

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)

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

**ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)
MEETING XVI — TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM: <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/95377490568>

MEETING ID: 953 7749 0568—PHONE NUMBER: 646.558.8656

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING XVI OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda and, Summary Report)
- ✓ To Receive Project Briefings
- ✓ To Receive Updates from RFWG, Community Outreach, and CAB Successor Group
- ✓ To Review Strategies Prioritization Ranking Exercise Results
- ✓ To Approve Final Draft ABS Management and Restoration Plan Framework for Phase IV Evaluation
- ✓ To Review and Update Resources Available and Collaboration Efforts for Plan Implementation
- ✓ To Receive Briefing on and Discuss CAB Membership for Phase IV
- ✓ To Identify Needed Next Steps, Information and Presentations, and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING XVI AGENDA — NOVEMBER 16, 2021

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

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 FACILITATOR’S SUMMARY REPORT (OCT. 19, 2021 MEETING)
5.)	8:50	REVIEW OF UPDATED PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORK PLAN
6.)	9:00	PROJECT BRIEFING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ABSI Science and Data Collection Update.</i> Sandra Brooke, FSUCML (15)
7.)	9:30	WORKING GROUP AND SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration Funding Working Group Update. Joel Trexler (5) • Community Outreach Subcommittee Update. Chad Hanson (5) • CAB Successor Group Subcommittee Update. Anita/Shannon (5)
8.)	9:45	STRATEGIES PRIORITIZATION RANKING EXERCISE RESULTS REVIEW
~10:00		BREAK
9.)	10:15	APPROVE FINAL DRAFT MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN FRAMEWORK FOR PHASE IV EVALUATION



10.)	11:00	REVIEW AND UPDATES ON RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND COLLABORATION EFFORTS FOR ABS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
11.)	11:20	BRIEFING ON PHASE IV AND DISCUSSION OF PHASE IV CAB MEMBERSHIP
12.)	~11:45	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 • Meeting evaluation
~12:00 PM		ADJOURN

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 Bay 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. Bert Boldt [^]	Franklin County Commissioner
9. Anita Grove ^{^*}	Apalachicola City 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. Jenna Harper	ANERR/DEP
18. BJ Jamison [^]	FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management
19. Alex Reed	FDEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection
20. Portia Sapp	FDACS Division of Aquaculture
21. Paul Thurman	NFWFMD
University/Researchers	
22. Tom Frazer	USF Dean of the College of Marine Science
23. Erik Lovstrand	UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant Franklin County
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES	
* Community Outreach Subcommittee	Lead: Chad Hanson [*]
[^] CAB Successor Group Subcommittee	Co-Leads: Anita Grove [^] and Shannon Hartsfield [^]
# Restoration Funding Working Group	Lead: Joel Trexler [#]
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	Former 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 OCTOBER 19, 2021 CAB MEETING

