

**APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)**

<https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/>

**ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)  
MEETING VIII**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020**

**VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBINAR**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING URL: <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/93899301738>**

**MEETING ID: 938 9930 1738**

**PHONE NUMBER: 646.558.8656**

**ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING VIII OBJECTIVES**

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting VIII Agenda and Meeting VII Summary Report)
- ✓ To Receive Project Briefings and Community Advisory Board Requested Presentations
- ✓ To Review and Evaluate Strategies, Actions, and Performance Measures
- ✓ To Identify Needed Next Steps, Information and Presentations, and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

**ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING VIII AGENDA—OCTOBER 15, 2020**

*All Agenda Times—including Public Comment and Adjournment—are Approximate and Subject to Change*

1.)	8:30 AM	<b>WELCOME, REVIEW OF VIRTUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES, AND ROLL CALL</b>
2.)	8:35	<b>AGENDA REVIEW AND MEETING OBJECTIVES</b>
3.)	8:40	<b>APPROVAL OF FACILITATORS' SUMMARY REPORT (SEPTEMBER 9, 2020)</b>
4.)	8:45	<b>REVIEW OF PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN</b>
5.)	8:50	<b>PROJECT BRIEFINGS AND REQUESTED PRESENTATIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>FWC Update on Apalachicola Bay Closure.</i> Jim Estes</li><li>• <i>Contrasts in Apalachicola River Discharge Create Opportunities for Learning.</i> Bill Pine</li><li>• <i>Update on Freshwater Inflow Modeling for ABSI.</i> Steve Leitman</li></ul>
	~9:45	<b>BREAK</b>
6.)	10:00	<b>A.) A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE BAY ECOSYSTEM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluation of Strategies and Actions to Achieve Goal A</li></ul>
7.)		<b>B.) SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF OYSTER RESOURCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluation of Strategies and Actions to Achieve Goal B</li></ul>
8.)		<b>C.) A FULLY FUNDED AND SCIENCE-INFORMED ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN SUPPORTED BY APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluation of Strategies and Actions to Achieve Goal C</li></ul>



9.)		<b>D.) AN ENGAGED STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY AND INFORMED PUBLIC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of Strategies and Actions to Achieve Goal D</li> </ul>
10.)		<b>E.) A THRIVING ECONOMY CONNECTED TO A RESTORED ABS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of Strategies and Actions to Achieve Goal E</li> </ul>
11.)		<b>EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Performance Measure categories</li> <li>• Review Performance Measures identified for specific strategies</li> </ul>
12.)	~12:15	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>
13.)	12:25	<b>NEXT STEPS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the CAB schedule of meetings</li> <li>• Review of action items and assignments</li> <li>• Identify agenda items and needed information and presentations for the November 12, 2020 CAB meeting</li> <li>• Meeting evaluation</li> </ul>
~12:30 PM		<i>ADJOURN</i>

**MEETING FACILITATION**

The ABSI CAB meetings are facilitated by Jeff Blair and Robert Jones from the FCRC Consensus Center at Florida State University. Information at: <http://consensus.fsu.edu/>



## COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

MEMBER	AFFILIATION
<b>Agriculture/ACF Stakeholders/Riparian Counties</b>	
1. Chad Taylor	Riparian Counties Stakeholder Group/ACF Stakeholders/Agriculture
<b>Business/Real Estate/Economic Development/Tourism</b>	
2. Chuck Marks	Acentria Insurance
3. Mike O'Connell	SGI Civic Club/SGI 2025 Vision
4. John Solomon	Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce
<b>Environmental/Citizen</b>	
5. Georgia Ackerman	Apalachicola Riverkeeper
6. Lee Edmiston	Retired DEP/ANERR
7. Chad Hanson	Pew Charitable Trusts
<b>Local Government</b>	
8. Anita Grove	Apalachicola City Commissioner
9. Ricky Jones	Franklin County Commissioner
<b>Recreational Fishing</b>	
10. Chip Bailey	Peregrine Charters
11. Frank Gidus	CCA Florida
<b>Seafood Industry</b>	
12. Shannon Hartsfield	Franklin County Seafood Workers Association and Oysterman
13. Roger Mathis	Oysterman and R.D.'s Seafood
14. Vance Millender	Millender & Sons Seafood
15. Steve Rash	Water Street Seafood
16. Denita Sassor	Outlaw Oyster Company, Aquaculture
17. TJ Ward	Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood
<b>State Government</b>	
18. Jim Estes	FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management
19. Jenna Harper	ANERR/DEP
20. Alex Reed	FDEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection
21. Portia Sapp	FDACS Division of Aquaculture
22. Paul Thurman	NWFWMD
<b>University/Researchers</b>	
23. Tom Frazer	UF/DEP Governor's Science Advisor
24. Erik Lovstrand	UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant Franklin County

