

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2007

In Attendance: Al Wenstrand, Mitch Shank, Mike Flynt, Jerry Najarian, Ross Hamilton, Dennis Peters, Mark Shaeffer, Holly Booyse, Tom Patton, Daniel Slaterpryce, Captain Ed Destin, Phillip Ellis, Alison McDowell, Julie Terrell, Sarah Kalinoski, and Lauren Nowling.

1. Opening Remarks:

- a) Chairman Wenstrand called the advisory board meeting of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance to order at 4:05 p.m., Wednesday, March 7, 2007.
- b) Mr. Wenstrand asked that everyone in attendance make a brief introduction due to the presence of two guests at the board meeting.

2. Review of October Meeting Minutes:

- a) Minutes were distributed to the advisory board members prior to the meeting.
- b) Ross Hamilton motioned to approve the meeting minutes from October.
- c) Mike Flynt seconded the motion.
- d) The October meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Review of February Meeting Minutes:

- a) Minutes were distributed to the advisory board members prior to the meeting.
- b) Ross Hamilton motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February.
- c) Mike Flynt seconded the motion.
- d) The February meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

4. 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 suggested that CBA staff close the watershed partnership account since it has a zero balance.
- d) Mr. Hamilton mentioned that there are still some funds receivable for both of the NPDES accounts, those funds are expected to arrive shortly. He also stated that the NPDES contracts between CBA and the City of Fort Walton Beach and Walton County have been renewed for another year.

5. Election of Advisory Board Officers:

- a) A copy of the nominating committee report was distributed to the advisory board members prior to the meeting.
- b) Pursuant to Article II, Section 4 of the CBA bylaws, a Nominating Committee comprised of Ross Hamilton and Dennis Peters was appointed by the Chairman of the Advisory Board. The Nominating Committee made the following nominations for officers of the Advisory Board: Al Wenstrand, Chairman; Dennis Peters, Vice Chair; Ross Hamilton, Treasurer; and Holly Booyse, Secretary.
- c) Jerry Najarian motioned to accept the nominations made by the Nominating Committee for officers of the CBA Advisory Board.
- d) All other Advisory Board members were in favor and the nominations were approved unanimously.

6. Project and NPDES Contract Updates:

- a) Julie Terrell was introduced to give a brief update regarding current CBA projects and the NPDES Contracts.
- b) Ms. Terrell stated that the Clement Taylor Project hasn't begun yet but CBA was awarded \$108,000 from the Northwest Florida Water Management District and \$15,000 from the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the project. She is going to meet with TetraTech at the park to discuss the project.

c) Ms. Terrell explained that the contact with Tindle Enterprises for the Cessna Park Stormwater Remediation Project has not been finalized at this time but should be by the end of next week.

d) Ms. Terrell stated that CBA is working with Walton County to finalize the new NPDES contract. The contract has been approved by the county and is moving to the Public Works Department.

e) Julie told the board that CBA is trying to set up meetings with Niceville and Destin regarding an NPDES partnership with those entities.

f) Ms. Terrell mentioned that CBA is also trying to work with Okaloosa County to set up an inter-local agreement to do a project on Gap Creek in Fort Walton Beach.

7. Annual Mattie Kelly Environmental Symposium on Choctawhatchee Bay:

a) Julie Terrell reported on plans for a first annual Mattie Kelly Environmental Symposium on Choctawhatchee Bay.

b) Julie explained that the endowed chair of the OWC Mattie Kelly Cultural and Environmental Institute will be responsible for planning an annual environmental symposium on Choctawhatchee Bay. CBA staff will aid in the planning process of this symposium.

c) Ms. Terrell stated that OWC is still involved in the hiring process for the endowed chair position so the environmental symposium is only in the early planning stages. She explained that she just wanted to let the board members know that the symposium will take place in the future and wanted to give the board time to think of what they envision for this symposium.

d) Ross Hamilton stated that the "Future Bay" symposium that was held in the late 1990's would be a good model to follow when planning the Mattie Kelly Environmental Symposium.

e) Mitch Shank also stated that we need to decide who the audience will be because what we do for the scientific community and the general public may need different events or something for education and outreach and furthering the research.

8. Presentation by Phillip Ellis – Coastal Dune Lakes Management Plan:

a) Phillip Ellis, CBA's Project Coordinator, was introduced to give a presentation on the Coastal Dune Lakes Management Plan he has been working on with Scott Jackson.

b) Mr. Ellis explained that he and Mr. Jackson developed a four year strategy to fulfill their three desired goals: 1) a community driven management plan for each coastal dune lake; 2) to develop and implement a prioritized list of projects; and 3) increase the scientific knowledge of the rare coastal dune lakes.

c) Currently, Mr. Ellis and Mr. Jackson are working with a technical committee on a draft plan and will be taking it back to the community in June of 2007. They are also working on a pilot project using local students and 4-H groups to identify invasive and exotic species on the coastal dune lakes.

9. New Business:

a) Julie Terrell reported to the advisory board that she has been working with the design committee for the South Walton OWC Facility. Julie was asked by OWC to take part in the design process to ensure that all of CBA's needs are addressed while building the new South Walton OWC Campus.

b) Mr. Wenstrand introduced Captain Ed Destin to the advisory board. Captain Ed explained that he was concerned with what he perceived to be an issue of illicit discharge by a boat moored in Hogtown Bayou. He asked for support from CBA staff and board members in investigating this issue.

10. Meeting Adjourned:

a) Chairman Wenstrand adjourned the advisory board meeting at 5:40 p.m.