



CHNEP Management Committee Meeting
Friday September 6th, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Centennial Park Large Multipurpose Room
1120 Centennial Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33953

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Introductions — Melynda Brown, Co-Chair
2. Agenda Additions or Deletions — Melynda Brown, Co-Chair
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items — Melynda Brown, Co-Chair
4. Management Committee May 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes — Melynda Brown, Co-Chair
5. TAC Report — Ernesto Lasso de la Vega, TAC Co-Chair
6. CAC Report — Harry Phillips, CAC Co-Chair
7. CHNEP Update — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
8. Amended FY 2025 EPA 320 & BIL Work Plans and Budgets — Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP
9. Draft CHNEP 2025 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) — Jennifer Shafer, PhD, Shafer Consulting
10. Link between duration of coastal red tide blooms and riverine nitrogen loads in southwest Florida — Steve Suau, Carbon-Life, LLC
11. CHNEP Technical Projects Updates — Nicole Iadevaia, CHNEP
12. Management Committee Member Updates — Melynda Brown, Co-Chair
13. Public Comment — Melynda Brown, Co-Chair
14. Future Meeting's Topics, Location and Date — Melynda Brown, Co-Chair
 - Upcoming Meeting Dates: January 10, 2025, May 9, 2025, and September 5, 2025
15. Adjourn — Melynda Brown, Co-Chair

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION

[1120 Centennial Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33953](#)



Coming from the North:

1. Take I-75 S to Sumter Blvd (exit 182) in North Port.
2. Follow Sumter Blvd for 8 miles to US Hwy 41 S, then Turn left onto US Hwy 41 S
3. Follow US Hwy 41 S for 4 miles to Centennial Blvd., then Turn right onto Centennial Blvd.
4. Follow Centennial Blvd. ½ mile down, turn **LEFT** into Centennial Park/Pool Parking Lot.
5. Check in at Front Desk and they will direct you to the Large Multipurpose Room

Coming from the South:

1. Take I-75 N to Kings Hwy in Charlotte County (exit 170)
2. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Kings Hwy (signs for Port Charlotte/Charlotte Sports Pk)
3. Follow for ½ mile, then Use the right 2 lanes to turn right onto Veterans Blvd.
4. Follow for 7 miles, the Turn right onto US Hwy 41 N
5. Follow for 2 miles, then Turn left onto Centennial Blvd.
6. Follow Centennial Blvd. ½ mile down, turn **LEFT** into Centennial Park/Pool Parking Lot.
7. Check in at Front Desk and they will direct you to the Large Multipurpose Room

In-person Management Committee meetings have resumed.

If you are unable to attend in person or to arrange for an alternate do so, please email Jennifer Hecker at jhecker@chnep.org or call (941) 833-6580.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The CHNEP Management Committee Co-Chair Melynda Brown will call the meeting to order and then Management Committee members will introduce themselves, followed by CHNEP staff and any members of the public who are participating.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

If any Management Committee member would like to make an addition or deletion to the agenda, this item is the time to suggest such. Members will be asked to vote to approve the final meeting agenda.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Each participating member of the public is afforded up to 3 minutes total to speak on agenda topics only at this point in the meeting.

4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MAY 10, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

If any Management Committee member would like to make a revision or addition to the prior meeting minutes, this item is the time to suggest such. Members will be asked to vote to approve the final prior meeting minutes.

Action: Approval of the minutes from May 10th, 2024 meeting.

Attachment: Draft May 10th, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

5. TAC REPORT

The TAC meeting held on August 8, 2024 was chaired by Ernesto Lasso de la Vega. The agenda and prior meeting's minutes were approved. The meeting agenda included presentations and discussions on the following topics:

