

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
Executive Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2008

NWFSC – 4:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Holly Booyse, Ross Hamilton, Mitch Shank, Julie Terrell

I. Call to Order:

- a) Chairman Booyse called the Executive Advisory Committee Meeting of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance to order at 4:04 pm, Wednesday, September 3, 2008.

II. City of FWB NPDES Funding Update:

- a) Julie Terrell reported that the City Council of Fort Walton Beach appropriated \$26,250 for the 4th year of CBA's contract with the City. This was a very involved process and involved many attempts to get all or some of the \$51,500 renewed. Several council members were interested in fulfilling the City's 4 year commitment to CBA. The City did provide a couple of key points that need to be addressed by CBA:
 - 1) Initially the proposal from CBA involved 5 to 7 other municipalities. FWB City Council feels strongly that CBA make it a priority to get other cities, towns, and Okaloosa County to support CBA. The City is willing to write a letter of support to CBA and help in any way staff and council can to get other partners involved.
 - 2) CBA needs to do a better job of keeping the council informed, not just FWB staff, with what CBA is doing. Julie spent a lot of effort getting the council up to date with all of the work that CBA has coordinated in FWB. This needs to be done more regularly through the year.
- b) Julie still needs to negotiate the services to be completed for this reduced amount. FWB has suggested services to include Earth Day Support, Student Curriculum and working in the schools, and the current level of volunteer monitoring.

III. City of Destin NPDES Funding Update:

- a) Julie Terrell reported that the City of Destin has agreed to partner with CBA for 0.5 FTE of time for \$25,000. They have also agreed to a four year commitment to CBA, pending annual renewal. Mitch Shank mentioned that we need to learn from Fort Walton Beach and keep the City Manager, Greg Kisela, and the City Council informed and show what we did for their investment. CBA should also show the City what we could do if they are willing to increase their level of services.
- b) Julie is currently working with the City of Destin Staff to get a contract drafted and signed.

IV. Advisory Committee Members—Term Limits:

- a) There are five members whose terms expire in December: Taylor "Chips" Kirschenfeld, Dennis Peters, Ross Hamilton, Mark Shaeffer, and Mitch Shank.
- b) Mr. Shank offered to contact Chips Kirschenfeld and discuss his further board involvement.

- c) Mr. Hamilton offered to contact Dennis Peters and discuss his further board involvement.
- d) Julie Terrell will contact Mark Shaeffer and discuss his further board involvement.
- e) Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Shank both acknowledged their desire to remain on the committee and are willing to be nominated for another 2 year term.

V. New Advisory Committee Recruitment Potentials:

- a) Mr. Shank mentioned that CBA needs to get 2 or 3 really good candidates this year. He also mentioned that we might want to make a goal to expand the board by 2 next year and maybe up to a total of 15 over time.
- b) Mr. Hamilton mentioned the name of Senator Charles Clary as a potential candidate. Mr. Hamilton offered to make contact with him and see if he is interested. Ms. Terrell mentioned finding someone from the City of Fort Walton Beach. Currently, there is no one who lives in FWB serving on the CBA advisory committee.

VI. Appointment of Nominating Committee:

- a) Chairman Booyse will contact a couple of committee members whose terms are not due to expire this year and organize a nominating committee. These members include Al Wenstrand, Tom Patton, James Ward, and Jerry Najarian.

VII. Update the Report to the Community--2008:

- a) Ms. Terrell discussed working with Chairman Booyse to provide a “supplement” to the 2007 Community Report that was produced last year. Julie suggested keeping it to 8-12 pages and just updating the information in the report. CBA would still use the 2007 reports and just include this new supplement as well.
- b) Mr. Hamilton mentioned replacing the cover of the existing report and adding a couple of pages with the new information to the existing report. Julie will look into that option more and continue to work with Holly on this.
- c) Ms. Terrell also reported that she and Chairman Booyse have been working on a letter to accompany the community reports that CBA staff are getting ready to send out to all members (past and present) with a CBA brochure.
- d) Mr. Shank suggested sending the report to all waterfront property owners as well.
- e) Ms. Terrell mentioned that she had the addresses of all coastal dune lake property owners and could possibly coordinate a mailing to them.
- f) Mr. Shank suggested creating a similar document for the CDLs themselves, one that focuses on the work that CBA does on the dune lakes. Julie will attempt to coordinate this effort, as one of CBA’s initiatives is to get a coastal dune lakes website produced in the near future. She suggested that CBA might be able to use information produced for both tasks.

VIII. Other Funding:

- a) The Executive Committee determined that CBA needs to develop an overall strategy to obtain other funding and it involves education, education of the different boards, councils and commissions. CBA needs to get them excited about the bay and the lakes.

- b) CBA also needs to start a coordinated press release campaign to bring recognition to the work CBA is doing in the area.
- c) Mr. Shank mentioned that in the near future, CBA's NPDES funding may decrease so CBA needs to get the funding for education, participation, and outreach increased to offset this decline.

IX. Annual Meeting Planning Details:

- a) Ms. Terrell mentioned that the annual meeting in December is approaching and solicited comments from committee members about the meeting.
- b) Mr. Shank suggested something similar to the Julie Huber Reception that Dr. Beauregard hosted earlier this year. It was held at the Arts Center Gallery. Julie stated that CBA will check into the available rooms at the Arts Center and coordinate with Chairman Booyse on the details.

X. New Business:

- a) CBA staff recently coordinated a trip to visit Chips Kirschenfeld's lab in Pensacola.
- b) Mr. Shank suggested coordinating another trip for committee members to attend. He suggested the date of the next executive meeting (November 5th). He would like Chips to give his presentation from the Symposium in June because many of the advisory committee members were not able to attend and did not get to see it. Mitch would also like to view the equipment and facilities and maybe have lunch with Chips. Julie will see if this date works for Chips and if he is willing to accommodate everyone.
- c) Mr. Shank also suggested organizing an evening outing for committee members or executive members with spouses. He suggested Louisiana Laniappe.

XI. Public Comments:

- a) None; no public attendees.

XII. Adjourn:

- a) Ms. Booyse adjourned the Executive Advisory Committee Meeting at 6:15 p.m.