

Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

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

The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

Monday, March 9, 2020 – 9:30 AM.

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

Call to Order – Dr. Demers called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM.

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

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Brenda Brooks	CREW Land and Water Trust
Peter Cangialosi	ECCL
Brad Cornell	Audubon Florida
Phoebe Clark	FGCU Masters Student
Dr. Nora Demers	RGMC
Win Everham	FGCU
Stephanie Erickson	EBAP
Capt. Roger Jacobsen	Pelican Landing Com. Assoc.
Laura Miller	LWV
Patty Whitehead	Bonita Lions Club Green Team

Staff in Attendance: Mackenzie Moorhouse

Guests: James (Jim) Beever – Retired Gentleman Scientist; Louise Kowitch - FOLK and Calusa Waterkeeper

Changes to the Minutes from the February 10, 2020 meeting were requested by Mr. Jacobsen to change “Pelican Cove” to “Pelican Landing” located on page 3, and by Dr. Demers and Mr. Everham to include the presentation date for the FGCU author event located on page 3.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2020 meeting was made by Mr. Jacobsen and seconded by Mr. Cornell. Approved unanimously.

Jim Beaver – 2019 State of the Bay Report.

Mr. Beaver gave a presentation on the recently completed 2019 State of the Bay Report. The report addressed water quality parameters, hydrology, wildlife monitoring, sea grass monitoring, conservation land extents, and various social factors. The 2017 Hurricane Irma was recognizable by major spikes in many data sets, especially water quality and hydrology. Significant areas of improvement were associated with the adoption and implementation of fertilizer ordinances as well as the construction of filter marshes in the headwaters. Filter marshes lead to nutrient reduction, principally phosphorous and chlorophyll-a. As of 2016, Chlorophyll-a was no longer being collected. There were also data gaps in bald eagle nesting, where nests were counted but success rate was not monitored. Various data sets were no longer publicly available, including gopher tortoise data and frog listening. The next report will begin in 2024 and be published in 2025. Funding for the report was provided by the City of Bonita Springs. To review the report, go to <https://www.swfrpc.org/programs/ABM/>

Overview of EBABM Principles. Members were given a tutorial of where to locate the EBABM principles online. After a brief review of the principles it was agreed upon that time would be set aside at a future meeting to review and discuss these principles. A copy of the EBABM principles can be found at <https://www.swfrpc.org/programs/ABM/>

Review of Work Plan. Members agreed to allow for time at a future meeting to review and discuss work plan deliverables.

Tour Invitation – “The Place” by Cameratta Companies. Mr. Ray Blacksmith of Cameratta Companies has offered to give a tour and presentation at their recently developed community called “The Place”. As outlined in an email memo provided by Ms. Moorhouse, Cameratta Companies has been giving tours to showcase the restoration work being done on the property. Members agreed to attend a tour, which will tentatively take place in lieu of an EBABM meeting during the month of May. The tours and presentation are approximately two hours long.

Presentation Invitation – Danville Leadbetter; London Bay. Ms. Moorhouse announced that Mr. Leadbetter from London Bay Development Group has offered to present at a future EBABM meeting to discuss important updates made to the company’s “Bayview” project. Members agreed to requesting a presentation.

Old Business. No old business was discussed.

New Business. No new business was discussed.

Emerging Issues. Mr. Cornell suggested that the Agency persevere on requesting a presentation from Mr. Roland Ottolini regarding the Lee Flood Mitigation. It was agreed that a formal letter would be drafted to send to Mr. Ottolini.

Mr. Everham suggested that once the 2019 State of the Bay Report is published, the EBABM should set an agenda item to review the data gaps and reach out to the corresponding agencies to discuss making data reports available and consistent.

Dr. Demers announced that Ms. Hecker, with CHNEP, received a grant to work with the Water Management District to do a hydrologic study model for south Lee County watershed restoration initiatives. Mr. Cornell added that CHNEP is trying to coordinate with Corkscrew Swamp's hydrologic modelling efforts.

Announcements.

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 will begin at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 17 at the FGCU Cohen Center Ballroom. Doors open at 5:30.

Ms. Whitehead announced that the Friends of River Oaks Preserve will be holding a Gopher Tortoise Day on April 10. Located at the end of East Broadway and Estero.

Dr. Demers announced that there will be a Corkscrew Watershed Science Forum on April 3 at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. More information can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/corkscrew-watershed-science-forum-2020-tickets-90019136661#>

Dr. Demers met with Mr. Luis Molina and looked at models from the South Lee County flood modeling project. It appeared that based on the modelling, proposed efforts to stop flooding would not have any effect on flood events. Mr. Molina will continue research to determine what approach will help flooding matters. Ms. Demers also learned that Lee County would be hiring AIM Engineering to assess methods to reduce future flooding downstream.

Dr. Demers received an invitation from Big Cypress Water Management District to give a presentation on her environmental endocrine disruptor research at the end of April.

Dr. Demers announced that Lee County put in a grant request and received almost \$7 Million for the San Carlos Park area to do restoration dredging and culvert and sidewalk replacement.

Mr. Cangialosi announced that on March 10 at 10 o'clock, Lee County will be holding an event at Prairie Pines Preserve to celebrate the Conservation 20/20 milestone of 30,000 acres purchased. More information can be found at <http://www.leegov.com/conservation2020/celebration>

The next Meeting Time and Place, for EBABM is April 13, 2020. 9:30 A.M., SWFRPC.

Adjournment was at 11:45 A.M.