### PROJECT TEAM AND FACILITATORS

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	
Sandra Brooke	Marine Biologist
Felicia Coleman	Marine Biologist
Madelein Mahood	Outreach and Education
Gary Ostrander	Vice-President for Research
FCRC CONSENSUS CENTER, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	
Jeff Blair	Community Advisory Board Facilitator
Robert Jones	Community Advisory Board Facilitator



## ABSI CAB PROJECT SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN

**UPDATED AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2020**

### PHASE I—STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABSI CAB

<b>ABSI Assessment Process</b>	September 2019	Assessment report based on interviews of over 60 stakeholders and agency personnel (May – August 2019) summarized key challenges and issues that should be addressed in the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) and by its Community Advisory Board (CAB); facilitators recommend members for the CAB.
<b>ABSI CAB Questionnaire</b>	September, 2019	Questionnaire report on the CAB members' views on successful short and long-term outcomes and on critical ABSI challenges and issues.
<b>Meeting I.</b> Eastpointe FL	Oct. 30, 2019	Scoping and organizational meeting, review and refinement of overall project purpose, vision and goal framework. Presentation on the ABSI project's four main components: research, management, community engagement, and oyster reef and bay restoration. Public comment.
<b>Meeting II.</b> Eastpointe FL	Dec. 18, 2019	Member-requested presentations on Apalachicola River Slough Restoration project, Oyster Fishery and Harvest Statistics, ABSI Research Update, and FWC Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration, Phase II. Review and refinement of vision themes and goal framework, and identification of key topical issues to inform the drafting of objectives. Public comment
<b>Meeting III.</b> Eastpointe FL	Jan. 8, 2020	Member-requested presentations on Oyster Ecology, Hydrologic modeling and Oyster Population Models. Review, refinement and adoption of five vision themes, goals, outcomes and objectives, and initial review of draft performance measures. Public comment

### PHASE II—SCOPING OF ABSI ISSUES, IDENTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES & STRATEGIES

<b>Meeting IV.</b> Eastpointe FL	Mar. 11, 2020	Member-requested presentations on current status of Apalachicola Bay, FDACS Aquaculture Leasing Program, Oyster Reef Management in Apalachicola Bay, and the Chesapeake Bay Oyster Futures Consensus Process. Review of Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan goals, outcomes, and objectives. Identification of initial draft strategies and related performance measures. Public comment.
<b>Meeting V.</b> Virtual Meeting	May 22, 2020	Member-requested presentations on FWC Overview of Oyster Management, FWRI Oyster Monitoring and Restoration Effects in Apalachicola Bay, MK Ranch Hydrologic Restoration, and TNC Lake Wimico project. Identification and evaluation of preliminary strategies and performance measures to achieve each of the five goals and objectives. Public comment.
<b>CAB Strategies</b>	June, 2020	CAB Worksheet to identify potential strategies for each of the five goals.
<b>Meeting VI.</b> Virtual Meeting	July 16, 2020	Member-requested presentations. Decision support tools update & demonstration. Review and evaluation of the preliminary strategies by CAB member for Plan Goal. Public Comment.
<b>Meeting VII.</b> Virtual Meeting	Sept. 9, 2020	Member-requested presentations. Identification, evaluation and refinement of objectives, strategies and performance measures for Goals A-E. Public Comment.
<b>Meeting VIII.</b> Virtual Meeting	Oct. 15, 2020	Member-requested presentations. Review of strategies and identification, and evaluation of actions steps to achieve strategies. Evaluation of Performance Measures and categories. Public Comment.