- Dr. Jennifer Shafer, from Shafer Consulting presented on the **CCMP Update**, which was previously brought to the spring Management Conference meetings where committee member input on the update was gathered. The presentation highlighted the changes made and how the Management Conference committee input and comments were addressed. The Policy Committee approved update to the CCMP will ultimately be sent to the U.S. EPA for its final acceptance in 2025 and new copies will be provided to the Committee members and partners afterward. TAC members noted emphasis on research (as opposed to restoration projects). Dr. Shafer said that these additions and edits were regarding this update for the next five-year planning and Jennifer Hecker explained that the research primarily was in doing the underlying data analysis and conceptual planning that is needed prior to undertaking restoration and other implementation projects - so those implementation and restoration projects can be of greater focus in the next 5-year CCMP update. The emphasis for this update is on understanding the vulnerabilities and risks and undertaking strategic planning to identify potential projects and strategies to addressing those and mitigating their impacts. Another member asked if oysters should be specifically mentioned as part of the living shoreline and was told that they are mentioned in some existing CCMP actions as well are a separate activity for restoring aquatic habitat resources. Another member asked whether there is a section that deals with policy on a state and federal level and Ms. Hecker said that under Public Engagement, there is a section that addresses policymaker education. Discussion concluded with a consensus from TAC members regarding their comments being sufficiently addressed in the CCMP update draft.

- Dr. Miles Medina, from ECCO Scientific LLC, presented on **Water Quality Trends in Southwest Florida**. This presentation detailed how effective management and restoration in ecological function and estuarine systems require an understanding in water quality changes over time. He spoke to the fact that researchers recently partnered to compile 20 years of water quality data to investigate trends in nitrogen, phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, oxygen and organic carbon concentrations and apparent color in the upper water column samples from southwest Florida estuaries between 2000 and 2021. Some key takeaways for Charlotte Harbor are that trend results are consistent with the hypotheses that nitrogen enrichment has resulted in macroalgal proliferation and seagrass losses; nitrogen was already trending upward before Hurricane Irma and elevated nitrogen appears to be making the system vulnerable to profound ecosystem changes; and that northern and southern estuary segments exhibited interesting differences. Lake Okeechobee discharges and nitrogen loads remain a major concern and that the Peace River and coastal urban areas also contribute substantial loads. TAC members asked whether there is a way to gauge the relationship between nutrients and chlorophyll in the Gulf, Dr. Medina said that this sort of analysis tells how water quality has changed but does not answer the question of what is driving the change. Members were also told this analysis will be incorporated into CHNEP's Water Atlas, and that Dr. Medina is coordinating with other partners doing similar analysis in the area.
- Casey Craig, from FWC Fish & Wildlife Research Institute, presented on **Mangrove Mortality after Hurricane Ian in Charlotte Harbor**. This detailed that since Hurricane Ian made landfall in September 2022 in Charlotte Harbor, multiple mapping and monitoring efforts have examined the extensive hurricane damage and the ongoing recovery of the mangrove forests. The conclusions were that Charlotte Harbor mangroves are still experiencing delayed mortality from Hurricane Ian after 16 months, the magnitude of the mortality is influenced by existing hydrologic alteration stressors coupled with storm impacts, and monitoring will continue through 2024. Committee members asked whether there is a way to determine how much acreage was lost due to Hurricane Ian and whether the impact was primarily red, white, or black mangroves. Ms. Craig said that the vegetative imagery could be used for comparison of acreage lost after Ian and that the damage did impact different types of mangroves differently - with red mangroves recovering better and white and black mangroves having a harder time recovering. Another member asked whether mangrove recovery time had anything to do with sulfides in the sediment and Ms. Craig said that while sulfides do impact recovery, the timing of hurricane impacts coincides with the season where mangroves drop propagules which could have had a greater effect due to inhibited propagation. It was also mentioned that it takes time for the effects of these storms to manifest, so it is too soon after Tropical Storm Debby to determine what impact that storm may have on mangroves.
- Dr. David Tomasko, from the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, and Steve Suau of Carbon-Life LLC (on behalf of other authors), presented on **Red Tide Duration and Nitrogen Loads from the Caloosahatchee River** (inclusive of Lake Okeechobee Discharges). This presentation shared findings from a joint research effort and a recent publication in the Florida Scientist journal, which looked at the intensification factors of harmful blooms of the marine dinoflagellate *Karenia brevis* and examined whether there is a relationship between land-based nitrogen loads and red tide events in Southwest Florida. This presentation is included in the Management meeting agenda as well. TAC members discussed the relevance of this findings of this study to Everglades Restoration, to which Ms. Hecker offered that CHNEP has a seat on the Science Coordination Group of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force on Everglades Restoration and would be looking to share this information through that channel. A TAC member stated that it was interesting to note the correlation between the hydraulic load and

