

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2008

In Attendance: Mike Flynt, Al Wenstrand, Mitch Shank, Holly Booyse, Tom Patton, Mark Shaeffer, Julie Terrell, Alison McDowell, and Lauren Nowling

1. Opening Remarks:

- a) Chairman Holly Booyse called the advisory committee meeting of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance to order at 4:09 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2008.
- b) Chairman Booyse expressed her concerns about low attendance of advisory committee meetings. She encouraged those present to contact their fellow committee members and encourage attendance.

2. Approval of February, April and June 2008 Meeting Minutes:

- a) Minutes were distributed to the advisory committee members prior to the meeting.
- b) The February and April meeting minutes were distributed for approval by email prior to the advisory committee meeting.
- c) By email, Dennis Peters motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February and April. Tom Patton seconded the motion. Mitch Shank, Mark Shaeffer and Holly Booyse all voted to approve the meeting minutes as well. Since a majority of the committee did not cast their votes by email, Chairman Booyse requested one more vote at the meeting to approve the February and April meeting minutes. Al Wenstrand voted to approve the meeting minutes.
- d) Due to not having a quorum at the advisory committee meeting, approval of the June 2008 meeting minutes was tabled. Julie Terrell stated that she may call for votes by email for the June meeting minutes.

3. Budget Report Update:

- a) Julie Terrell gave a brief update of the CBA budget.
- b) The budget was accepted as presented.
- c) Ms. Terrell explained that CBA will receive one more quarterly payment from its NPDES Contract with the City of Fort Walton Beach before the termination of the contract if that is the action the City takes. The termination of the contract would be September 30, 2008.
- d) Julie also stated that CBA is currently speaking with the City of Destin regarding an NPDES contract and this would help alleviate the loss of the Fort Walton Beach Contract.
- e) Chairman Booyse mentioned that CBA will be doing some fundraising in the near future as well.

4. City of Fort Walton Beach NPDES Funding:

- a) Julie Terrell explained that the City of Fort Walton Beach has recommended cutting CBA from its proposed budget. If the cut is approved, the current contract between CBA and the City of Fort Walton Beach would end on September 30, 2008 instead of its proposed ending date of March 30, 2009.
- b) Ms. Terrell told the advisory committee that she has written a letter to the Fort Walton Beach City Council Members as well as city residents to rally for support of CBA. In the letter Julie emphasized the benefits of the services CBA provides to the City of Fort Walton Beach and its residents.
- c) City Council members have asked that Ms. Terrell attend the public participation section of the City Council Meeting on August 12th and spend about 5 minutes explaining the situation to all the City Council Members at one time. Ms. Terrell has also asked to be included on the agenda of the 3 day City Budget Hearing beginning August 18th. CBA was put on the agenda the third day of that hearing.
- d) Chairman Booyse suggested including the dates and times of those public hearings in the citizen letter that Julie wrote so that people can attend and show their support of CBA.

e) Tom Patton suggested contacting advisory committee member James Ward since he is a well-respected public figure in the City of Fort Walton Beach.

5. City of Destin NPDES Proposal:

a) Julie Terrell provided an update on the proposed NPDES contract between the City of Destin and CBA. She stated that CBA has a verbal commitment from city staff for a 4 year contract for \$25,000 per year dependent upon city funding.

b) Ms. Terrell explained that the draft of the contract is currently at the City of Destin's Lawyer's office and if they approve the language in the contract than it will be signed by both parties shortly.

6. Walton County NPDES:

a) Julie Terrell updated the committee regarding the current CBA NPDES contract with Walton County. She stated that the Walton County 2008-2009 budget still includes all of CBA's current duties but we will be split between the Planning Department and Public Works. She also informed the committee that Walton County Staff have mentioned that they will be cutting their budget next year and they told CBA that the NPDES contract with them could be in jeopardy.

7. New Business:

a) Ms. Terrell provided the committee with a detailed schematic of the Liza Jackson Park Stormwater Remediation Project design plan. Julie emphasized that the drawing was not to scale and some details still need to be added. She stated that the plan still needs to be approved by the City of Fort Walton Beach.

b) Ms. Terrell explained that the Clement Taylor Project is due to be completed by August 25, 2008. Chairman Booyse suggested doing something similar to the Cessna Park Celebration to recognize completion of the Park publicly. Tom Patton suggested putting some signage up in the park explaining the benefits of the project to the public.

c) Julie stated that Okaloosa-Walton College has changed its name to Northwest Florida State College. She said that the transition to the new name is supposed to be slow and that CBA's logo will have to be modified to include the new name once the Board of Trustees for the college approves a new logo design.

d) Ms. Terrell thanked the advisory committee for their participation and donations at the Mattie Kelly Environmental Symposium and the Estuary Festival. She said that over 700 people attended the Estuary Festival and there were 18 presenters/posters with over 80 people at the symposium.

e) Ms. Terrell explained to the board that she hopes to do some more restructuring of CBA staff in order to free up some of her time for fundraising. She hopes to create an assistant director position from the current CBA staff so that she can delegate more of her duties. Julie mentioned that committee support for this restructuring might be needed to obtain approval by the college.

f) Mitch Shank applauded Sarah Kalinoski's TV interview regarding the Coastal Dune Lakes and stated that TV spots and videos are great ways to recruit funding for CBA.

g) Mr. Shank asked CBA Staff what happens when an area receives a 'POOR' rating on the weekly Healthy Beaches Monitoring by the Florida Department of Health. Ms. Terrell explained that if bacteria levels are high enough to receive 'POOR' rating, the Health Department will close the beach, post signage regarding the closing, and post the results of the weekly monitoring in the newspaper. Mike Flynt stated that there is no enforcement of the beach closing other than the posted signage.

h) Julie explained that CBA tries to do supplemental sampling at Liza Jackson Park and Garniers Beach in Fort Walton. CBA is trying to determine where the sources of these bacteria are by doing some umbrella sampling in these areas and processing bacteria samples in CBA's lab.

i) Ms. Terrell provided a copy of the Draft of the Coastal Dune Lake Management Plan to Mitch Shank. She explained that the final public meeting for the management plan will be

held August 25, 2008 at the Huettel Center in Walton County. She also mentioned that CBA will be hosting a Rain Garden Workshop at this same location on August 9, 2008.

j) Tom Patton suggested bringing new community members to the CBA advisory committee. He suggested asking Senator Charles Clary if he would be interested in joining the committee and felt that he would be a great addition. Chairman Booyse suggested that committee members generate a list of potential advisory committee members for discussion.

k) Mitch Shank suggested that CBA staff and committee members should consider going to Pensacola and meeting Chips Kirschenfeld to discuss Project Greenshores. Mr. Patton added that this could be a great opportunity to take some local public officials such as Daniel Slaterpryce or Pat Blackshear to see how Mr. Kirschenfeld is doing things.

8. Meeting Adjourned.

a) Chairman Booyse adjourned the advisory committee meeting at 5:41 p.m.