

Mr. Milton Cochran from the EDA commented that he would be very interested to hear about how CHNEP quantifies the value of water quality from an economic perspective. Mr. Cochran recommended giving water quality an economic value and using that as a tool moving forward. Ms. Hecker responded that the CHNEP did an in-depth Economic Valuation study using real data and that she can provide insight on the methodology and contractor on that project.

Agenda Item #15 – Management Committee Member Updates — David Hutchinson, Interim Co-Chair

Each member updated the Committee on projects currently being completed to protect and restore natural resource in the CHNEP program area. Interim Co-Chair, Mr. David Hutchinson, led and facilitated this discussion. Highlights are as follows:

Melynda Brown from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) shared that the FDEP asked council at their meeting on Tuesday to approve their grant from the Resilient Florida program, so that will be for the State component vulnerability assessment.

David Hutchinson from Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) encouraged committee members as they develop resiliency and vulnerability assessments, to use the existing analyses, some of which were done years ago by CHNEP and now are going to be updated. Mr. Hutchinson commented that this was some of the first really recognized peer-reviewed work in the space and to use that and other resources so that we do have alignment amongst the various plans. Mr. Hutchinson will be closely watching to see how the rebuilding of the beaches will be implemented and adapted to the needs around the state.

Claire Jubb from Charlotte County commented that Charlotte County is moving forward with their One Charlotte One Water plan, an integrated water resource plan for the community. That bid has closed and the County has selected a bidder, so the County should be moving forward pretty quickly. Ms. Jubb explained that water quality remains a very strong focus of the Board of County Commissioners as they move forward.

Elizabeth Wong from City of North Port shared that Google Earth Pro, on a desktop, has a very cool time application where you can scroll to the day after Hurricane Ian to see all of the areas that are flooded and damaged. Ms. Wong explained that this tool was very helpful, even for insurance purposes to show that the streets were flooded and people couldn't get back home.

Ernesto Lasso de la Vega from Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control shared that there will be a massive clean-up for the Lower Myakka River hosted by FDEP on Saturday, February 25th. Mr. Lasso de la Vega extended an invitation to anyone who wants to clean up the Lower Myakka River.

Nancy Gallinaro from City of North Port shared that the City got a \$2.3 million dollar grant to match for their septic to sewer program. Ms. Gallinaro explained that the City is looking at ways to mitigate flooding while trying to save some of that water in their systems. A committee member asked what percent of the septic Ms. Gallinaro believes that would help with, to which Ms. Gallinaro responded that, unfortunately, not a lot because only 30% of the City's system is sewerred. Ms. Gallinaro commented that there is a large land mass that is not sewerred and explained that the City is matching those funds so it may be that one of their sewer-sheds will be completed.

Sheila McNamara from the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) shared that the CFRPC is hosting its first meeting for the Coalition for the Heartland on Monday January 23rd. Ms. McNamara explained that the coalition was recently formed last year and one of the responsibilities of the coalition is to create a resiliency action plan for the region.

Agenda Item #16 – Public Comment — David Hutchinson, Interim Co-Chair

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item #17 – Future Meeting's Topics, Location and Date – David Hutchinson, Interim Co-Chair

The next meeting will be held on May 12th, 2023. Upcoming 2023 meeting dates include September 8th, 2023.

Agenda Item #18 – Adjourn – David Hutchinson, Interim Co-Chair

Meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm.

DRAFT