

**APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)  
 ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)  
 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FORUM #1 — WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023**

**APALACHICOLA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE  
 108 ISLAND DRIVE (STATE ROAD 300) AT CAT POINT IN EASTPOINT, FLORIDA**

**WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES**

- ✓ To Receive Community Feedback on Restoration Approaches, Management Strategies, ABSI Science, and Preservation of Franklin County Socio-Cultural and Historical Heritage

**ABSI COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FORUM #1 — APRIL 12, 2023**

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

1.)	6:00 PM	WELCOME AND REVIEW OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES
2.)		REVIEW OF WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND INTRODUCTIONS
3.)		REVIEW OF UPDATED PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN
4.)		PARTICIPANTS ROTATE BETWEEN TABLES TO ASK QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON AREAS OF INTEREST: RESTORATION APPROACHES, MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, ABSI SCIENCE, AND PRESERVATION OF FRANKLIN COUNTY SOCIO-CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE
5.)	7:55	NEXT STEPS
	~8:00 PM	ADJOURN

**PROJECT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS**

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

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

**PROJECT FACILITATION:** Jeff Blair of Facilitated Solutions, LLC.

Information at: <http://facilitatedsolutions.org>.



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

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

**ABSI CAB RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT**

Located under the ABSI CAB Framework Adopted 16 November 2022 Menu Tab:

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



# ATTACHMENT 1

## WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

- ✓ Look to the Facilitator to be recognized.
- ✓ Please raise your hand and/or place your name card vertically to speak.
- ✓ Speak one person at a time. Please don't interrupt each other.
- ✓ Focus on issues, not personalities. *"Using insult instead of argument is the sign of a small mind."*
- ✓ Avoid stereotyping or personal attacks. *"Mud thrown is ground lost."*
- ✓ Speak only when recognized by the Facilitator.
- ✓ Facilitator will call on participants in turn.
- ✓ Facilitator may change the speaking order in order to promote discussion on a specific issue or, to balance participation and allow those who have not spoken on an issue an opportunity to do so before others on the list who have already spoken on the issue.
- ✓ Offer one idea per person without explanation.
- ✓ No comments, criticism, or discussion of other's ideas.
- ✓ Listen respectfully to other's ideas and opinions.
- ✓ The Workshop is an opportunity to explore possibilities. Offering or exploring an idea does not necessarily imply support for it.
- ✓ Listen to understand. Seek a shared understanding even if you don't agree.
- ✓ Be focused and concise—balance participation & minimize repetition. Share the airtime.
- ✓ To the extent possible, offer options to address other's concerns, as well as your own.
- ✓ Refrain from using electronic devices during the Workshop; Keep electronic devices turned off or silent.

### WORKSHOP GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**FOUR PERSONAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES:** Be impeccable with your word, don't take things personally, don't make assumptions, and always do your best.

**OVERARCHING GUIDING PRINCIPLE:** *Seek first to understand, and then seek to be understood.*

### WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND HAVE GOOD CONVERSATION WHEN:

- ✓ All voices are invited, respected and heard.
- ✓ All experiences are treated as valid.
- ✓ We listen to each other actively, attentively, and respectfully.
- ✓ We observe time frames.
- ✓ We seek common ground and action.
- ✓ There is full and active attendance.
- ✓ We make the time and space to connect with each other.
- ✓ We participate actively and share opinions in the conversation—engage fully in this process.



ATTACHMENT 2 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION	
MEMBERS (22)	AFFILIATION
<b>AGRICULTURE/ACF STAKEHOLDERS/RIPARIAN COUNTIES</b>	
1. Chad Taylor <sup>^</sup>	Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition/ACF Stakeholders/Agriculture
<b>BUSINESS/REAL ESTATE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TOURISM</b>	
2. Chuck Marks	Business (Insurance Industry)
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL/CITIZEN GROUPS</b>	
3. Georgia Ackerman <sup>^*#</sup>	Apalachicola Riverkeeper
4. Chad Hanson <sup>^*#</sup>	The Pew Charitable Trusts
5. Katie Konchar <sup>#</sup>	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
6. Ottice Amison	Franklin County Commissioner
7. Anita Grove <sup>^*#</sup>	Apalachicola City Commissioner
<b>RECREATIONAL FISHING</b>	
8. Frank Gidus	CCA Florida
9. Grayson Shepard	Hang on Charters (Charter Fishing)
<b>SEAFOOD INDUSTRY</b>	
10. David Barber	Barber's Seafood
11. Shannon Hartsfield <sup>^</sup>	Seafood Management Assistance, Resource Recovery Team (SMARRT)/Oysterman
12. Gayle Johnson	Indian Lagoon Oyster Company (Aquaculture)
13. Steve Rash <sup>^</sup>	Water Street Seafood
14. TJ Ward	Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood
<b>STATE GOVERNMENT</b>	
15. Jenna Harper <sup>#</sup>	ANERR/DEP
16. Becca Hatchell	FWC Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
17. Alex Reed <sup>#</sup>	FDEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection
18. Devin Resko <sup>^*#</sup>	FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management (Replacing Jim Estes)
19. Portia Sapp <sup>#</sup>	FDACS Division of Aquaculture
20. Paul Thurman <sup>#</sup>	NWFWMD
<b>UNIVERSITY/RESEARCHERS/SCIENTISTS</b>	
21. Mike Allen	Scientist: Director of UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station (NCBS)
22. Erik Lovstrand <sup>#</sup>	UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant/Franklin County Extension
<b>COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUP</b>	
* Community Outreach Subcommittee	Lead: Chad Hanson
# Restoration Funding Working Group	Lead: Joel Trexler
<sup>^</sup> Successor Group Subcommittee	Co-Leads: Anita Grove and Shannon Hartsfield
<b>PROJECT TEAM AND CAB FACILITATOR</b>	
<b>FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY</b>	
Sandra Brooke <sup>*</sup>	Marine Biologist
Ross Ellington	Professor Emeritus of Biological Science
Madelein Mahood <sup>*</sup>	Outreach and Education
Joel Trexler <sup>^#</sup>	FSUCML Director
<b>FACILITATED SOLUTIONS, LLC</b>	
Jeff Blair	Community Advisory Board Facilitator