PHASE I—STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABSI CAB – 2019

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

PHASE II—SCOPING OF ABSI ISSUES, IDENTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES & STRATEGIES - 2020

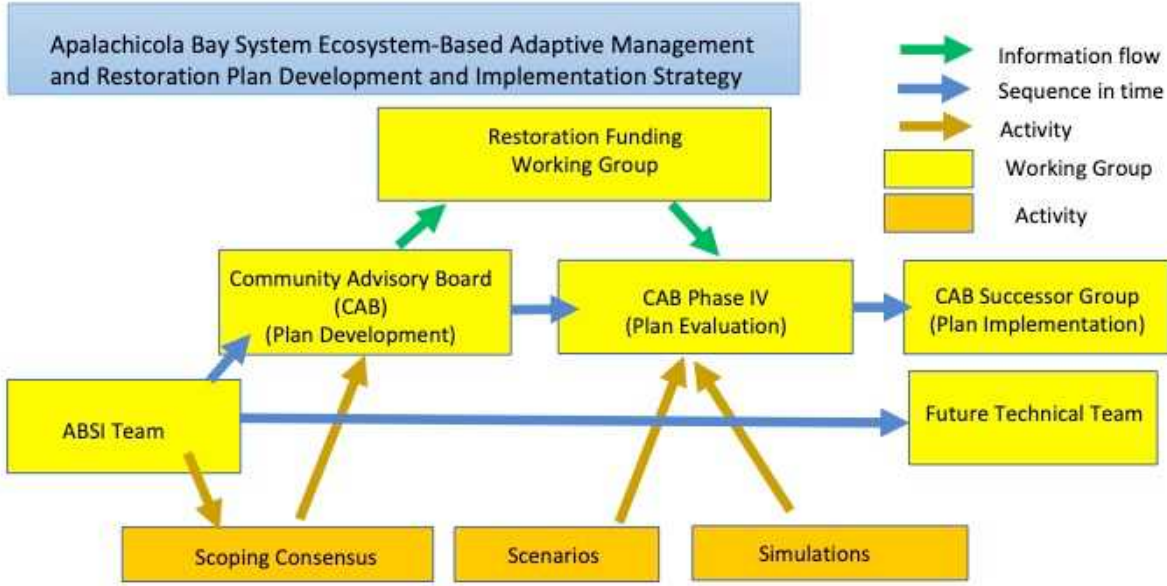
Meeting III. Eastpointe FL	Jan. 8, 2020	Member-requested presentations on Oyster Ecology, Hydrologic modeling and Oyster Population Models. Review, refinement and adoption of five vision themes, goals, outcomes and objectives, and initial review of draft performance measures. Public comment.
Meeting 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 Eastpointe FL	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 - 2021		
Meeting X. Virtual Meeting	Jan. 13, 2021	Member-requested presentations. Sub-committee reports. Discussion of estuarine metrics and restoration goals. Public comment.
Meeting XI. Virtual Meeting	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 Eastpointe FL	Oystermen’s review and comments on draft Management approaches and Plan Framework (Strategies and Actions for Goals and Objectives)
Meeting XII. Virtual Meeting	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 management approaches. Public comment.
Meeting XIII. Virtual Meeting	June 16, 2021	Member-requested presentations. Sub-committee reports. Community Outreach Plan approval. Discussion and agreement on revised Draft Plan Framework and inclusion of management approaches. Law enforcement discussion. Public comment.
Oystermen’s Workshop #3	July 14, 2021 Eastpointe FL	ABSI restoration experiment update and feedback. FWC restoration project update and feedback. Management and Restoration Plan feedback.
Meeting XIV. Virtual Meeting	Aug. 18, 2021	Continue review and consensus testing of Draft Plan and implementation strategies and actions, and agreement on Draft Plan. Sub-committee reports. Presentation on Oyster Fisheries and Habitat Management Plan for Pensacola Bay System. Prioritization of Strategies. Public comment.
Meeting XV. Virtual	Oct. 19, 2021	Sub-committee reports. Review and approve package of draft recommendations (strategies and actions) for inclusion in the ABS Plan. Strategies prioritization ranking exercise. Discussion of stakeholder resources and collaboration for implementation of ABS Plan. Public comment.
Meeting XVI. Virtual	Nov. 16, 2021	Approve Final Draft Management and Restoration Plan Framework for Phase IV evaluation. Review of strategies prioritization ranking exercise results. Updates to resources and collaboration for Plan implementation. Briefing on Phase IV of ABSI CAB process. Discussion of CAB Membership for Phase IV. Public Comment. Conclude Phase III of project.
PHASE IV—EVALUATION OF THE DRAFT ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN STRATEGIES, RESTORATION PROJECTS SELECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION, AND FUNDING PLANNING - 2022		
Commences Early 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB). CAB initiates Phase IV and works on evaluating the best combination of strategies that will achieve management and restoration objectives for the Bay using decision support tools and available data. The CAB evaluates the priority of strategies and actions and identifies specific recommended restoration projects. Public Engagement in 2022. The CAB will initiate a community feedback initiative by soliciting and reviewing community input on the Plan Framework. The CAB will vet the results of their prioritized strategies with the larger ABS community through a questionnaire administered through a variety of methods including Facebook, online via the ABSI website, and direct mailings. In addition, public workshops will be held either in-person or virtually depending on the COVID-19 pandemic status. RESTORATION FUNDING WORKING GROUP (RFWG). The Restoration Funding Working Group’s role is to seek funding to implement the CAB’s priority recommendations. The RFWG will be in place in early 2022. CAB SUCCESSOR GROUP. The CAB Successor Group will be 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 (~June 2024), to ensure that the Plan is implemented, monitored, and adaptively managed over time and has the support of the Community. 	



ABSI CAB PROCESS FLOWCHART AND PROJECT AREA MAP



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 Project Area Map



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.



COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD CONSENSUS BUILDING PROCESS (ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY OCTOBER 30, 2019)

The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) Community Advisory Board (CAB) will seek consensus on its recommendations for options to be evaluated using the best available science and decision-support tools for management and restoration of the Apalachicola Bay System (ABS).

General consensus is a participatory process whereby, on matters of substance, the members strive for agreements which all of the members can accept, support, live with or agree not to oppose. In instances where, after vigorously exploring possible ways to enhance the members' support for the final package of recommendations, and the Community Advisory Board finds that 100% acceptance or support is not achievable, final consensus recommendations will require at least 75% favorable vote of all members present and voting. This super majority decision rule underscores the importance of actively developing consensus throughout the process on substantive issues with the participation of all members and which all can live with.



In instances where the Community Advisory Board finds that even 75% acceptance or support is not achievable, publication of recommendations will include documentation of the differences and the options that were considered for which there is more than 50% support from the Community Advisory Board. The report that will be a product of the Community Advisory Board process will clearly describe the level of agreement between Community Advisory Board members on each specific recommendation as well as on the suite of recommendations as a whole.

The Community Advisory Board will develop its recommendations using consensus-building techniques with the assistance of the facilitator. Techniques such as brainstorming, ranking and prioritizing approaches will be utilized. The Community Advisory Board's consensus process will be conducted as a neutrally facilitated consensus-building process. Community Advisory Board members, project staff, and the facilitator will be the only participants seated at the table. Only Community Advisory Board members may participate in discussions and vote on proposals and recommendations. The facilitator, or a Community Advisory Board member through the facilitator, may request specific clarification from a member of the public in order to assist the Community Advisory Board in understanding an issue. Observers/members of the public are welcome to speak during the public comment period provided at each meeting, and all comments submitted in writing will be included in the next meeting's facilitator's summary report.

