

Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Coalition
Technical Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting
January 14, 2021 - 1:30 p.m., Central Time

Page | 1

Zoom Link:

<https://myokaloosa.zoom.us/j/99680804399?pwd=VDEwWkhDL2RTc3h4Z1N2RFNuTmZlQT09>

MEETING MINUTES

Synopsis:

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Coalition was held virtually on the afternoon of Thursday, January 14, 2021. Brian Underwood, Executive Director of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program, Heather Griffin, TAC Chair, and Chelsea Conley, TAC Co-Chair, facilitated the meeting consistent with the meeting agenda.

Committee Members and Informal Advisors Attending Remotely:

Brian Underwood – Okaloosa County (CBEP Executive Director)
Chelsea Conley – Okaloosa County (CBEP Public Outreach Specialist)
Heather Griffin – ADEM
Alison McDowell - CBA
Amanda Croteau – UWF
Amy Newbold – EPA
Barbara Brooke
Beth Fugate – FDEP, Northwest Florida Aquatic Preserves
Carla Crews – ADEM
Darryl Boudreau – NFWMD
David M
Eric Schneider – ESA
Graham Thompson – Matrix Design Group
Hailey Bowler – Walton county
Haley Gancel – UF
Jane Evans – Okaloosa County
Jeanette Kelson
Jenna Testa Kilpatrick – CBA

Minutes for January 14, 2021 CBEC TAC Virtual Meeting

Page | 2

Jessica Bibza – NWF
Jim Muller – Bay County
Kristal Walsh – FWC
Kristen Bennett – Tetra Tech
Latilda Hughes-Neel – Freeport
Laura Tiu – IFAS, SeaGrant Extension
Lisa Harris – Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow River Watershed Management Authority
Marcy Frick – Tetra Tech
Matt Deitch – UF IFAS
Matt Posner – PPBEP
Melody Ray-Culp – USFWS
Rachel Gwin - CBA
Rob Holbrook – USFWS
Sandy Pizzolato – Eglin Air Force Base
Steve Hall
Whitney Scheffel- PPBEP

Key Discussion:

All participants were welcomed to the TAC virtual meeting; Brian Underwood began recording and Chelsea Conley confirmed Technical Advisory Committee member and participant attendance via the Zoom chat function. The minutes of the TAC meeting of December 17, 2020 were referenced and approved by the TAC.

Mr. Underwood provided a staff update concerning the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program. Mr. Underwood referenced the new Dropbox account that will be used for file sharing among the TAC. He also referenced the upcoming CBEC Board of Directors meeting on January 28, 2021. Chelsea Conley, the Program's Public Outreach Specialist, gave an update on the newsletter, including meeting information, and social media accounts created in January. Mr. Underwood gave an update on the project narrative for Okaloosa County's Direct Component application for funding the CCMP development. The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners approved submittal of the Pot 1 application to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, on behalf of the Estuary Program on December 15, 2020. Okaloosa County is seeking \$437,500 to obtain contractual services

Minutes for January 14, 2021 CBEC TAC Virtual Meeting

Page | 3

to draft the CCMP for the Estuary Program. Okaloosa County submitted the application to the U.S. Treasury on behalf of the Estuary Program on December 17, 2020.

Heather Griffin asked the Estuary Program Focus Area Sub-Committees for updates. Brian Underwood shared the updated document with uniform formatting across the focus areas. Sandy Pizzolato and Kristal Walsh gave an update on the Resource Protection and Management Focus Area. Rob Holbrook mentioned specific acreage objectives. Sandy mentioned that land acreage should be higher considering the work being done on Eglin Air Force Base. Rob mentioned developing targets for broad categories: 1. Seagrass 2. Oysters 3. Coastal Marsh 4. Floodplain Forest 5. Pine Flatwoods & Uplands. Matt Deitch also mentioned how different indicators established by work done at the University of Florida may help inform these metrics. Workshops with UF was discussed as options in the near future.

The next TAC virtual meeting was determined to be held March 11, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Central Time. A calendar invite with the virtual meeting link will be provided prior to the next meeting. Heather also asked for suggestions for guest speakers to host at future meetings. Graham Thompson mentioned the water quality report that has been conducted by Matrix Design Group using data collected from Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance and Okaloosa County. This was suggested for a talk at an upcoming meeting. Rob Holbrook also mentioned Jeff Powell with USFWS Strategic Habitat program as a potential speaker. Focus Area Sub-committee meetings may be scheduled for February to continue to develop the goals and objectives. The CBEC Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 28, 2021 with details to be sent out prior to the meeting.

Heather sought additional comment from the TAC participants, as well as, from members of the public who attended virtually. Laura Tiu mentioned interest in the Estuary Program from some of the groups she has presented to, and asked if there were ways for them to get involved. Brian thanked the new Chair and Co-chair again. No additional comments were received and the meeting was adjourned.