**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**ABSI CAB PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN**

**UPDATED AS OF THE 12 APRIL 2023 CAB MEETING**

**PHASE I (2019) — STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABSI CAB**

*May 2019 – December 2019 (Assessment Process, Questionnaire, and 2 CAB Meetings) — Status Complete*

**PHASE II (2020) — SCOPING OF ISSUES, IDENTIFICATION OF  
 PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND STRATEGIES**

*Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2020 (7 CAB Meeting & 1 Oystermen’s Workshops) — Status Complete*

**PHASE III (2021) — BUILDING CONSENSUS ON CAB RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ABS  
 ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN**

**Adoption of Final Draft Management and Restoration Plan Framework for Phase IV and V Evaluation**

*Jan. 2021 – Nov. 2021 (7 CAB Meeting & 2 Oystermen’s Workshops) — Status Complete*

**PHASE IV (2022) — EVALUATION OF DRAFT ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION  
 PLAN FRAMEWORK’S RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, RESTORATION AND  
 FUNDING PLANNING**

*Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2022 (6 CAB Meetings, 1 Oystermen’s Workshops, and 1 Community Workshop) — Status Complete*

**PHASE V (2023) — EVALUATION AND FINALIZATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCLUSION  
 IN THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND  
 RESTORATION PLAN, RESTORATION AND FUNDING PLANNING**

*Jan. 2023 – Dec. 2023 (6 CAB Meetings, 3 Community Workshops) — Status Initiated*

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB).** The CAB initiated Phase V in January of 2023 and is currently evaluating the best combination of strategies (scenarios) predicted to achieve restoration and management objectives for the Bay using decision support tools including predictive models coupled with available and emerging data, research, and stakeholder knowledge. The strategies are being evaluated with the overarching goal of restoring oyster reefs to a level that can sustainably provide needed ecosystem services for the System, and concurrently provide for a sustainable and economically viable level of commercial oyster harvesting.

During the course of the project the CAB will vet their recommendations with restoration and management agencies to gauge support and feasibility for implementation. The CAB will evaluate the priority and efficacy of strategies and associated actions and identify conceptual and general in scope restoration and management approaches for inclusion in the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan (Plan).

Phase V focuses on the evaluation and finalization of recommendations for inclusion in the Plan, and restoration projects and funding planning. The CAB will vote to approve their package of consensus recommendations during their 29 November 2023 meeting. *Status: Initiated*

1. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE - PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.** The CAB working through the Community Outreach Subcommittee initiated a community feedback initiative by providing information and seeking community input on the Plan Framework. The CAB will vet the results of their prioritized strategies with the larger ABS community through multiple forums including questionnaires administered through a variety of methods including Facebook, online via the ABSI website, and direct mailings. In addition, community workshops will be conducted at appropriate times to provide the Community with information on ABSI and solicit community input. *Status: Initiated*



2. **RESTORATION FUNDING WORKING GROUP (RFGW).** Initiated in late 2021 the Restoration Funding Working Group’s role is to seek resources and political, governmental, and organizational support for the CAB’s priority recommendations. *Status: Initiated*
3. **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, once the CAB process is complete and to ensure that the Plan is implemented, monitored, and adaptively managed over time and has the support of the Community. The CAB Successor Group process will formally initiate January 2024. *Status: Conducting Organizational and Planning Meetings. Formal Convening Pending CAB Approval of Recommendations for Plan on 29 November 2023.*

