

Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

The regular meeting of the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management met on Monday, May 11, 2020 at the 9:30 AM on the virtual meeting platform GoToMeeting.

The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

Monday, May 11, 2020 – 9:30 AM.

GoToMeeting

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

Attendance:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Brenda Brooks	CREW Land and Water Trust
Brad Cornell	Audubon Florida
Dr. Nora Demers	RGMC
Win Everham	FGCU
Stephanie Erickson	EBAP
Jennifer Hecker	CHNEP
Capt. Roger Jacobsen	Pelican Landing Com. Assoc.
Kelly McNab	Conservancy of SW Florida
Patty Whitehead	Bonita Lions Club Green Team

Staff in Attendance: Mackenzie Moorhouse

Guests: Louise Kowitch - FOLK and Calusa Waterkeeper

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting was made by Ms. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Cornell. Approved unanimously.

Review of 2019 State of the Bay Report. Prior to meeting, members were asked to review the published 2019 State of the Bay report and assess changes that they would like to see in

the next report. Dr. Demers suggested using the CHNEP water atlas to access additional data for the water quality reports. There was also confusion regarding the timelines on the bar graphs and the tables listed below them, which can also be made amended in future reports. It was also noted by Mr. Cornell that there are warning signals, such as the drop in Corkscrew Swamp bird populations, that should be highlighted in reports like this. Mr. Cornell suggested that this report highlight studies made across Southwest Florida. Looking to future State of the Bay reports, it is unclear whether there will be a staff member at SWFRPC who can write this report. A decision on the best entity/organization to continue publishing this report was not made.

Principles of the EBABM. Members were asked to review the Principles of the EBABM to assess their relevancy today. It was agreed that there are some principles that the EBABM has not been able to use. It was also suggested that there be significant tie-back to the EBABM principles in future State of the Bay reports. Discussion regarding EBABM principles will continue at future EBABM meetings.

Overview of Work Plan. Members were asked to review the Work Plan to assess whether they might be able to contribute to any deliverables. Ms. Hecker requested that item #4 be amended to correct the name of the Coastal Heartland National Estuary Partnership. Dr. Demers is working on item #6. Item #13 was completed. Ms. Hecker noted that CHNEP is working on a number of the items listed in the work plan. Dr. Demers also noted that the EBABM needs to seek funding.

Overview of Membership. Members reviewed the current EBABM membership list. Ms. Hecker's alternative will be Nicole Ladevaia. Kathy Olson has retired and will be removed from the list. It was recommended that Chad Chustz be contacted to represent Town of Fort Myers Beach on the EBABM.

Old Business. No old business was discussed.

New Business. Ms. Moorhouse informed members that the SWFRPC will be moving out of their offices at 1400 Colonial BLVD. A meeting space will not be available at the new location, so Ms. Moorhouse is exploring alternative location options. She will look into booking free spaces at The Collaboratory, Fort Myers Regional Library, South Fort Myers Library, and Estero Bay Rec Center.

Members agreed that an in-depth discussion needs to be held to discuss the future of the EBABM, starting with increasing membership and expanding to assess EBABM's purpose in the community.

Emerging Issues.

Announcements. Mr. Jacobsen was appointed to the Lee County Coastal Advisory Council.

Public Comments. Ms. Louise Kowitch inquired whether the data presented in the State of the Bay was collected in a comprehensive fashion by any one entity. Mr. Cornell

responded that the data collected was reported by different entities on a daily/weekly/monthly basis.

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

Adjournment was at 11:07 A.M.