

DRAFT MINUTES ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

Monday, January 9, 2017 – 9:30 AM.
 SWFRPC Offices
 1926 Victoria Avenue
 Fort Myers, Florida

1. Call to Order – Mr. Daltry called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
2. Attendance- As usual attendance was taken from the sign in sheet:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Tom Babcock	Beach Area Civic Association
Rae Blake	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Brenda Brooks	CREW Trust
Peter Cangialosi	ECCL
Brad Cornell	Audubon of Florida
Wayne Daltry	RGMC
Nora Demers	Happehatchee
Liz Donley	CHNEP (telephone)
Stephanie Erickson	EBAP
Win Everham	FGCU
Keith Kibby	Lee County
Sean McCabe	Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Laura Miller	LWV
Cecil Pendergrass	Lee Board of Commissioners
Pete Quasius	Audubon of the Western Everglades
Martha Simons	SWFRPC
Patty Whitehead	Bonita Lion's Club Green Team

Staff in Attendance: Jim Beever

3. **Review of the Cela Tega 2016 meeting** The Estero Bay Agency On Bay Management is held a one- day conference on Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Adaptations in the Estero Bay Region on December 12, 2016 at the Cohen Center Ballroom, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers Florida. Dr. Demers demonstrated the Cela Tega 2016 website hosted by FGCU at <http://www.fgcu.edu/CelaTega/schedule.html> . The video that was shown at the conference can be seen at <http://video.wgcu.org/video/2365914089/> Dr. Everham reported on his closing activity asking feedback from the participants (this report is attached). As some of the outcomes of the meeting; Dr. Demers suggested future activities would be to try to develop educational resources and a certificate for elected officials to learn about climate change. Mr. Babcock mentioned the collaborative power that UF school of law partnering with City of Punta Gorda to review comp plan and provide language for climate change issues was potentially useful for

other small governments in the region. Keren Bolter (SFRPC) and Jim Beever (SWFRPC) are coordinating in are putting on a proposal to update storm surge mapping to identify high hazard zones with a potential grant from FDEP funding. This can help local governments with the required Comp plan changes to identify these Coastal High Hazard Areas. Dr. Everham stated that while there is still political in-fighting about human activity as the cause of climate change people are realizing that climate change it is affecting things. If people and governments are not involved in collaborating then they will miss lots of money to adapt and protect things. Mr. Beever stated everywhere he goes along the southwest coast in our region people acknowledge climate change is happening. He also shared that while sometimes groups working together helps leverage grants, in other cases smaller entities are more fundable. This depends upon the source and goals of the grantors (e.g.: E O Dunn and SCCF fund small projects). In the process of climate change adaptation there are many positive benefits and good outcomes which do good thing irrespective of the rate of sea level rise. Ms. Miller stated she was impressed by Cela Tega and that there was no time-wasting presentations. All of them gave good solid information. She wants to be able to tell people what is likely to happen Southwest Florida. The Lee County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment is a good online tool for this The link to this is at http://www.swfrpc.org/content/Natural_Resources/Ecosystem_Services/Lee_County_Climate_Change_Vulnerability_Assessment.pdf Pete- this Friday on Captiva SLR symposium- all afternoon. This conference is more point, counterpoint. Predictions of extreme perhaps presented. In the Financials the Cela Tega has covered bills to date. Some speakers have asked to fund travel. We have enough to pay for them. A motion was made to do so by Ms. Simons, with a second by Dr. Everham, Passed unanimously by Martha second by Win to do so.

4. **Nominating Committee** The EBABM met at a nominating committee of the whole. There will be notice given for the vote at the next meeting for chair, vice chair and secretary. Dr. Demers nominated Mr. Daltry for Chair, herself as continuing vice chair Nora, and Ms. Whitehead as Secretary. Ms. Simons also nominated Mr. McCabe for Secretary. At the next meeting these nominations will be voted on.

