

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, November 9, 2020 – 9:30 AM.

GoToMeeting Virtual Meeting

Call to Order – Dr. Demers called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Attendance:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Chad Chustz	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Dr. Nora Demers	RGMC
Win Everham	FGCU
Stephanie Erickson	EBAP
Jennifer Hecker	Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP)
Comm. Frank Mann	Lee BOCC
Sean McCabe	Audubon
Laura Miller	LWV
Patty Whitehead	Bonita Lions Club Green Team
Kelly McNab	Conservancy
Louise Kowitch	Educator
Councilman Bill Veach	Town of Fort Myers Beach

Staff in Attendance: Mackenzie Moorhouse

Correction to October 12, 2020 Minutes: Ms. Whitehead clarified on her announcement regarding the 62 acre parcel in Village of Estero that she is proposing to write a letter in the future to the Village of Estero calling for them to preserve the entire 62 acres and perform restoration on the land to aid in the function of the watershed.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the October 12, 2020 meeting with added corrections was made by Mr. Everham and seconded by Ms. Miller. Approved unanimously.

2020 Work Plan/Goals

Ms. Moorhouse shared the most recent approved work plan with attendees. The following suggestions were made:

Mr. Everham suggested that the EBABM become more involved in TMDL issues as there is about to be another big effort by the FDEP to bring stakeholders together and discuss how a positive impact can be made on the Estero Bay and its tributaries.

Ms. Hecker suggested that items 5 and 6 be consolidated to create an overarching plan with regard to the archiving and sharing of digital information.

Mr. Everham also suggested that the membership put a focus on item 9 in 2021 and explore ways to provide the general public with simple overviews of water issues in Southwest Florida. Ms. Kowitch offered to assist with this effort and has documents that may be helpful.

Dr. Demers said that she would continue to explore possibilities for item 12, which involves installing road signs that identify tributaries to the Estero Bay.

Dr. Demers suggested that an item be added outlining the plans and goals for the new webpage.

Items 13 and 14 were redacted.

Nominating Committee for January Meeting.

Dr. Demers offered that she would be willing to continue as the Chair for 2021.

It was explained that a nominating committee was created every year to help determine who would be officially nominated on the day of the vote so that nobody nominated would be caught off guard.

Ms. Moorhouse noted that the Secretary for 2021 may need to assume more responsibility to assist the new SWFRPC staff person when she completes her VISTA position in January.

Descriptions of the responsibilities of the officers will be included in the December agenda packet and a nominating committee will be determined at the December 14 meeting.

EBABM Webpage Update. Ms. Moorhouse informed members that the SWFRPC would be creating a Wix account to build the new EBABM webpage. She showed an example of what the page might look like and will plan on providing another update once the process to build the website has begun.

Old Business.

Ms. Moorhouse offered a follow-up on Director Ottolini's invitation to present. After the director's presentation to the board in November, he would be willing to come back to present.

It was determined that Dr. Demers would reach out to the consultants working with the Village of Estero to learn more about the 62 acre parcel of land.

New Business.

Ms. Hecker requested that the Lee DNR be invited to present on the bacteria source-tracing study that the County has been working on.

Emerging Issues.

Mr. Everham noted the Plan E Stakeholders Initiative for bacterial impairments in tributaries to Estero Bay from the Florida DEP. There is a conversation happening now about how this should happen and the membership should receive updates on the situation.

Ms. Kowitch suggested that the new water steward working out of Vester Marine Field Station be introduced to the membership. Her name is Nicole Weigold. Ms. Moorhouse will reach out to her.

Announcements.

Ms. Kowitch requested that the membership watch the film "Eternal Vigilance" made by the Calusa Waterkeeper. The showing is November 13th at 5:30 PM and an email announcement will be sent to members as a reminder.

The next Meeting Time and Place, for EBABM is December 14, 2020. 9:30 A.M., via GoToMeeting.

Adjournment was at 10:45 A.M.