

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)

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

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

MEETING XI—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

JOIN ZOOM MEETING URL: <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/92596801765>

MEETING ID: 925 9680 1765—PHONE NUMBER: 1.646.558.8656

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING XI OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting XI Agenda, Meeting X Summary Report)
- ✓ To Receive Project Briefings and Community Advisory Board Requested Presentations
- ✓ To Receive Updates from Subcommittees (Community Outreach and CAB Successor Group)
- ✓ To Discuss Estuarine Metrics, and Management and Restoration Goals
- ✓ To Review and Prioritize Strategies
- ✓ To Identify Needed Next Steps, Information and Presentations, and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING XI AGENDA—FEBRUARY 24, 2021

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

1.)	8:30 AM	WELCOME, REVIEW OF VIRTUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES, AND ROLL CALL
2.)	8:35	SOCIAL SCIENCE SURVEY
3.)	8:40	AGENDA REVIEW AND MEETING OBJECTIVES
4.)	8:45	APPROVAL OF FACILITATORS' SUMMARY REPORT (JANUARY 13, 2021)
5.)	8:50	REVIEW OF PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN
6.)	8:55	PROJECT BRIEFINGS AND REQUESTED PRESENTATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>ABSI Science and Data Collection Update.</i> Sandra Brooke, FSUCML• <i>Apalachicola Bay Oyster Monitoring Program.</i> Jim Estes, FWC• <i>Initiating an Estuary Program in Pensacola and Perdido Bays.</i> Donald Killorn, Executive Director, and Matt Posner, Transitional Advisor, PPBEP
7.)	9:35	SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES AND REPORTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Outreach Subcommittee Status Update and Report• CAB Successor Group Subcommittee Status Update and Report
	~9:50	BREAK
8.)	10:00	REVIEW OF ESTUARINE METRICS DRAFT



9.)		DISCUSSION OF MANAGEMENT GOALS
10.)		A.) A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE BAY ECOSYSTEM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Prioritize Strategies
11.)		B.) SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF OYSTER RESOURCES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Prioritize Strategies
12.)		C.) A FULLY FUNDED ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN SUPPORTED BY ABS STAKEHOLDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Prioritize Strategies
13.)		D.) AN ENGAGED STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY AND INFORMED PUBLIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Prioritize Strategies
14.)		E.) A THRIVING ECONOMY CONNECTED TO A RESTORED ABS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Prioritize Strategies
15.)	~11:45	PUBLIC COMMENT
16.)	11:55	NEXT STEPS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of action items and assignments • Identify agenda items and needed information and presentations for the April 21, 2021 CAB meeting • Meeting evaluation
~12:00 PM		ADJOURN

MEETING FACILITATION

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



COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

MEMBER	AFFILIATION
Agriculture/ACF Stakeholders/Riparian Counties	
1. Chad Taylor [^]	Riparian Counties Stakeholder Group/ACF Stakeholders/Agriculture
Business/Real Estate/Economic Development/Tourism	
2. Chuck Marks	Acentria Insurance
3. Mike O’Connell	SGI Civic Club/SGI 2025 Vision
4. John Solomon	Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce
Environmental/Citizen	
5. Georgia Ackerman ^{^*}	Apalachicola Riverkeeper
6. Lee Edmiston	Retired DEP/ANERR
7. Chad Hanson ^{^*}	Pew Charitable Trusts
Local Government	
8. Anita Grove ^{^*}	Apalachicola City Commissioner
9. Ricky Jones [^]	Franklin County Commissioner
Recreational Fishing	
10. Chip Bailey	Peregrine Charters
11. Frank Gidus	CCA Florida
Seafood Industry	
12. David Barber	Barber’s Seafood
13. Shannon Hartsfield [^]	Franklin County Seafood Workers Association and Oysterman
14. Roger Mathis [^]	Oysterman and R.D.’s Seafood
15. Steve Rash [^]	Water Street Seafood
16. Denita Sassor	Outlaw Oyster Company, Aquaculture
17. TJ Ward	Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood
State Government	
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
University/Researchers	
23. Tom Frazer	UF/DEP Governor’s Science Advisor
24. Erik Lovstrand	UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant Franklin County
CAB SUBCOMMITTEES	
Community Outreach Subcommittee	[*] Lead: Chad Hanson
CAB Successor Group Subcommittee	[^] Co-Leads: Anita Grove and Shannon Hartsfield
PROJECT TEAM AND FACILITATORS	
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	
Sandra Brooke [*]	Marine Biologist
Madelein Mahood [*]	Outreach and Education
Gary Ostrander	Previous Vice-President for Research
Joel Trexler [^]	FSUCML Director
FCRC CONSENSUS CENTER, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	
Jeff Blair	Community Advisory Board Facilitator