the nitrogen load, and he wondered if it would be complicated to determine which one to focus on, and whether there is a way to make sure that the hydraulic load is not attributed to something else. Dr. Tomasko stated that the Caloosahatchee River's water chemistry is not that different than the other river systems in the study, but the nitrogen loading was about 10 times higher due to the higher volume discharges. TAC members inquired about aquifer storage and recovery wells and Jennifer Hecker explained those are being used to the greatest degree feasible but there is still additional storage needs beyond those needed to handle the large volume, in order to prevent harmfully high-volume discharges to the Caloosahatchee River.

- The TAC engaged in a short discussion of **Recurring Cyano/Macroalgae Blooms in Charlotte Harbor** being seen in Charlotte Harbor and other estuaries. Members were asked to share any information they have on research, management, or mitigation work being done by their agency or municipality during their member update. Interested TAC members were invited to stay after the meeting and participate in an Algae Work Group convened by FWC and Charlotte County for a more in-depth topical dialogue on these blooms. If partners are interested in staying engaged with the Algae Work Group, please contact CHNEP who can provide a link to the meeting notes and other resources.

The TAC also heard the CHNEP Program and Technical Projects update presentations being presented at this Management Committee meeting, and shared updates with each other on their respective counties and communities and natural resource-related activities and projects. There were no recommendations formed by the TAC pertaining directly to Management Committee agenda items this cycle; however, the TAC's consensus of the draft CCMP update is relevant to Management Committee's potential recommendation to Policy Committee on whether to approve the current CCMP update draft.

TAC Co-Chair Ernesto Lasso de la Vega will be presenting this cycle's TAC Report.

6. CAC REPORT

The CAC meeting held on August 21, 2024 was chaired by Harry Phillips. The agenda and prior meeting's minutes were approved. The meeting agenda included the following presentations and discussions:

- CAC members welcomed the new **CAC applicant** from DeSoto County, Ms. Linda Waters. Ms. Waters is a librarian and retired educator, who was previously involved in the master naturalist program. She enjoys informing others about the preservation and protection of natural resources.
- Two new **Conservation Grant Applications** were reviewed with funding requested amounts, and recommendation by CHNEP staff for CAC review, discussion, and feedback. Both grant applications were recommended by staff for funding with deliverables that include final reports and photos due after completion.
 - The first was for the International Coastal Clean-Up in Charlotte Harbor. The amount requested was \$4000 and it will involve the removal of debris along the coastline. It will provide an opportunity for volunteers to become citizen scientists as well, to audit the debris found, results are shared as part of an international report. A CAC member commented that the International Coastal Clean-Up will be taking place September 21st and that there are many different community events leading up to it as well.
 - The second involved native plantings being installed around a public dry retention pond in Lee County by Future Forestry. The amount request was \$6,872 and will involve the reconfiguring and planting a dry retention pond to collect and filter the runoff from a

bridge that is part of the Veteran's Memorial Parkway. One CAC member asked whether there will be monitoring to see if the retention pond plantings survive and another CAC member familiar with Future Forestry's prior work responded that they have a high level of planting success and returns to its planting sites to maintain the plants and assess progress through their establishment. Another CAC member asked whether the retention pond is something to be constructed, and what will be done about the removal of the invasive species. The retention pond was constructed in the late 1990s. It is unknown whether invasives are present or whether Lee County, who manages the site long-term would remove the invasives. Ms. Iadevaia suggested that the information from the April CAC about the best removal practices of invasives can be added as an attachment back to the applicant.

After reviewing the projects and providing feedback, the CAC concurred with the CHNEP staff recommendation to fund these two applications, including information on the best treatment of invasives information in the follow-up emails on the latter application.