5. **Draft 2017 Workplan** Discussion was held on the Draft Workplan (attached). Ms. Simons would like to see a presentation to our local governments added to the work plan. She thinks it is important to do outreach. The idea would be to present to government at their site. So, the member of the ABM who represents would make the arrangements. Mr. Cornell stated this maybe fits on category 9. Presentation is where Estero Bay is active, what is going on and etc. Dr. Everham thinks Chambers of commerce would also be good groups to present to. Talking about what ABM is doing and focus on collaborative strategies that agencies can use and how effective it can be. Mr. Kibbey recommends to use CHNEP for reaching a broader audience. Dr. Everham stated let's put 9a on the work plan and then work language Mr. Daltry would be glad to make presentations about how EBABM works to Cape Coral, if they want to hear. Ms. Donley commented that in item 1 the CHNEP will initiate review and update of CCMP for 2017-2018. The EBABM may want to specifically call that out. Ms. Donley will send e-mail language to Mr. Beever for the addition. Commissioner Pendergrass is coordinating a meeting with the Cape, and Matlacha and Pine Island and offered to share the EBABM presentation offer with them. Motion by Mr. McCabe, second by Ms. Simons Martha to move work plan forward to the next meeting for approval with the two Amendments. Approved unanimously

6. **Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area update.** There will be an administrative hearing in June of this year at(Fort Myers Beach. Two homeowners want to build a long

boardwalk through Critical Wildlife Area for shorebird nesting to get to the beach and Gulf of Mexico. FDEP issued an intent to approve this, The Town of Fort Myers Beach and Florida Audubon submitted an objection which results in the need for the administrative hearing. Mr. Cornell that this proposal is a precedent that they would not want repeated. How and why did this happen? The process appears to have slipped through without notification to the Town or wildlife agencies. When FDEP noticed intent to issue a permit; Keith Laakonen on behalf of the Town of Fort Myers Beach sent a letter of dissent, as did FWC (two). So did Marine Resources task for from the Town. But approval was issued anyway. Dr. Everham suggested that EBABM, should we revisit DEP procedure process? There was concern that there may be a systemic problem.

7. There was no **Old Business**

8. **Emerging Issues** included Ms. Simon asking what the State legislative agenda is for this year? There may be a joint venture with State and Lee County to purchase Edison Farms. Commissioner Pendergrass stated Lee county has the money in local funds to buy the whole parcel and has been trying for 3 years to get whole parcel. Senator Negron also has proposal for improvements to Everglades Restoration. There may be some anti-fracking bills. Mr. Babcock discussed the Estero Blvd utility project- big issue is stormwater. The design is to build a concave road to drain to center rather than side of road. There is a question on why is this design being used on this barrier island that drains to back bay. The permeable pavers system on roadway is not typical. Mr. Kibby said trying to get some filtering before draining to back bay is better than not. There was no R.O.W. for other systems and since county is responsible for maintaining runoff so there is no other good alternative. If not this would need to eliminate developments adjacent to store water in adjacent deep ponds (a la Harper methods). Also, maintaining freshwater head where you can is a good thing. This helps keep saltwater intrusion at bay. There was a discussion of if they could design and have a pump system built it? Mr. Beever stated the City of Sarasota RFP uses lift stations to get water into the bay on their barrier island. They already have problems and are thinking about lifting the lift stations. Could ask for presentation on road design.

9. **Announcements** included CREW- Flint Pen restoration moving forward expect to finish October or November. (South portion of critical CREW) hydrologic restoration- looks really good. Slowed down a bit over the summer with rain but all looks good now.

Local SWF AWRA conference this Friday at FGC 8 am . Focus on network and collaborative project to deal with water issues.

Biodiversity issues in South Florida conference- cost about \$100. Need registrants and sponsorships. Please reach out to Win Everham or John Cassani.

Eco-VOICE has links to both conferences

Nature Place- Bonita Springs Lions Club going to take on nature place as their club project- Cullum Hasty is helping. Martha would like to get presentations for those kids. Middle school and college group. Will be meeting at nature place every Saturday. Jan 21 kayaking on Imperial

River. Next meeting will have update on entities that have not been attending. One is student representative at FGCU. USFWS may rejoin us with representative from the Naples office

10. The **next Meeting Time and Place**, for EBABM is February 13, 2017 9:30 AM, SWFRPC

11. The **next IAS Subcommittee Meeting** is Monday, February 6, 2017, 1:30 PM, SWFRPC

12. **Adjournment** was at 10:40 A..M.