

Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

The regular meeting of the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management met on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 9:30 AM on the virtual meeting platform GoToMeeting.

The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

Monday, June 8, 2020 – 9:30 AM.

GoToMeeting

Call to Order – Dr. Demers called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM.

Attendance:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Brenda Brooks	CREW Land and Water Trust
Dr. Nora Demers	RGMC
Win Everham	FGCU
Stephanie Erickson	EBAP
Capt. Roger Jacobsen	Pelican Landing Com. Assoc.
Commissioner Frank Mann	Lee BOCC
Gary Nychyk	Johnson Engineering
Pete Quasius	Angler Action Foundation
Louise Kowitch	Educator
Benjamin Marics	FGCU Student

Staff in Attendance: Mackenzie Moorhouse

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting was made by Ms. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Jacobsen. Approved unanimously.

New Member Consideration: Louise Kowitch. Ms. Kowitch introduced herself to the group. A letter of intent was shared prior to the meeting outlining Ms. Kowitch's

involvement in the Estero Bay region which includes serving on the Estero Bay Zone Team for Calusa Waterkeepers and coordinating environmental education programs at Lovers Key State Park. As a member of the EBABM, Ms. Kowitch would represent the environmental education sector. A motion was made by Mr. Jacobsen and seconded by Mr. Everham. Approved unanimously.

New Member Consideration: Benjamin Marics. Mr. Marics was invited to join the EBABM by Mr. Everham to replace Ms. Phoebe Clark as the FGCU Student member. Mr. Marics is a first-year graduate student at FGCU studying Environmental Science and working on blue-green algae studies at Lake Trafford. Motion was made by Mr. Everham and seconded by Ms. Erickson. Approved unanimously.

Discussion – EBABM Membership, Public Engagement, Projects and Presentations.

The discussion began with a focus on the “Ongoing Issues” document shared with members prior to the meeting. Ms. Brooks recommended that the EBABM reach out to Lisa Korte of Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary to become a member of the EBABM.

Mr. Everham suggested that members each give a short “elevator pitch” at the beginning of each meeting on what they and their organizations have been doing recently. Mr. Everham also suggested that members find out what organizations need to be invited to become members of the EBABM.

Ms. Kowitch offered to create a monthly newsletter for members outlining future events, ongoing issues, reports, and other topics relevant to EBABM and its members.

Commissioner Mann requested that all future letters to Lee County written by EBABM be sent directly to him to prevent them from being lost while going through channels.

Mr. Everham expressed concern that the EBABM has spent too much energy in the past writing letters of concern regarding projects that have already progressed passed a point of no return, and that the EBABM needs to start getting ahead of these projects in order to make an impact.

Regarding the Lee Flood Mitigation plans, Commissioner Mann volunteered to invite Mr. Roland Ottolini or someone else from Lee County DNR to talk about this initiative and participate in a discussion with EBABM members. Dr. Demers agreed to contact Commissioner Mann for follow-up after the meeting.

Regarding the business sector in Estero Bay, Dr. Demers suggested that the EBABM bring businesses in as members to offer an alternate perspective at meetings. Mr. Jacobsen volunteered to reach out to the various marine industries in the Estero Bay region. Dr. Demers volunteered to invite Cameratta Companies to become a member.

Old Business. Ms. Brooks requested that the M-CORES project is brought into our discussions so we can gather the most up-to-date information. There are currently task force meetings being held regarding this project. Mr. Quasius suggested that members need to become informed before the EBABM takes an official position on the matter.

New Business. No new business was discussed.

Emerging Issues. No emerging issues were discussed.

Announcements. No announcements were made.

Public Comments. No public comments were made.

The next Meeting Time and Place, for EBABM is July 13, 2020. 9:30 A.M., via GoToMeeting

Adjournment was at 10:33 A.M.