- The CAC then heard a presentation about the **CCMP Update** from Dr. Jennifer Shafer, who will be presenting at this meeting as well. She spoke about how CAC comments offered during the last meeting cycle were addressed and incorporated into the current CCMP update draft. A CAC member asked whether the CHNEP web presence doubling was for unique visits or across all web activity and Dr. Shafer said that this number included all digital communications (website, Water Atlas, Instagram, etc.) Another member expressed their appreciation that this update allowed members to take a fresh look at everything. Dr. Shafer said that this opportunity not only allowed for members to learn about new accomplishments and updates, but also encouraged important updates and additions to be included. The discussion concluded with the expressed consensus of CAC members that their comments, edits, and/or suggestions offered at the last meeting were appropriately addressed in the CCMP update.
- The CAC also heard from Jennifer Hecker, Executive Director of CHNEP, on **Red Tide Duration and Nitrogen Loads from the Caloosahatchee River**. It discusses how even though red tides initiate offshore and as these blooms get closer to the shoreline, their duration and abundance can increase due to man-made nutrient pollution. Ms. Hecker co-authored the study, which used nitrogen data that was collected from the Myakka, Peace, and Caloosahatchee Rivers as well as Peace and Horse Creeks. It also included red tide data that was collected in Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico. One CAC member asked about the graphs showing that the Peace River loads increased in or around 2022 and Ms. Hecker said that the graphs showed that the loads in the Peace River did increase around that time as after Hurricane Ian, the Peace River rose 19 feet higher than ever recorded. The discussion concluded with Ms. Hecker mentioning the CHNEP fact sheet available that can be printed and shared, which includes a QR code to the full published article.

Finally, the CAC heard the CHNEP Program and Technical Project update presentations that are also coming before Management Committee today, and shared updates with each other on their respective counties and communities and natural resource related activities and projects. There were no recommendations formed by the CAC pertaining directly to Management Committee agenda items this cycle; however, the CAC's consensus of the draft CCMP update is relevant to Management Committee's potential recommendation to Policy Committee on whether to approve the current CCMP update draft.

CAC Co-Chair Harry Phillips will be presenting this cycle's CAC Report.

7. CHNEP UPDATE

The following represents program activity highlights since the beginning of the last Management Conference cycle to the beginning of this one, with the exception of technical project updates that are covered in a separate item later in this agenda.

Program Administration

- Planned and executed the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (4/11), Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting (4/24), Management Committee Meeting (5/10) and Policy Committee Meeting (5/23), including lining up presenters, drafting agenda packets, creating PowerPoints, drafting minutes, etc.
- Reviewed 2019 CHNEP CCMP and determined that a 5-year Update would be needed (a major revision was recently completed in 2019). Facilitated discussions were held during spring Management Conference meetings to record and synthesize comments from the Committees. Technical and Citizen's Advisory Committees which were provided to the Management and Policy Committee at their May meetings for consideration. Consensus comments were provided to a contractor to begin the CHNEP CCMP Update.
- The draft FY25 EPA 320 Master Work Plan and FY25 EPA BIL Work Plan and budget tables were reviewed and approved at the Policy meeting. These were then included as attachments to the EPA grant application documents in the County Grant Tracking System. The full grant applications will be submitted to EPA once approved in the County system.
- CHNEP participated along with staff from Florida's other 3 National Estuary Programs in a day-long workshop focused on sharing updates, opportunities for collaboration, and lessons learned.
- Reviewed and provided content for the US EPA NEP FY23 Accomplishments Report, including information on Post-Hurricane Ian Remediation Efforts.
- Reviewed and sent a technical comment letter on the SFWMD Draft Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan.
- CHNEP partnered on a letter of interest for 3 NOAA RESTORE Proposals, two were invited to submit full proposals.
- Provided Letter of Support for the Bond Farm Hydrologic Enhancement projects included in the Florida Trustee Implementation Group's (TIG) "Draft Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental Assessment: Water Quality" on the project list for upcoming Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment (DWH NRDA) funding.
- Provided Letter of Support for the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast proposal to Florida Department of Environmental Protection for addition of 35.4-acres of natural lands on Sandpiper Key in Lemon Bay to the Florida Forever list for state purchase.
- Provided Letter of Support for the Wildlands Conservation proposal to Florida Department of Environmental Protection for addition of natural lands in the Peace River floodplain to the Florida Forever list for state purchase.
- Provided Letter of Support for the Support for The Florida Water (FloW) Center Proposal from UF and other state universities for the Florida Council of 100 Request for Proposals to create the Florida Center for Integrative Water Resource Management.

