

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2008

In Attendance: Al Wenstrand, Mitch Shank, Ross Hamilton, Jerry Najarian, Holly Booyse, James Ward, Tom Patton, Dan Robeen, Mark Shaeffer, Gary Parsons, Alison McDowell, Julie Terrell, Lauren Nowling, and Sarah Kalinoski

1. Opening Remarks:

- a) Chairman Wenstrand called the advisory committee meeting of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance to order at 4:06 p.m., Wednesday, February 6, 2008.
- b) Mr. Hamilton introduced guest Gary Parsons to the advisory committee. Mr. Parsons is a long-time CBA member, past volunteer and concerned citizen. He is currently the conservation chair for the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society.

2. Review of October and December 2007 Meeting Minutes :

- a) Minutes were distributed to the advisory committee members prior to the meeting.
- b) Ross Hamilton motioned to approve the meeting minutes from October and December.
- c) Holly Booyse seconded the motion.
- d) The prior meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Budget Report Update:

- a) Ross Hamilton was introduced to give an update of the CBA budget.
- b) The budget was accepted as presented.
- c) Mr. Hamilton reviewed each CBA account indicating which funds are encumbered and which are unrestricted. He also reviewed anticipated payments and when those funds are expected to be received.
- d) Mr. Hamilton stated that CBA recently invoiced Walton County for the first NPDES payment of the current contract and should be receiving \$112,000.00.
- e) Ross also explained that the NPDES contract with the City of Fort Walton Beach for the upcoming year is in the City's budget request and has to be approved by the city council on February 12, 2008.
- f) Julie Terrell explained that CBA is working to get Goodwin, Mills and Cawood under contract for the Liza Jackson Park Project and that CBA will open sealed bids for the Clement Taylor Project on February 13, 2008.

4. Recommendations for CBA by Gary Parsons:

- a) Al Wenstrand explained to Mr. Parsons that the executive committee met and reviewed his letter of recommendations and that CBA is currently working on all of his suggestions.
- b) Mr. Parsons was introduced to explain one of the recommendations to the advisory committee.
- c) Gary stated that he is very concerned with the loss of submerged and emergent vegetation in Choctawhatchee Bay. He hopes to collaborate with CBA in any way possible to create sea grass habitat and perform some shoreline restoration.
- d) Mr. Parsons referenced Project Greenshore in Pensacola as a good example of what CBA should try to accomplish in Choctawhatchee Bay. He stated that Project Greenshore was a much larger scale project than we should undertake initially and he suggested using sand rather than rip rap to reduce cost.
- e) Mr. Hamilton stated that a project like this should be undertaken in a visible spot on Choctawhatchee Bay in order to get the public involved. He also mentioned that CBA has the expertise of Dennis Peters and Taylor Kirschenfeld as advisory committee members for a project like this.
- f) Mr. Parsons stressed to the advisory committee that he is willing to work with CBA in any capacity to accomplish a project like Project Greenshore in our bay. Mr. Wenstrand stated

that the advisory committee and staff were receptive to his ideas and would like to get together and discuss them in further detail.

5. 2007 Report to the Community:

- a) Julie Terrell was introduced to discuss the 2007 Report to the Community that CBA recently published. Julie summarized the contents of the report for the advisory committee members present.
- b) Julie stated that CBA recently printed 3000 copies of this report and encouraged the committee members to take some of these and pass them out at work and to anyone interested. She also mentioned that CBA staff would appreciate any comments or suggestions for next year's report.

6. Staff S.W.O.T Meeting:

- a) Julie Terrell updated the advisory committee on the staff S.W.O.T. meeting that was held on January 11, 2008. Julie explained that CBA staff met with Mr. Shank, Mr. Hamilton, and Mrs. Booyse to identify and discuss CBA's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the watershed.
- b) The outcome of this 3 hour meeting was a 2008-2009 Plan that will be used to focus CBA's short and long-term goals in the upcoming years.
- c) Ms. Terrell stated that CBA's 2008-2009 Plan consists of continuing and expanding water quality monitoring, enhancing analysis and reporting of data, strengthening and expanding CBA's NPDES partnerships, continuing and developing restoration and remediation projects in the watershed, continuing and developing research projects, continuing and developing education and outreach, and developing a business plan for CBA.

7. Call for Papers for the Mattie Kelly Environmental Institute 2008 Annual Symposium & the 2008 Florida Lake Management Society Conference:

- a) Julie Terrell summarized the call for papers for both the Mattie Kelly Annual Symposium and the Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS) Conference. She explained that the overall goal of these conferences is to share the work that is being done on Choctawhatchee Bay and in the Florida Panhandle with as many people as possible to reduce duplication of research.
- b) Ms. Terrell encouraged the advisory committee to attend the Mattie Kelly Annual Symposium and Banquet due to CBA's direct involvement and to attend the FLMS meeting if interested.

8. New Business:

- a) Mitch Shank stated that he attended the Coastal Dune Lake Management Plan meetings that CBA held in Walton County on February 5, 2008. He explained that the meetings were a great success and a very good way to involve the public in the beginning phases of the management plan.
- b) Julie Terrell presented some plans for the OWC South Walton Campus to the advisory committee and explained what accommodations are being made for CBA. She stated that OWC is being very helpful in providing CBA with all of the necessities to run daily operations.
- c) Ms. Terrell stated that CBA has successfully purchased and received its very own Ford F150 4x4 pick-up truck. She thanked the committee for their speedy participation in voting by email to approve this purchase.

9. Nominating Committee Report and Election of 2008 Advisory Committee Officers:

- a) Prior to today's meeting, Chairman Wenstrand selected a nominating committee consisting of Ross Hamilton, Holly Booyse and Mitch Shank to compose a nominating committee report for the election of the 2008 advisory committee officers.
- b) The nominating committee made the following recommendations for 2008 advisory committee officers:

Holly Booyse – Chairman

Dennis Peters – Vice Chair
Ross Hamilton – Treasurer
Mitch Shank – Secretary

c) Chairman Wenstrand asked if there were any nominations for officers from the floor and none were made.

d) Tom Patton motioned to approve the nominating committee report.

e) James Ward seconded the motion.

f) The 2008 nominations for advisory committee officers were approved unanimously.

g) Al Wenstrand then turned the meeting over to the new Chairman Holly Booyse. Mrs. Booyse thanked Mr. Wenstrand for his outstanding service as chairman and stated that she is very excited to take over this position.

h) Ross Hamilton thanked Mr. Wenstrand for his services and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the advisory committee and staff.

10. Meeting Adjourned:

a) Chairman Booyse adjourned the advisory committee meeting at 5:45 p.m.