<b>Meeting IX.</b> Virtual Meeting	Nov. 12, 2020	Member-requested presentations. Evaluation and refinement of strategies and performance measures, and identification of possible action steps to achieve Goals A, B, and E, and identification of responsible entities for Goals C and D. Public Comment.
<b>Meeting X.</b> Virtual Meeting	Dec. 9, 2020	Review and agreement on draft Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan framework and outline (Vision Themes, Goals, Outcomes, Objectives, and range of possible strategies for evaluation by the CAB). Review and refine draft strategies and actions and approve Public Workshop Draft Plan Framework. Public Comment.
<b>Public Workshop 1</b>	<i>TBD</i>	Review and public comments on Vision, Goal Framework, Plan outline, and range of possible strategies for evaluation by CAB. <i>Depending on status of the COVID-19 pandemic</i>
<b>PHASE III—BUILDING CONSENSUS ON DRAFT ABS ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS—TO BE EVALUATED USING DECISION-SUPPORT TOOLS RELATIVE TO PERFORMANCE MEASURE GOALS IN PHASE IV</b>		
<b>Meeting XI.</b>	Jan. 13, 2021	Review of public comments on Draft Plan Framework and Goals, review of decision-support tools scenario results and consensus rating of strategies and actions, and review of related draft performance measures. Public Comment.
<b>Meeting XII.</b>	Feb. <u>24</u> , 2021	Review of scenarios and consensus rating of strategies and actions using decision-support tools relative to goals and objectives. Public Comment.
<b>Meeting XIII.</b>	April <u>21</u> , 2021	Review of scenarios and consensus rating of draft strategies and actions using decision-support tools relative to goals and objectives. Public Comment.
<b>Meeting XIV.</b>	June <u>16</u> , 2021	Review of scenarios and consensus rating of draft strategies and actions using decision-support tools relative to goals and objectives. Public Comment.
<b>Meeting XV.</b>	August <u>18</u> , 2021	Continue review and consensus testing of Draft ABS Ecosystem-Based Management and Implementation strategies and actions and agreement on Workshop Draft for public comment. Public Comment.
<b>Public Workshop 2</b>	<i>TBD</i>	Review and public comments on Revised Draft ABS Ecosystem-Based Management Plan and Implementation Plan Strategies.
<b>Meeting XVI.</b>	October <u>20</u> , 2021	Review of public comment, agreement on the ABS Draft Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan strategies and actions. Public Comment.
<b>Meeting XVII.</b>	November <u>17</u> , 2021	Complete Phase III of project- Management Plan delivered
<b>PHASE IV—PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</b>		
	<b>TBD</b>	Restoration Component

**PROJECT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS**

**PROJECT WEBPAGE (URL):** <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/the-apalachicola-bay-system-initiative/>

**PROJECT EMAIL:** [fsucml-absi@fsu.edu](mailto:fsucml-absi@fsu.edu)

**PROJECT FACILITATION:** Jeff Blair and Bob Jones from the FCRC Consensus Center at Florida State University. Information at: <http://consensus.fsu.edu/>

**ABSI CAB ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL POLICES AND GUIDELINES**

Located under the ABSI CAB Procedures and Reports Menu: <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/>



## ABSI MISSION AND PROJECT STATEMENT, AND CAB GOAL STATEMENT

**APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE MISSION STATEMENT.** The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) seeks to gain insight into the root causes of decline of the Bay's ecosystem and the deterioration of oyster reefs. Ultimately, the ABSI will develop a management and restoration plan for the oyster reefs and the health of the Bay.

**PROJECT SUMMARY.** In response to the rapidly declining health of the Apalachicola Bay System (ABS) and the collapse of the oyster fishery and reefs therein, Florida State University sought and was awarded a grant from Triumph Gulf Coast Inc. to undertake a series of scientific approaches intended to aid in the development of an ecosystem-based oyster management and restoration plan for the Apalachicola Bay System. The plan will be informed by science while involving representative stakeholders and the public in its creation, development and implementation by state and federal management agencies. Developing such a plan will help the state agencies responsible for marine resources improve the overall health and the rich biological diversity of the bay, including that of other ecologically and economically important species. Because oyster populations are declining in estuaries across the Florida panhandle, ABSI project leads will work with scientific, non-profit and governmental entities working on similar issues throughout this region to develop a consistent oyster management framework.

The vitality of Apalachicola Bay is key to the socio-economic prosperity of Franklin County and the surrounding area. Specifically, as the bay's health has declined, so has the area's once-booming oyster industry, resulting in widespread job loss and increased economic insecurity for many Franklin County residents whose livelihoods are tied to the Bay.

Florida State University through its Coastal and Marine Laboratory will investigate what precipitated the dramatic decline of the Apalachicola Bay System, and working with the ABSI Community Advisory Board (CAB) and Science Advisory Board determine a viable course of action for improving its condition.

**APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD GOAL STATEMENT.** The overarching goal of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Community Advisory Board is to develop a package of consensus recommendations informed by the best available science, data, and stakeholders' experiences for the management and restoration of the Apalachicola Bay System, and to ensure there is a reliable mechanism and process for the monitoring, funding, and implementation of the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan.

A critical component of the management plan is oyster reef restoration with full consideration of factors affecting the biology, ecology and sustainable management of the resource. Restoration related actions, as indicated above, should be informed by the best available science and shared stakeholder values, that in turn, result in an economically viable, healthy, and sustainable Apalachicola Bay System.

The process will be designed so that members can explore and evaluate oyster fishery practices and management options, and restoration policies in the Apalachicola Bay System. The Community Advisory Board's consensus recommendations, in the form of an Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan, will be directed to the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative project team, natural resource managers and environmental regulators, and other agencies/entities as appropriate.