Finance and Grant Management

- The CHNEP EPA 320 Novated Grant award was received by CHNEP and accepted by CHNEP host.

- CHNEP EPA FY24 BIL Grant award was accepted by CHNEP's host on June 11th.
- Sent mid-year report for EPA 320 and EPA BIL FY24 cooperative funding agreements.
- Prepared and finalized EPA FY24 match documentation based on South Florida Water Management District for CERP Caloosahatchee (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project.
- The CHNEP EPA 320 and EPA BIL FY25 grant applications, with their approved Work Plans and Budgets, were prepared and submitted to US EPA.
- Sent Q2 and Q3 reports for FDEP FY24 cooperative funding agreement. Prepared and submitted final invoice for FY24 funding from FDEP and the grant was closed out. Began drafting documents for FY25 FDEP funding agreement.
- Received and processed the final reimbursement from SWFWMD for the Myakka Headwaters Project for Agreement No. 21C00000001 (FY21 SWFWMD funds to CHNEP) for work completed in Q1 of FY24. With receipt of this reimbursement, the project and agreement are now closed.
- The fully executed SWFWMD Agreement for FY24 (Agreement No. 24XN0004327) was received by CHNEP and accepted by CHNEP host. Sent Q2 report for SWFWMD FY24 cooperative funding agreement.
- A revised version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and CHNEP was approved at the May board meeting.
- Fully executed Interlocal agreements with Highlands County, City of Punta Gorda, and the LeHigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (LAMSID).
- Updated the conservation grant application and conducted review of previous grants for CCMP and planning for outreach. Sent award email to Conservation Grant Applicant for spring 2024 award cycle, this award was accepted, and the applicant submitted a W-9 for the County.
- Received Q2 and Q3 quarterly reports for both Upper and Lower CCHMN project, reviewed deliverables and report and processed invoices.
- Received Q2 and Q3 reports FY24 Water Atlas project and processed invoice. Received revised final report for FY23 Water Atlas project and processed final invoice.
- Processed private donations via check or PayPal.

Regional and multi-jurisdictional organizational meetings

- CHNEP Water Atlas Monthly Management Meetings
- CHNEP/USGS Stream Stats in Florida Discussion (4/5)
- Southwest Florida RAMP Meeting (4/9)
- Charlotte County Board Meeting (4/9)
- Industries of the Future: Expanding Florida's Aquaculture Insights and Innovations (4/10)
- CHNEP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting (4/11)
- Desoto County Vulnerability Assessment Steering Committee Meeting (4/18)
- Hardee County Vulnerability Assessment Steering Committee Meeting (4/19)
- CHNEP/Charlotte County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment Meeting (4/22)
- ANEP Communications – Media Relations Meeting (4/23)
- CHNEP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting (4/24)
- South Florida Everglades Restoration Task Force (SFERTF) Meeting (4/25)
- Science and Environment Council (SEC) Meeting (4/25)