ABSI CAB PROJECT SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN

UPDATED AS OF FEBRUARY 24, 2021

PHASE I—STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABSI CAB

ABSI Assessment Process	May- Aug. 2019 Report Sept. 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.
ABSI CAB Questionnaire	Sept. 2019	Questionnaire report on the CAB members' views on successful short and long-term outcomes and on critical ABSI challenges and issues.
Meeting I. 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.
Meeting II. 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
Meeting III. 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

Meeting IV. 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.
Meeting V. 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.
CAB Strategies	June 2020	CAB Worksheet to identify potential strategies for each of the five goals.
Meeting VI. 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.
Meeting VII. Virtual Meeting	Sept. 9, 2020	Member-requested presentations. Identification, evaluation and refinement of objectives, strategies and performance measures for Goals A-E. Public Comment.
Meeting VIII. 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.
Meeting IX. Virtual Meeting	Nov. 12, 2020	Member-requested presentations. Agreement on Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan (Plan)



		framework. Public engagement on the Plan strategy discussion. Discussion of strategies and action steps to achieve Goals. Discussion of ecological and management goals. Public comment.
Oystermen’s Workshop #1	Dec. 2, 2020	Overview of Project Scope, Purpose, and Status, and Oystermen’s input on restoration experiment, suitable habitat for restoration, and management and restoration alternatives.
PHASE III—BUILDING CONSENSUS ON CAB RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ABS ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN		
Meeting X. Virtual Meeting	Jan. 13, 2021	Member-requested presentations. Sub-committee reports. Discussion of estuarine metrics and restoration goals. Public comment.
Meeting XI.	Feb. 24, 2021	Member-requested presentations. Sub-committee reports. Discussion of estuarine metrics and management goals. Review of Draft Plan Framework, and prioritization of strategies. Public comment.
Oystermen’s Workshop #2	Mar. 24, 2021	Oystermen’s review and comments on Draft Plan Framework (Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Actions).
Meeting XII.	April 21, 2021	Member-requested presentations. Sub-committee reports. Discussion of restoration and management goals. Discussion of Plan Framework and Performance Measures. Public comment. Presentation on modeling scenarios for potential restoration locations.
Oystermen’s Workshop #3	<i>Tentatively May—TBD</i>	Review draft Plan Framework with Oystermen, and Oystermen’s input.
Meeting XIII.	June 16, 2021	Review and agreement on Draft Plan Framework (Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Actions) relative to goals and objectives. Public comment.
Meeting XIV.	Aug. 18, 2021	Continue review and consensus testing of Draft Plan and implementation strategies and actions, and agreement on Draft Plan for public comment. Public comment.
Public Workshop and/or Oystermen’s Workshop #4 Date TBD		<i>Schedule & format dependent on status of the COVID-19 pandemic.</i> Review and public comments on Revised Draft ABS Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management Plan and implementation strategies.
Meeting XV.	Oct. 20, 2021	Review of public comment, agreement on recommendations for inclusion in the Plan. Public comment.
Meeting XVI.	Nov. 17, 2021	Complete Phase III of project. Final CAB approval of Management and Restoration recommendations for the Plan. Briefing on Restoration Implementation Planning Working Group. Public Comment.
PHASE IV—RESTORATION IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING		
Tentatively January 2022		Restoration Implementation Planning Working Group

PROJECT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

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

PROJECT EMAIL: fsucml-absi@fsu.edu

PROJECT FACILITATION: Jeff Blair 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 STATEMENT, PROJECT SUMMARY, 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 is investigating 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 Adaptive 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 is 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 Adaptive 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.

