

Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

The regular meeting of the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management met on Monday, January 11, 2020 at the 9:30 AM via GoToMeeting web service.

The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

Monday, January 11, 2020 – 9:30 AM.

GoToMeeting Virtual Meeting

Call to Order – Dr. Demers called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Attendance:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
David Ceilley	Aquatic Ecologist
Dr. Nora Demers	RGMC
Win Everham	FGCU
Stephanie Erickson	EBAP
Jennifer Hecker	Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP)
Captain Jon Hall	Pelican Landing
Sean McCabe	Audubon of SWFL
Laura Miller	LWV
Patty Whitehead	Bonita Lions Club Green Team
Pete Quasius	Angler Action Foundation

Staff in Attendance: Mackenzie Moorhouse

Members of the Public: Mr. Joel Avila

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting with amendments was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

Due to Mr. Daltry being unable to accept his nomination as Vice-Chair, Ms. Hecker nominated Mr. McCabe, who accepted.

As nominations were closed at the December 2020 meeting, a vote was held to elect officers as nominated. Approved unanimously.

Chair: Dr. Nora Demers (RGMC)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Sean McCabe (Audubon of SWFL)

Secretary: Ms. Patty Whitehead (Bonita Lions Club)

Louise Kowitch – “What You See on the Land, Lands in the Sea”

Ms. Kowitch gave a presentation on the history of Lover’s Key State Park. The park spans 1616 acres. After originally being planned for development and experiencing extreme alterations from dredging, the state purchased the land in 1983 and in 1996 established Lover’s Key State Park.

Today, a Welcome and Discovery Center is being built at the park to foster educational opportunities for visitors. The goal of the center is to provide a regional hub for environmental education and civic engagement. This goal will be achieved via field trips, workshops, volunteer opportunities, lectures, and more.

The presentation, along with additional documents regarding the history of Lover’s Key State Park, can be found at <https://www.swfrpc.org/programs/ABM/>

Cameratta Properties Documents.

Cameratta Properties provided three documents for the membership to review and discuss: “2020 Annual Wetland Monitoring Report for The Place”, “The Place Restoration (Before&After)” and “The Place Completion Plan”.

It was agreed that the membership would hold an Issues and Agendas subcommittee meeting before the February meeting to determine who would read these documents in depth and present them to the membership if Mr. Cameratta is not able to present. This will also aid the EBABM in determining the purpose of any letter that might be written regarding this development.

Mr. Avila (member of the public) noted that the developments already have residents.

Ms. Hecker noted that the Conservancy has been working on this particular development for a number of years and added that it would be beneficial for the EBABM to hear from them and what their current position is regarding the development’s current footprint.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

Dr. Demers will ask Wild Blue to present on their construction, specifically regarding their lakes and littoral zones as well as landscape management.

Dr. Demers will also look into having Center Place and FGCU present.

Mr. Everham suggested that it would be interesting to find someone who can give a presentation on lawn alternatives for stormwater pond and riparian management.

Ms. Whitehead mentioned that she has gained traction at Caloosa Waterkeepers meetings regarding writing a letter to the Village of Estero to suggest turning the 62 acre parcel into a water purification park. Dr. Demers suggested that they be invited to a future meeting as well.

Old Business.

Mr. Everham asked if the EBABM has a plan for the next State of the Bay report. It was determined that this would be discussed at the IAS meeting before February.

Dr. Demers mentioned that an update for the new EBABM webpage will come as soon as the SWFRPC has a chance to start working on it.

Dr. Demers asked the membership if they were still comfortable with posting the meeting recordings to the website. After discussion, Mr. Everham made a motion to record each meeting, draft minutes for the meeting, and archive the recording after the minutes have been approved. The motion was amended to include that whether or not recordings would be archived would be determined at an IAS meeting. Dr. Demers seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

New Business.

Dr. Demers notified the membership that Dr. Jen Jones of FGCU has written a grant application titled "Water, Sustainability, and Equity Research Network for Southwest Florida. They asked the EBABM for a letter of support and Dr. Demers provided one to them.

Ms. Hecker mentioned that the CHNEP has a number of new resources available and will be able to provide presentations if the EBABM is ever in need of one for a meeting. Ms. Hecker also noted that the CHNEP is adding new features to the Water Atlas, including mapping all Lake Okeechobee lake levels and Caloosahatchee discharge releases to graph them against what the healthy levels should be. A new water quality dashboard will also be going live. To access the Water Atlas, click [here](#).

Emerging Issues.

No emerging issues were discussed.

Announcements.

Ms. Hecker announced that CHNEP will be having a Public Management Committee meeting on Friday, January 15th. A presentation will be held to discuss the status of the C43 Reservoir construction.

The next Meeting Time and Place, for EBABM is February 8, 2020. 9:30 A.M., via GoToMeeting.

Adjournment was at 11:25 A.M.