- NOAA Restore Grant Gulf of Mexico Meeting with UF (4/25)
- Collaboration Meeting with Calusa Waterkeeper (4/26)
- Polk County Vulnerability Assessment Steering Committee Meeting (4/26)
- Resilient Florida, Adaptation Planning Guidebook Stakeholder Workshop (4/30)
- EPA/ANEP Meetings from April 29-30, including with the offices of Congressman Franklin, Senator Rubio, Congressman Steube, and Congressman Soto.
- EPA/ANEP Meetings continued (5/1)
- FDEP Quarterly Resilience Forum (5/1)
- CHNEP/Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast GIS Data Support Meeting (5/1)
- Charlotte County Vulnerability Assessment Project Procurement Meeting (5/7) and (5/20)
- Water Quality Playbook Update (5/7)
- Management Committee Meeting (5/10)
- ANEP External Affairs Meeting (5/15)
- CHNEP Water Atlas Biennial Assessment Master List Set Up Meeting (5/16)
- Hardee Vulnerability Assessment Project Meeting (5/17)
- Policy Committee Meeting (5/23)
- CCHMN Electronic Field Form Development (5/22) and (5/24)
- Naples Conservancy of Southwest Florida Meeting (5/23)
- GOMA/Waters to the Sea Webinar (5/29)
- CCHMN Data and FDEP Assessment Database Upload (5/29) and (5/31)
- Florida Water and Climate Alliance Webinar: Statewide Drought Response and Coordination (5/30)
- CHNEP CCMP Update Kick-Off Meeting (5/30)
- Resiliency Coordination Forum Meeting (5/29)
- NOAA RESTORE project meeting Tarpon Coastal Ponds (6/3)
- Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve Restoration Project Meeting (6/5)
- FDEP Acquisition and Restoration Council Meeting (6/7)
- Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative Quarterly Meeting (6/12)
- CCHMN Data Upload Meeting (6/14)
- Florida NEP Meeting (6/18)
- Highlands County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment Meeting (6/19)
- Heartland Counties Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessments Meeting with CFRPC (6/19)
- Tiki Point Living Shoreline Project Meeting (6/20)
- Redfish Annual Review meeting: Charlotte Harbor Region (6/21)
- Lee County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment Meeting (6/24)
- Macroalgae Working Group Meeting (6/25)
- Corkscrew Watershed Initiative Public Meeting (6/26)
- US EPA Quality Program Virtual Event 2024 “QA: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities” (6/25-26)
- NOAA RESTORE Proposal Meeting (6/28)
- CCHMN Field Form Development Meeting (6/28)
- 2025 CHNEP Nature Calendar Photo Selection Meeting (7/8)

CHNEP staff presentations

- Participated in expert panel discussion on case studies and scenarios and Q&A for environmental communication at the Science and Environment Council Meeting.

- Collaborated with EPA to share a keynote presentation by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida from 2024 Southwest Florida Climate Summit at National Estuary Program meetings.
- Abstract accepted for the upcoming Restore America's Estuaries 2024 Coastal & Estuarine Summit.

Publications and Outreach Initiatives

- Sent out invitations to new CAC Applicants.
- Hosted a booth at Wild About Nature Fest hosted by Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast at Bay Preserve in Osprey. Visitors (200+) made their own native wildflower seed bombs (120+) and received information on native plant species and pollinators. Kids Activity Books and other materials were also distributed.
- Hosted a booth at the Ding Darling Conservation Carnival at Lakes Park in Ft. Myers. Over 240 guests visited the CHNEP booth to play a carnival style beanbag toss game, participate in pollinator trivia, and receive various prizes (including 140 native wildflower seed bombs with an attached educational handout). Kids Activity Books and other materials were also distributed.
- Information was shared with our network via Constant Contact and social media to highlight upcoming partner events, such as by Conservation Grant recipients UF IFAS Extension Polk County, Future Forestry and The Environmental Conservancy of North Port and Surrounding Areas.
- Provide Conservation Grant recipient (Estero Community Park Shoreline Improvement) with materials for volunteer folders at planting event.
- Social media posts including for [sea turtle nesting season](#) and [World Bee Day](#).
- Mailed CHNEP 2025 Nature Calendar Photo Contest flyers to libraries and art alliances in the CHNEP area to increase engagement and entries. Continued to advertise photo contest on social media.
- Edits for the Spanish Kids Activity Book were completed with support from our partner and Management Committee member, Dr. Ernesto Lasso de la Vega. This file has been prepared for printing.
- Added new features to CHNEP website including an accessibility toolbar and a refreshed news page.
- Provided 100 Kids Activity Books to the North Port Summer Camp.
- Presented a one-hour K-8 summer camp program for 20+ kids at the Summer Success Institute in Wellen Park, as well as provided Kids Activity Books.
- Drafted a purchase request and scope of services for printing and distribution of the 2025 Nature Calendar. This was put out for bid through the county purchasing dept. to seek qualified vendors to complete the work.
- Held a meeting with CAC to provide input on Photo Contest entries which guided development of a draft calendar layout for designer.
- Sent out a call for abstracts and began initial preparations to secure a room and A/V vendor for the 2025 Southwest Florida Climate Summit.

