

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2009
at Florida's Great Northwest

In Attendance: Mitch Shank, Ross Hamilton, Holly Booyse, James Ward, Mark Shaeffer, Al Wenstrand, Jerry Najarian, Bill Schultz, Julie Terrell, Alison McDowell, Sarah Kalinoski, and Donna Howsden.

1. Opening Remarks

- a) Chairman Booyse called the advisory committee meeting of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance to order at 4:16 p.m., Wednesday, February 4, 2009.
- b) Mrs. Booyse introduced prospective committee member Bill Schultz. Mr. Schultz is a communications consultant in Walton County.

2. Budget Report Update

- a) Ross Hamilton was introduced to give an update of the CBA budget.
- b) 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.
- c) Ms. Terrell was asked about the Fort Walton Beach contract; she stated the budget for 08-09 was completed and was \$26,250.00. Ms. Terrell also mentioned the contract is currently expired and is expecting a new one to be processed for the 09-10 FY.
- d) Mr. Hamilton asked about the Destin NPDES proposal; Ms. Terrell stated it was signed and executed. Billing for the first quarter was expected in the near future.
- e) Mrs. Booyse inquired about Ron Sassano, who is involved with the development of The Estates at Indian Bayou. Ms. Terrell stated that CBA is pursuing a partnership with Mr. Sassano to create living shorelines along the failing seawall. Mr. Hamilton questioned whether there was an engineer for Indian Point and asked which plats did not have a stormwater plan. Ms. Terrell gave website information. There was a discussion of property rights issues and the number of houses in the development.

3. Presentation of Living Shorelines by Alison McDowell

- a) Ms. McDowell defined living shorelines as management options that involve organic alternatives for erosion. There are many advantages to living shorelines: increased habitat, reduce erosion; attraction for wildlife. Ms. McDowell emphasized that organic alternatives can be used with other traditional methods as well.
- b) Current and future projects that enhance living shorelines through Oyster Reefs building, which helps reduce wave energy and provide habitat for other creatures, include:
 - a. Mattie Kelly Park restoration
 - b. Schultz project
 - c. Cessna Park restoration
- c) After the presentation, questions were addressed:
 - a. There were discussions about the willingness of homeowners to give land for projects because of homeowners losing land to the bay due to erosion.
 - b. There were discussions about the northwest bay area and its management practices for living shorelines.

- c. There were discussions about the western bay salinity and how good it is to raise oysters.
- d. There were discussions of reef balls and how they relate to seawall and oyster reefs.
- e. Mr. Shank asked about scientific data that CBA is collecting on the pilot oyster reefs started two years ago.
- f. Mr. Shank asked about the Gulf of Mexico Foundation. Ms McDowell explained that the Gulf of Mexico Foundation is a part of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance that gets water quality funding from the EPA and is partly funded by Gulf Coast Community based Restoration Partnership (GCRP) grant provided by the NOAA.

4. Election Update

- a) Mrs. Booyse confirmed the election of Ross Hamilton, Mitch Shank, Dennis Peters and Mark Shaeffer to serve 2-year terms (2008-2010).
- b) Ms. Terrell stated that the write-in candidates were contacted and all declined the positions offered to them.
- c) Mrs. Booyse introduced Bill Schultz as prospective candidate for the Advisory committee. Mr. Schultz expressed his willingness to serve. **James Ward made a motion to accept Mr. Schultz as a member of the Advisory Committee for 2008-2010.**
- d) **Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion.**
- e) **The motion was passed unanimously.**
- f) **Mr. Hamilton motioned to make Taylor Kirchenfeld an exofficio member.**
- g) **Al Wenstrand seconded the motion**
- h) **The motion passed unanimously.**
- i) Ms. Booyse announced that anyone wishing to hold an office and serve on the executive committee of CBA should contact Ms. Terrell—including current officers.

5. Endowment and Building Membership Drive

- a) Mrs. Booyse discussed with the committee that she and Ms. Terrell would begin to lay the groundwork to begin endowment and membership initiatives. They will report the results of their efforts to the committee periodically.
- b) Possible places to find prospective supporters were discussed among committee members.
 - a. Through NWF State College
 - b. Some of our Alliance update contributors
 - c. Previous supporters
- c) History of CBA's donors was discussed
- d) This group meets every two weeks
- e) Mr. Ward suggested going to our legislative delegation with a request list. Mr. Ward agreed to work with Ms. Terrell to accomplish this objective.

6. New Business

- a) NWFSC's Foundation will host their annual dinner on Feb 13. A table for eight is reserved in CBA's name. We need to fill all seats. Currently six spots are filled (Holly Booyse, Ross and Jenny Hamilton, Jerry Najarian, and Mark Shaeffer). Please let Ms. Terrell know as soon as possible if you can fill the other 2 seats.
- b) Sarah Kalinoski, at the next Advisory Committee meeting in April, will present CBA's Coastal Dune Lakes Initiative.
- c) Ms. Terrell will make contact with the City of Niceville and to discuss an NPDES partnership with them. She will report back to the committee.

d) Mr. Shank asked Mr. Schultz if he was aware of the Walton County Coastal Dune Lakes Management Plan. Mr. Schultz said he had read the Plan. Mr. Shank suggested that Mr. Schultz might be helpful in assisting the CBA Staff with the implementation of the Plan.

7. Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Booyse Adjourned the Advisory Committee meeting at 5:23 pm.