

Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

The regular meeting of the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management met on Monday, October 12, 2020 at the 9:30 AM via GoToMeeting web service.

The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

Monday, October 12, 2020 – 9:30 AM.

GoToMeeting Virtual Meeting

Call to Order – Dr. Demers called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

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

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Dr. Nora Demers	RGMC
Brad Cornell	Audubon Florida
Stephanie Erickson	EBAP
Capt. Jon Hall	Pelican Landing Com. Assoc.
Jennifer Hecker	CHNEP
Laura Miller	LWV
Pete Quasius	Angler Action; Audubon of SW Florida
Patty Whitehead	Bonita Lions Club Green Team
Kelly McNab	Conservancy
Louise Kowitch	Educator
David Ceilley	Aquatic Ecologist
Pete Cangialosi	ECCL
Councilman Bill Veach	Town of Fort Myers Beach

Staff in Attendance: Mackenzie Moorhouse

Guests: Ms. Tina Eckblad, Morris Depew; Mr. Ron Inge, Bell Road Mine

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

Membership Updates. No membership updates were made.

Ron Inge and Tine Eckblad – Bell Road Mine Proposal

Mr. Inge and Ms. Eckblad presented on the Bell Road Mine off SR-82. The mine was originally approved in 1990 and has undergone several zoning and permit changes since its opening. The current approval includes 503 acres of land with 261 acres of mining and 189 acres of preserved land. The maximum depth is 40 ft. There is also a 12ft berm that serves as a buffer between the mine property and neighboring properties. Prior operators faced difficulty due to not being allowed to sell the rock from the excavations (only fill dirt was allowed). This resulted in stockpiles of this material being left on the property. In terms of water quality, quarterly groundwater level monitoring is provided to FDEP and Lee DNR. There is also quality monitoring for contaminants that is being provided to FDEP and Lee DNR. Another component of the proposed changes includes building littoral shelves on the shoreline of the mines to integrate the shoreline into the preserve areas.

A Q&A session and member commentary followed the presentation, and can be listened to on the meeting recording at time signature 00:16:53.

EBABM Webpage, Suggestions for Update.

It was announced that Ms. Moorhouse and SWFRPC secured a \$3,000 conservation grant provided by CHNEP to update the exiting EBABM webpage. Members discussed what they would like to see in the new webpage. Suggestions included using the WIX platform, which is user friendly, adding a calendar of events, including member organization web links, and adding subpages that highlight the EBABM's position on important issues.

Old Business.

Letter to Director Ottolini- Mr. Cornell drafted a letter to Director Ottolini from Lee DNR to comment on what is not in the Southern Lee County Mitigation Plan, including considering the entire hydrological year.

After some discussion it was determined that Mr. Cornell would make edits to the draft and release the new draft to EBABM members for approval and review via email.

A motion was made by Ms. Hecker to pre-approve a final draft of the letter so that it can be sent as soon as possible. Motion was seconded by Pete Quasius and approved unanimously.

Members also decided to invite Director Ottolini to an upcoming meeting to present the priority matrix for the Southern Lee County Flood Mitigation Plan and engage in further discussion with members.

New Business.

CEMEX MINE - Mr. Cangialosi notified the membership that a public notice was released for the proposed CEMEX mine expansion on Alico Rd. Concern was expressed over the acreage of wetland that would be impacted by the expansions. According to the provided maps, a total of 62.49 acres of wetlands would be impacted, but only 3 to 4 acres were mentioned in the notice as being a concern to the USACE.

It was determined that the EBABM would invite CEMEX representatives to a future meeting to discuss these proposed expansions.

Mr. Cangialosi also notified the membership that several weeks prior to the meeting, the Lee BOCC negotiated a settlement with Florida Farm Development (FFD) to prevent mining on the FFD's 5,000+ acres of wetlands in the DR/GR. Little information was released on the settlement and Mr. Cangialosi suggested asking the county to explain the details of the settlement to the EBABM.

Ms. Hecker notified the membership that the CHNEP recently released a very extensive economic resource valuation report which contains a section on the Estero Bay Watershed. Ms. Hecker said that CHNEP would be willing to present their findings to the EBABM at an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Whitehead notified the membership that there had been a follow-up workshop in the Village of Estero seeking public input regarding the future of a 62-acre parcel acquired from a developer. Ms. Whitehead suggested that the EBABM invite representatives from the Village to speak to the EBABM regarding the planned uses for the property.

Emerging Issues.

No emerging issues were discussed.

Announcements.

No announcements were made.

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

Adjournment was at 11:29 A.M.