Outreach Metrics

- 5,897 subscribers for CHNEP educational mailings
- 4,298 unique visitors and 6,604 page views of CHNEP website since start of 2024

- 63 new Instagram followers this year for a total of 596 followers
- 50 new Facebook followers this year for a total of 1,952 followers
- YouTube: 10,805 Views (+1.2k), 68 Subscribers (+6), 299 Videos (+2)

Media/Press

- [The language of science | Waterline | yoursun.com.](#)

CHNEP Executive Director Jennifer Hecker will be presenting the CHNEP Update.

8. AMENDED FY 2025 EPA 320 & BIL WORK PLANS AND BUDGETS

For fiscal year 2025, CHNEP prepared a master EPA320 Work Plan and Budget and an EPA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Work Plan and Budget. Both of these Work Plans were discussed last cycle, and approved by the Policy Committee on May 23, 2024. As is customary, amendments are made throughout the year to reflect changes in funding amounts or timing changes, new identified projects coming online in need for approval, and other factors. Below is a list of the amendments to both being proposed this cycle:

- Updated CHNEP Policy Committee page to current members and Co-Chair names.
- The Research Specialist II position in the Staff Organizational Chart is revised to Research & GIS Coordinator position (overall budgeted salary remains unchanged). [See pg. 15 of 320 Work Plan, not in FY25 BIL Work Plan as no BIL \$ funding salaries]
- The CHNEP Water Atlas budget for FY25 (funded by FY25 BIL) was modified from estimated \$85,000 to \$120,000 based on final negotiated FY25 Scope of Work with contractor (University of South Florida). This represents a +\$35,000 to allow for added refinements, enhancements, and features to the newly relaunched site. [See pg. 13 of 320 Work Plan and pg. 11 of BIL Work Plan]
- As a result of the CHNEP Water Atlas Budget for FY25 being increased by +\$35,000, the BIL FY25 Research & Restoration TBD Project amount was reduced the same amount, from \$414,800 to \$379,800 [See pg. 13 of 320 Work Plan and pg. 11 of BIL Work Plan]
- The remaining \$379,800 Research & Restoration TBD Project amount was then fully allocated to the Glades and Hendry County Comprehensive Vulnerability Projects – thus the BIL FY25 Research & Restoration TBD Project budget line item was removed. [See pg. 13 of 320 Work Plan and pg. 11 of BIL Work Plan]
- To allocate an additional \$20,200 for the Hendry County Comprehensive Vulnerability (CVA) Project (so it would have \$200,000 like all the other CVA projects), the previous BIL FY25 Research & Restoration TBD Project amount was reduced from \$87,320 to \$67,120 and a line item for \$20,200 of BIL FY24 funding was added for Hendry CVA. [See pg. 13, 16 & 38 of 320 Work Plan and pgs. 9, 11, 12, & 19 of BIL Work Plan]
- The narratives were revised according to aforementioned amendments, including the addition of the Glades and Hendry CVA projects under Task 3 Research sections.

