

Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Coalition
Technical Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting
March 11, 2021 - 1:30 p.m., Central Time

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Zoom Link: <https://myokaloosa.zoom.us/j/93049810525?pwd=bEE0N011d2FjNjVEb1U3ZFc2K3pKZz09>

MEETING MINUTES

Synopsis:

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Coalition was held virtually on the afternoon of March 11, 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 – CBEP Executive Director
Chelsea Conley – CBEP Public Outreach Specialist
Heather Griffin – ADEM
Amanda Croteau – UWF
Amy Newbold – EPA
Andrea Graves - TNC
Barbara Albrecht - Bream Fisherman Association and UWF
Beth Fugate – FDEP, Northwest Florida Aquatic Preserves
Brian Atkins – Alabama Dept of Economic and Community Affairs
Brian Walker - McKim and Creed
Darryl Boudreau – NFWFMD
Eric Schneider – ESA
Graham Thompson – Matrix Design Group
Hailey Bowler – Walton County
Haley Gancel – UF
Heather Griffin – ADEM
Isaac Todd - MKEI

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Jane Evans – Okaloosa County
Jenna Testa Kilpatrick – CBA
Jessica Bibza – NWF
Kristal Walsh – FWC
Kristen Bennett – Tetra Tech
Latilda Hughes-Neel – Freeport
Laura Tiu – UF/IFAS, SeaGrant Extension
Leah Fox - Emerald Coast Regional Council
Lisa Harris - CPYRWMA
Marcy Frick – Tetra Tech
Mark Mauldin - UF/IFAS Extension Washington County
Matt Deitch – UF IFAS
Melody Ray-Culp – USFWS
Michael King- FDEP
Rachel Gwin - Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
Rebecca Prado - WSP
Richie Gray - MKEI
Rick Harter -WSP
Rob Holbrook – USFWS
Sandy Pizzolato – Eglin Air Force Base
Scott Bitterman- Okaloosa County Engineer
Stephanie Breeden- ESA
Steve Hall - Walton County Land Use Attorney
Sydney Smith - Auburn Univeristy/ACES/AWW
Tesfay Gebremicael - UF Postdoc at WFERC
Whitney Scheffel- PPBEP

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Key Discussion:

All participants were welcomed to the TAC virtual meeting. Brian Underwood began recording, and Heather Griffin confirmed Technical Advisory Committee member and participant attendance via the Zoom chat function. The minutes from the January 14, 2021 TAC meeting were referenced and approved by the TAC -Scott Bitterman motioned to approve, and Matt Deitch seconded the motion.

Mr. Underwood provided a staff update concerning the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program. Mr. Underwood updated that the U.S. Department of the Treasury has not yet commented on the Pot 1 application seeking funding for drafting the CCMP. Chelsea Conley gave an update on the newly established Education and Outreach Committee. The EOC held its first meeting on February 17th and the next meeting will be held March 17th at 2:00 p.m. Central Time. The Education and Outreach Committee will help establish a set of goals and objectives for the Estuary Program's Comprehensive Education and Outreach Plan. Heather Griffin then announced the upcoming Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Coalition Board of Director's meeting on April 29th at 9:00 a.m. at the Walton County Commission Board Room in Freeport, FL. Chelsea also mentioned that the Estuary Program will be participating in coastal clean-up events in April. The dates will be included in the April Newsletter if anyone is interested in attending or participating in a coastal clean up event. UF/UWF/CBEP will also be hosting public workshops in May which was discussed in more detail towards the end of the meeting.

Heather Griffin then shared the updated draft goals and objectives for the Estuary Program Focus Areas and asked for comments on the updated document. To help improve focus area sub-committee involvement, a virtual whiteboard activity was used to group names of participants into the different sub-committees. The Miro link was shared and each member could add their name or a stakeholder group that they thought should be included for more input. The final product is included below (Figure 1).

Sandy Pizzolato gave a presentation on the Erosion Control Program at Eglin Air Force Base's Natural Resources Division. He shared updates on several projects that have been focused on preventing and controlling erosion on Eglin property. Matt Deitch, Barbara

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Albrecht, and Rick Harter asked questions related to the erosion and flash flooding projects, as well as, living shoreline restoration.

The next TAC virtual meeting will be held April 15, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Central Time, followed by a meeting on May 20, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Central Time. A calendar invite with the virtual meeting link will be provided prior to the next meeting. The April 15th meeting will be a prioritization activity for the TAC to participate in with the UF/UWF FLRACEP project. Matt Deitch and Amanda Croteau spoke about the April meeting and the upcoming public workshops related to the CBEP. After the April 15th TAC meeting, CBEP, UF, and UWF will host a series of public workshops to gather public stakeholder input on the perceptions of the Choctawhatchee Bay Watershed, current issues, and the role the public would like the Estuary Program to play in their area. The Public Workshops will be held virtually May 4th, 6th and 11th at 6:00 p.m. Central Time. More details will be provided for these workshops, and information is encouraged to be shared with different stakeholder contacts. The public workshops will be followed by another TAC meeting to include updates from the workshops, followed by more focused meetings on the indicators identified by the prioritization activity and the public workshops.

Heather sought additional comment from the TAC participants, as well as, from members of the public who attended virtually. No additional comments were received and the meeting was adjourned.

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Figure 1. Re-organized Focus Area Sub-Committees

Water Quality	Resource Protection and Management	Floodplains and Wetlands	Land Use Planning and Land Management	Community Resiliency
Graham Thompson	Kristal Walsh	Haley Gancel	Barbara Albrecht	Leah Fox
Someone from EPA Gulf Breeze Lab	Rachel Gwin	Amanda Croteau	Kristal Walsh	Becky Prado - WSP
Michael King - FDEP	Jessica Bibza, NWF	Heather Griffin	Mark Mauldin	Matt Deitch
Someone from NWFWMD	Melody Ray-Culp, USFWS	Shannon McGlynn	Traci Goodhart (Planner, City of Destin)	Someone from Eglin
Tesfay G	William Pizzolato	Eric Schneider	Haley Gancel	Someone from FDOT
Jenna Kilpatrick	Eric Schneider	William Pizzolato	Heather Griffin	Amy Newbold
Heather Griffin	Amanda Croteau	Scott Bitterman		
Amy Newbold	Rob Holbrook	Rob Holbrook		

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