

**Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance**  
**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**April 2, 2008**

***In Attendance:*** Dennis Peters, Mitch Shank, Al Wenstrand, Mike Flynt, James Ward, Alison McDowell, Julie Terrell, Sarah Kalinoski, and Cy Chance and Timothy Harper from Greenhorne & O'Mara

**1. Opening Remarks:**

- a) Vice Chairman Dennis Peters called the advisory committee meeting of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance to order at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, 2008.

**2. Review of February 2008 Meeting Minutes :**

- a) Minutes were distributed to the advisory committee members prior to the meeting.
- b) Since a quorum was not present, the minutes could not be approved.

**3. Budget Report Update:**

- a) Since Ross Hamilton, treasurer, was not present, Julie Terrell presented an update of the CBA budget.
- b) Since a quorum was not present, the budget could not be approved.

**4. Presentation by Greenhorne & O'Mara, Consulting Engineers:**

- a) Vice Chairman Dennis Peters introduced guests Cy Chance and Timothy Harper of the Greenhorne & O'Mara consulting firm.
- b) Cy and Tim presented a PowerPoint and verbal summary of the work of Greenhorne & O'Mara.
- c) The advisory committee asked questions specific to the consultants' work in the Florida Panhandle.

**5. Update on CBA Activities:**

- a) Julie Terrell was asked to provide an update on CBA's activities in the two months since the last full meeting of the advisory committee.
- b) Julie announced that Joni Barreda has been hired as CBA's new Volunteer Coordinator and gave a brief background
- c) Julie announced upcoming events, inviting committee members to participate by assisting with their development and also by attending the events. Events mentioned include:
  - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Mattie Kelly Environmental Symposium on Choctawhatchee Bay and the associated Banquet
    - a. Dennis and Al suggested that the Kayak Experience in Destin may be willing to help out with the provision of kayaks for the Community Day
  - 2. Florida Lake Management Society conference at the beginning of June
    - a. CBA will pursue a sponsorship of the FLMS conference
  - 3. Strategic Planning Meeting for CBA committee members, which will follow the aforementioned June symposia
  - 4. National Science Foundation's Distinguished Lecture Series with Julie Huber at Okaloosa-Walton College on April 7, 2008
- d) Julie updated the committee on CBA's current restoration projects, including:
  - 1. Cessna Park: Officially closed out with the Northwest Florida Water Management District
  - 2. Clement Taylor: Recommendation approved by the Okaloosa-Walton College Board of Trustees. Currently drafting contract with Chandler Construction, Inc.
  - 3. Liza Jackson: In design, engineering, and permitting phase with Goodwyn, Mills, & Cawood, Inc.
  - 4. Greenshores-type project in Choctawhatchee Bay: discussion of scientific committee composition

e) NPDES Contracts:

1. Julie announced that CBA's NPDES contract with the City of Fort Walton has been renewed for a third year.

2. CBA is under contract with Walton County through September 30, 2008

f) Julie updated the advisory committee on the upcoming construction of the South Walton Campus of OWC.

g) Julie announced the donation of \$5,000 by the WaterColor Inn and Resort to CBA for use in our dune lakes program.

**6. New Business:**

a) Discussion of CBA's relationship with the Northwest Florida Water Management District

b) Dennis Peters has offered information on seagrass coverage in Choctawhatchee Bay to CBA staff, and will ask a member of his staff to present CBA with a workshop on photo interpretation for the purposes of developing a seagrass project in the bay

c) Mitch Shank suggested a mailing of our 2007 Annual Report to waterfront residents to solicit more interest in and donations to CBA. He suggested that the use of a GIS system may assist us in locating the residents who live on the Bay and Coastal Lakes. He also questioned if we are pursuing additional funding from the Mattie Kelly Foundation for CBA.

d) James Ward asked about potential projects/funding from NFWFMD, and he suggested that CBA present board members a list of projects, so that they can explore funding sources, including OWC budget, Water Quality Assurance Trust Fund, etc.

**7. Meeting Adjourned:**

a) Vice Chairman Dennis Peters adjourned the advisory committee meeting at 6:10 p.m.