Attachments:

[Draft Amended FY25 EPA 320 Work Plan and Budget](#)
[Draft Amended FY25 EPA BIL Work Plan and Budget](#)

Action:

Vote on whether to recommend Policy Committee approve the Draft Amended CHNEP 2025 EPA 320 & BIL Work Plans and Budgets

9. DRAFT CHNEP 2025 COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (CCMP)

The US EPA recognizes that National Estuary Program (NEP) Comprehensive Conservation Management Plans (CCMP) are critical components of their model of adaptive management as it facilitates a continual process of integrating new data and results. CCMPs are living documents and as such should be re-examined on a regular basis, updates should be made to capture the latest science as well as the consensus on the direction of the Partnership's collective work to further water quality and habitat goals for the region. It guides how the NEP can provide programmatic or funding support to assist partner research, restoration and public engagement efforts outlined therein.

The CCMP Update item was previously brought to the spring Management Conference meetings where committee member input on the update was gathered. At the recent TAC and CAC meetings, how those committee comments were addressed was reviewed and those committees both expressed consensus that their comments have been sufficiently addressed in the Draft 2025 CCMP text.

This presentation will highlight changes made to the CCMP that address Management Conference committee input and comments. Management Committee consensus is being sought on whether the Management Committee's comment have been sufficiently addressed in the current Draft 2025 CCMP text.

Following this meeting, the Policy Committee will review how their comments and input was addressed and be asked to approve the final Draft 2025 CCMP. Once approved, it will be sent to US EPA for its final acceptance. If further revisions are needed to address any EPA input, those will be brought back next cycle for review with the Committee, with the Policy Committee approving those. Once approved by both US EPA and the CHNEP Policy Committee, the Draft 2025 CCMP will be printed in 2025 with new copies provided to Committee members and partners afterwards.

This overview will be given by Dr. Jennifer Shafer, from Shafer Consulting.

Attachments: [Draft 2025 CHNEP CCMP
CCMP Comment/Response Document](#)

Action: Vote on whether there is consensus that the Management Committee's comments were sufficiently addressed, and the Management Committee recommends that the Policy Committee approve the Draft 2025 CHNEP CCMP

10. LINK BETWEEN DURATION OF COASTAL RED TIDE BLOOMS AND RIVERINE NITROGEN LOADS

Red tide blooms generally originate in offshore waters, however, once these blooms are transported to nearshore waters by currents and winds it is believed that their abundance and duration can increase due to man-made nutrient pollution. This presentation will share findings from a joint research effort and recent publication looking at intensification factors of harmful blooms of the marine dinoflagellate *Karenia brevis*. It examines whether there is a relationship between land-based nitrogen loads from Horse and Joshua Creeks as well as the Peace, Myakka, and Caloosahatchee Rivers, as well as data from red tide events in Southwest Florida and the Gulf of Mexico that were a month or longer.

This presentation will be given by Stephen Suau from Carbon-Life LLC on behalf of all of the co-authors (including CHNEP), and Jennifer Hecker of the CHNEP will join for the question and answer section of the item.

Attachments: [Duration of red tide \(*Karenia brevis*\) blooms and watershed nitrogen loads in southwest Florida *Florida Scientist* journal article
CHNEP Red Tide and Nutrients Fact Sheet](#)

11. CHNEP TECHNICAL PROJECTS UPDATES

In addition to the items featured earlier on the agenda, updates will be provided on other research and/or restoration projects (or phases of projects) recently completed or currently underway with CHNEP FY21-24 funds.

Nicole Iadevaia, CHNEP Director of Research & Restoration, will be presenting this agenda item.

Attachment: [CHNEP Technical Project Fact Sheets](#)

12. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Each member will have time to update the Committee on research or restoration currently underway or recently completed to protect and restore natural resources in the CHNEP area. This time also serves as an opportunity for members to make announcements or discuss other topics of interest to the Committee members.

Management Committee Co-Chair Melynda Brown will be leading and facilitating this discussion.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Each participating member of the public is afforded up to 3 minutes total to speak at this point in the meeting.

14. FUTURE MEETING'S TOPICS, LOCATION AND DATE

Please mark your calendar with the next Management Committee Meetings on January 10, 2025. Other 2025 Management Committees will be held on May 9, 2025 and September 5, 2025. All meetings will be held in the same location at Centennial Park as this cycle's meeting.

15. ADJOURN