

**Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance**  
**Executive Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 7, 2008**

*NWFSC – 4:00 p.m.*

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**In Attendance: Holly Booyse, Dennis Peters, Ross Hamilton, Mitch Shank, and Julie Terrell.**

**I. Call to Order:**

- a) Chairman Booyse called the Executive Advisory Committee Meeting of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance to order at 4:05 P.M., Wednesday, January 7, 2008.

**II. Opening Remarks – Holly Booyse**

- a) Ms. Booyse welcomed everyone and wished all a Happy New Year.

**III. Budget Update – Ross Hamilton**

- a) Ms. Terrell went over the budget summaries for each project and contract. She also calculated that over the last quarter CBA's operational costs were approximately \$24,000 per month. To maintain the status quo, CBA needs almost \$300,000 annual to operate.
- b) Ms. Terrell asked about the Boston Whaler vessel that was donated to CBA but has been in the shop for the past year. CBA has received two estimates that it would take a minimum of \$5,000 to get the boat back in the water (not counting labor). Both repair shops advise against repairing the boat. Ms. Terrell wants to auction the boat and the dollars generated from the sale of the boat towards the purchase of a new boat—a boat that can be used to monitor sea grasses. Mr. Hamilton thinks CBA should look for a used boat. Mr. Peters asked for specifications of a boat that would meet CBA's needs to expand its monitoring program to include sea grasses. He will look into options available for CBA to acquiring a suitable "used" boat.
- c) Mr. Shank mentioned about expanding CBA's monitoring efforts offshore and up within the watershed. Ms. Terrell mentioned that CBA has partnered with the coast guard auxiliary to get 10 miles offshore—but it has only worked once last year. To sample offshore, CBA will need to partner with someone like the coast guard or a charter boat company to get at least quarterly samples.

**V. Review of Annual Meeting**

- a) Ms. Booyse commented that the format, venue, and food worked well. All agreed. She mentioned that we needed to get work harder next year and get a better turn out of the members. She suggested mailing invitations earlier. Mr. Hamilton would like to see the volunteers recognized better—have them stand up or come up to the front. Also, the value of the volunteer effort needs to be identified and presented better. Mr. Shank commented that we might want to get a picture of the volunteers all together and feature them on the web site and in the newsletter. Mr. Peters mentioned highlighting a volunteer in each issue of the newsletter.

- b) Ms. Terrell mentioned that the annual meeting this year cost almost \$400 less than last year.

**VI. New Business:**

- a) Ms. Terrell will begin coordinating a yearly review of CBA's accomplishments last year and conduct a similar S.W.O.T. workshop as last year. This workshop will focus on setting annual and long-term goals for CBA. This workshop will be open to the advisory committee, but will involve CBA staff under Mr. Shank's direction.
- b) Ms. Terrell discussed developing a "green shores" type project for Choctawhatchee Bay. Gary Parson recommended this project last year and the advisory committee thought at that time that it was a good project to begin developing. CBA staff has talked with its TAG to discuss various components to a project of this size. She mentioned that CBA would need a large donation to jump-start this initiative. The group in Pensacola had an initial \$100,000 donation. Site location for this project is crucial. Mr. Peters and Mr. Hamilton discussed several options. Mr. Hamilton suggested finding a visible site so CBA can gain recognition with its success. Ms. Terrell asked where the apricot discharge site is in the bay. The exact location was not known. Ms. Terrell will get with BDI and find out. This might be a good location due to the wastewater discharge. Mr. Shank suggested that one of CBA's current living shoreline sites might be expanded to encompass a larger area—especially one that is at a park and has access by the public.
- c) Mr. Shank would like to have a guest speaker—even CBA staff—give a brief presentation about projects and topics to keep advisory members informed.
- d) Mr. Shank also mentioned that he would like CBA to do a presentation in March to the City of Destin's City Council Meeting about CBA's activities.

**VII. Public Comments:**

- a) None

**VIII. Adjourn:**

- a) Ms. Booyse adjourned the Executive Advisory Committee Meeting at 5:26 P.M.