

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)

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

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

MEETING XII—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

JOIN ZOOM MEETING URL: <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/93652941138>

MEETING ID: 936 5294 1138—PHONE NUMBER: 646.558.8656

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING XII OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda and, Summary Reports)
- ✓ To Receive Project Briefings and Community Advisory Board Requested Presentations
- ✓ To Discuss Estuarine Metrics
- ✓ To Receive Updates from Subcommittees (Community Outreach and CAB Successor Group)
- ✓ To Review and Approve Proposed Revisions to Draft Management and Restoration Plan Framework
- ✓ To Discuss 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 XII AGENDA—APRIL 21, 2021

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

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| 1.) | 8:30 AM | WELCOME, REVIEW OF VIRTUAL 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 REPORTS (FEBRUARY 24, 2021, AND OYSTERMEN'S APRIL 15, 2021 WORKSHOP) |
| 5.) | 8:50 | REVIEW OF UPDATED PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORK PLAN |
| 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 (10) |
| 7.) | 9:05 | SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES AND REPORTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Outreach Subcommittee Status Update and Report. Chad Hanson• CAB Successor Group Subcommittee Status Update and Report. Anita/Shannon• Restoration Partnership Working Group Update. Joel Trexler |
| 8.) | 9:30 | ESTUARINE METRICS OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION |
| ~10:00 | | BREAK |
| 9.) | 10:10 | REVIEW AND APPROVE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO DRAFT MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN FRAMEWORK AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES |



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| 10.) | 10:30 | MANAGEMENT GOALS DISCUSSION (CONTINUED FROM FEBRUARY MEETING) |
| 11.) | 11:15 | PRIORITIZATION OF STRATEGIES BY GOAL AREAS (A – E) |
| 12.) | ~11:50 | PUBLIC COMMENT |
| 13.) | 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 June 16, 2021 CAB meeting • Meeting evaluation |
| ~12:00 PM | | <i>ADJOURN</i> |

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/>



CONSENSUS CENTER

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/>



COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

| MEMBER | AFFILIATION |
|--|--|
| Agriculture/ACF Stakeholders/Riparian Counties | |
| 1. Chad Taylor [^] | Riparian Counties Stakeholder Coalition/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. Shannon Hartsfield [^] | Franklin County Seafood Workers Association and Oysterman |
| 13. Roger Mathis [^] | Oysterman and R.D.’s Seafood |
| 14. Steve Rash [^] | Water Street Seafood |
| 15. Denita Sassor | Outlaw Oyster Company, Aquaculture |
| 16. TJ Ward | Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood |
| State Government | |
| 17. Jim Estes [^] | FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management |
| 18. Jenna Harper | ANERR/DEP |
| 19. Alex Reed | FDEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection |
| 20. Portia Sapp | FDACS Division of Aquaculture |
| 21. Paul Thurman | NWFWMD |
| University/Researchers | |
| 22. Tom Frazer | UF/DEP Governor’s Science Advisor |
| 23. 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 FACILITATOR | |
| FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY | |
| Sandra Brooke [*] | Marine Biologist |
| Ross Ellington | Professor Emeritus of Biological Science |
| 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 WORK PLAN

UPDATED AS OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2021 CAB MEETING

PHASE I—STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABSI CAB

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| 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

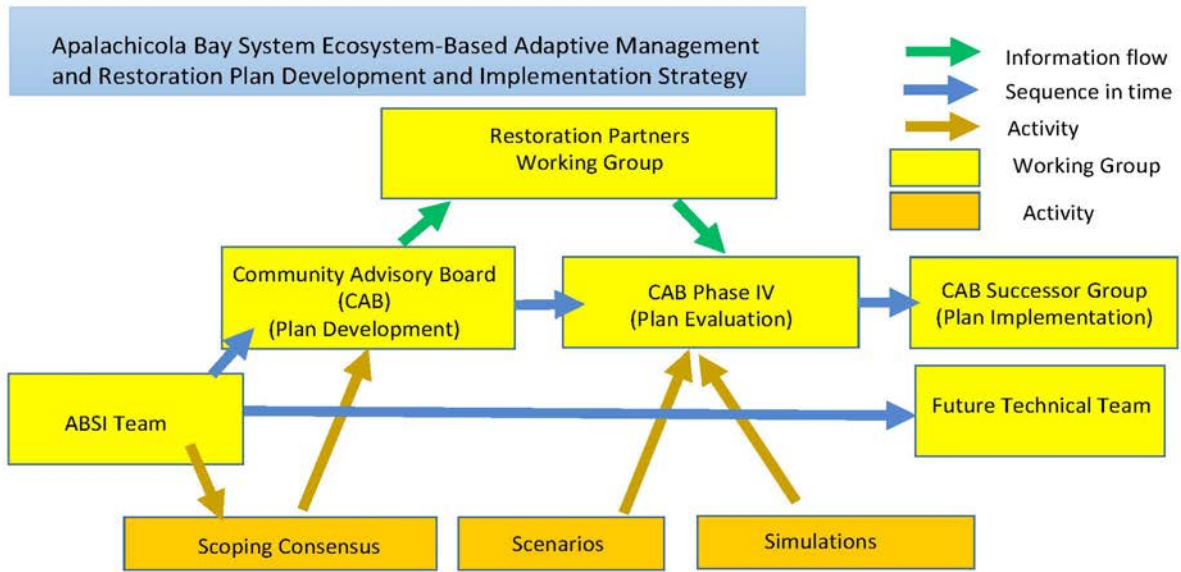
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| Meeting IV. Eastpointe FL | Mar. 11, 2020 | Member-requested presentations on current status of Apalachicola Bay, FDACS Aquaculture Leasing Program, Oyster Reef Management in Apalachicola Bay, and the Chesapeake Bay Oyster Futures Consensus Process. 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) |



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| | | 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. Review and approval of revised Draft Plan Framework. Discussion of management goals. Public comment. |
| Oystermen’s Workshop #2 | April 15, 2021 | Oystermen’s review and comments on draft Management approaches and Plan Framework (Strategies and Actions for Goals and Objectives) |
| Meeting XII. | April 21, 2021 | Member-requested presentations. Sub-committee reports. Discussion of estuarine metrics. Discussion and approval of revised Plan Framework and Performance Measures. Discussion of restoration and management goals. Prioritization of strategies. Public comment. |
| Oystermen’s Workshop #3 | <i>Tentatively May/June</i> | Review draft Plan Framework (Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Actions) 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. Presentation on modeling scenarios for potential restoration locations. 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 Phase IV of the ABSI CAB. Public Comment. |
| PHASE IV—RESTORATION PROJECT SELECTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION/FUNDING PLANNING | | |
| Tentatively January 2022 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAB continues with some new members and works on identifying the best combination of strategies that will achieve restoration objectives for the Bay using decision support tools and available data, and prioritization of specific restoration projects. • Restoration Partners Working Group continues work to seek resources, and governmental and political support for CAB’s priority recommendations. • Successor Group is organized and ready to convene when the CAB completes their work on the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan. The Successor Group’s role will be to organize a group of key stakeholders committed to working collaboratively for the long-term and once the CAB process is complete to ensure that the Plan is implemented, monitored, and adaptively managed over time and supported by the Community. |



ABSI CAB PROCESS FLOWCHART



Notes

1. Yellow boxes are groups of people. Blue arrows connecting yellow boxes indicate some or all of the people in one group may comprise the next group in time sequence



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.

