

Successor Group Meeting December 8, 2022

Present: Joel Trexler, Jeff Blair, Chad Taylor, Georgia Ackerman, Jenna Harper, Chad Hanson, Anita Grove

1. Review the purpose of Successor Group.

The group reviewed the purpose and agreed there were no changes to the purpose of the group as stated on the Successor Group Outline.

Purpose: Form a permanent long-term successor group that will advocate for the adoption and implementation of the oyster restoration plan well into the future. The successor group will ensure continuity between the ABSI Community Advisory Board members and the agencies responsible for oyster management.

There was a discussion of about geographic area members should come from. Chad Taylor feels strongly that it should be a basin wide group like the riparian stakeholder group. Others felt it should concentrate on the Apalachicola Bay area and have strong participation from local residents, the seafood industry and local governments.

2. Discuss who needs to be on the Successor Group

Discussion on who should be on the Successor Group. The NFWFMD, TNC, and recreational and tourism businesses were added to the list. Jeff feels that the Successor Group should include at a minimum the same stakeholder interests currently represented on the ABSI CAB.

3. Structure and management of the group and possible funding options.

Discussion about the structure of the group. Non-profit, part of a larger organization like an NEP. Anita will ask a local attorney about organizational structures <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/exempt-organization-types>.

Joel shared a draft Letter of Intent with the group prior to the meeting. This is for funding through the NERRs Science Collaborative. If awarded it could be used as funding to get the Successor Group going. The Letter of Intent is due December 12, 2022. Jenna, Joel and Anita will work on drafting the proposal which is due in February.

We need to clearly state what the Successor Group will be charged with. Might help to see/hear about examples from the Chesapeake, Mobile and Pensacola groups.

4. Review goals, outcomes, objectives

No changes at this time.

5. Next meeting will be in late January. Anita will send out possible dates. From there we will set up bi-monthly meetings.