

## **Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management**

The regular meeting of the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management met on Monday, February 10, 2020 at the 9:30 AM at the SWFRPC offices.

The minutes are as follows:

### **MINUTES ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT**

Monday, February 10, 2020 – 9:30 AM.

SWFRPC Offices  
1400 Colonial Boulevard, Suite 1  
Fort Myers, Florida 33907

Call to Order – Ms. Whitehead called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM.

Attendance- As usual attendance was taken from the sign in sheet:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Peter Cangialosi	ECCL
Brad Cornell	Audubon Florida
Phoebe Clark	FGCU Student
John Curtis	Johnson Engineering
Win Everham	FGCU
Jennifer Hecker	CHNEP
Capt. Roger Jacobsen	Pelican Landing Com. Assoc.
Frank Mann	Lee County BOCC
Laura Miller	LWV
Pete Quasius	Audubon of SW Florida
Patty Whitehead	Bonita Lions Club Green Team

Staff in Attendance: Mackenzie Moorhouse

Guests: Capt. Karl Deigert, Joseph Bonasia -Clean Water Now; Gary Robbins- Lee Co Rights of Nature

**Motion to Approve the Minutes** of the January 13, 2020 meeting was made by Mr. Jacobsen and seconded by Ms. Miller. Approved unanimously.

**Capt. Karl Deigert and Joseph Bonasia- *The Caloosahatchee River Bill of Rights*.** Mr. Bonasia began the presentation by introducing the concept of the “Rights of Nature”, which involved recognizing the “personhood” of ecosystems and the inalienable and constitutional rights that would accompany that personhood. Mr. Bonasia addressed locations both in and outside the United States where governments have established “Rights of Nature” by recognizing rivers or other ecosystems as legal persons or giving those ecosystems their own legal status. Capt. Karl Deigert finished the presentation by introducing the “Caloosahatchee Bill of Rights”. Currently, the organization Clean Water Now is canvassing Lee County for pledges to sign their petition to include a “Caloosahatchee Bill of Rights” on the next election ballot. They requested that members of the EBABM contact them to present at individual member organization meetings. A copy of their presentation is available at <http://www.swfrpc.org/programs/ABM/> .

**The follow-up to the Cela Tega.** Ms. Moorhouse reviewed the cost report for the Cela Tega. Total charges for the event amounted to \$4,683.60. A total of \$4,505.00 had been paid as of February 10, 2020, leaving a deficit of \$178.60. Ms. Moorhouse noted that Dr. Demers would be contacting FGCU regarding a potential room charge waiver to offset the total cost of the event and remove the deficit.

**Old Business.** No further old business was discussed since it had been addressed in prior items.

**New Business.** Ms. Moorhouse will see to posting presentations from the Cela Tega both on the ABM website as well as the Cela Tega website and will send an electronic announcement to Cela Tega attendees and invitees once the presentations have been posted.

**Emerging Issues.** It was requested that a presentation be obtained from Mr. Roland Ottolini (Lee County Natural Resources Dept.) regarding the Flood Mitigation Plan, preferably for next month’s meeting.

It was requested that a presentation be obtained from Mr. Joe Cameratta regarding DRGR projects.

Ms. Whitehead addressed the list of topics for the ABM to consider for future meetings suggested by Dr. Demers, who could not attend the meeting.

**Announcements.** Mr. Jacobsen announced that on Thursday, March 26 at 7p.m., fellow ABM member Stephanie Erickson (FDEP) would be giving a presentation titled “Estero Bay: How Threatened Is It?” which will address ongoing research, monitoring, and restoration efforts. More information can be found at <http://bonitaspringshistoricalsociety.org/Happenings/speaker-series/index.html>.

Mr. Jacobsen also announced that independent water quality testing was performed on the ponds at Pelican Cove, and nitrogen was found to be double the recommended limit. Pelican Cove will be working to reduce this number and will also try to distribute data to fellow HOA's.

Mr. Quasius announced that there will be a Task Force meeting for the Florida DOT M-CORES project in Moore Haven, FL on February 13, 2020 at 9:30a.m. Mr. Quasius, who will be attending the meeting, will look into finding a speaker from FDOT to present on the M-CORES project at a future ABM meeting. More information regarding M-CORES and task force meetings can be found at <https://floridamcores.com/>.

Mr. Everham announced that there will be a presentation at Florida Gulf Coast University by author David Wallace-Wells on his book "The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming." The presentation date is TBA.

**The next Meeting Time and Place**, for EBABM is March 9, 2020. 9:30 A.M., SWFRPC.

**Adjournment** was at 11:45 A.M.