### ABSI CAB PHASE V MEETINGS SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN — 2023

<b>Meeting #1</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>Feb. 1, 2023</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries Model Simulation Results &amp; Scenarios Refinements</li> <li>• Review of Plan Framework Strategies</li> </ul>	Initiation of Phase V of ABSI. ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Review of the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> and Strategies Evaluation Worksheet process. Summary and discussion of Fisheries Model simulation results for revised priority Habitat Restoration (Goal A) and Fisheries Management (Goal B) scenarios. Agreement on next suite of scenarios for model simulations. Public comment.
<b>Meeting #2</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>April 12, 2023</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptability Ranking of Strategies</li> </ul>	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Acceptability ranking of the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> strategies using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Agreement on next suite of strategies for ranking. Public comment.
<b>Community Workshop Forum #1</b>	<b>April 12, 2023</b> ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on ABSI Restoration Approaches, Management Strategies, ABSI Science, and Preservation of Franklin County Socio-Cultural and Historical Heritage.
<b>Meeting #3</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>May 31, 2023</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptability Ranking of Strategies</li> </ul>	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum input. Acceptability ranking of the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> strategies using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Agreement on next suite of strategies for ranking. Public comment.
<b>Meeting #4</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>July 26, 2023</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptability Ranking of Strategies</li> </ul>	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Acceptability ranking of the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> strategies using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Agreement on next suite of strategies for ranking. Public comment.



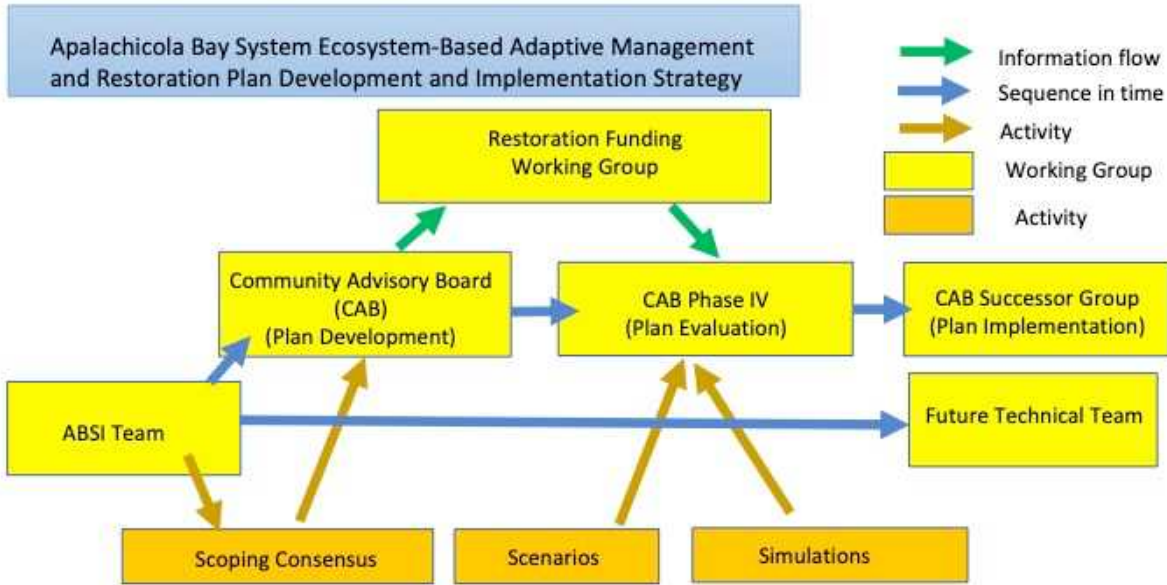
<b>Community Workshop Forum #2</b>	<b>July 26, 2023</b> ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on ABSI Restoration Approaches, Management Strategies, ABSI Science, and Preservation of Franklin County Socio-Cultural and Historical Heritage.
<b>Meeting #5</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>Sept. 27, 2023</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptability Ranking of Strategies</li> </ul>	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum input. Acceptability ranking of the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> strategies using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Agreement on next suite of strategies for ranking. Public comment.
<b>Community Workshop Forum #3</b>	<b>October 24, 2023</b> ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on the CAB’s recommendations for the <i>Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan</i> .
<b>Meeting #6</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>Nov. 29, 2023</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adopt Final CAB Recommendations for ABS Plan</b></li> </ul>	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum input. Finalize and adopt recommendations for strategies and actions for inclusion in the <i>Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan (Plan)</i> and submit to FSUCML. Public comment.





# ATTACHMENT 4 PROJECT FLOWCHART, MISSION AND GOAL STATEMENT, & PROJECT SUMMARY

## 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.





**ATTACHMENT 5**  
**COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FORUM #1 2023 FEEDBACK WORKSHEET**

<b>A) ABSI Restoration Projects and Experiments Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>
•

<b>B) Fisheries Management Options Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>
•

<b>C) ABSI Science and Data Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>
•

<b>D) Preservation of Franklin County Socio-Cultural and Historical Heritage Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>
•

<b>E) Other Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>
•



