

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)

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

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

MEETING #6 OF PHASE V — WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023 — 9:00AM

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

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda, Workplan, and Summary Report)
- ✓ To Review Updated Workplan and Meeting Schedule
- ✓ To Receive Science and Data Collection, and Restoration Updates
- ✓ To Receive Reports from RFWG and Community Outreach Subcommittee
- ✓ To Approve Organizational Framework of the CAB Successor Group
- ✓ To Receive Public Comment Prior to Adoption of CAB Draft Final Report and Recommendations
- ✓ To Review and Evaluate Community Workshop Forum #3 Input
- ✓ To Review, Evaluate, and Adopt CAB Draft Final Report and Recommendations for the Plan
- ✓ To Receive Public Comment After Adoption of the CAB Draft Final Report and Recommendations
- ✓ To Identify Next Steps

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

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

1)	9:00 AM	WELCOME AND ROLL CALL
2)	9:05	SOCIAL SCIENCE SURVEY
3)	9:10	AGENDA REVIEW, MEETING OBJECTIVES, AND WORKPLAN UPDATE
4)	9:20	APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 CAB MEETING AND OCTOBER 24, 2023 COMMUNITY FORUM WORKSHOP FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY REPORTS
5)	9:25	SCIENCE AND DATA COLLECTION, AND RESTORATION UPDATES <input type="checkbox"/> <i>ABSI Science and Data Collection Update.</i> Sandra Brooke, FSUCML (20) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>FWC (NFWF Phase 2) Restoration Project Update.</i> Devin Resko, FWC (10)
6)	9:55	WORKING GROUP AND SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Restoration Funding Working Group Update.</i> Joel Trexler (5) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Community Outreach Subcommittee Update.</i> Chad Hanson (10)
7)	10:10	PARTNERS FOR A RESILIENT APALACHICOLA BAY (CAB SUCCESSOR GROUP) ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Successor Group Subcommittee.</i> Anita Grove and Shannon Hartsfield (35)
10:45 AM		BREAK
8)	~11:00 AM	PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY #1 — THREE MINUTES PER PERSON
9)	11:10	REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FORUM #3 INPUT
10)	11:20	REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND ADOPTION OF CAB DRAFT FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLAN



		<input type="checkbox"/> Review and Adoption of <i>CAB Draft Final Report and Recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan</i>
11)	12:00	OVERVIEW OF COMMUNICATION AND DISTRIBUTION STRATEGY OF CAB REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLAN
12)	~12:10	PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY #2 — THREE MINUTES PER PERSON
13)	12:20	ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS <input type="checkbox"/> Review of Next Steps <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Meeting Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Project Closing <input type="checkbox"/> CAB and Project Team Members Group Photo
12:30 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 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 DRAFT FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ABS MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/>

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ATTACHMENT 1
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

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



ATTACHMENT 2
ABSI CAB PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN

UPDATED AS OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 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 Workshop) — 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 FUNDING PLANNING, SUCCESSOR GROUP 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 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.

Throughout the project, the CAB members representing management and restoration agencies will vet the strategies and actions under consideration with their leadership to gauge support and feasibility of implementation. The CAB will evaluate the priority and efficacy of strategies and associated actions and identify 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 November 29, 2023 meeting. *Status: Initiated and Ongoing*

- 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 and Ongoing*



- 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 and Ongoing*
- 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 is 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 will approve the Organizational Framework for the Successor Group at the November 29, 2023 meeting, and the Successor Group process will formally initiate January 2024. *Status: Ongoing Organizational and Planning Meetings. Discussion of Organizational Framework during CAB meetings. Formal Convening Pending CAB Approval of Consensus Recommendations for the Plan and the Organizational Framework for the Successor Group at the November 29, 2023 meeting.*

ABSI CAB PHASE V MEETINGS SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN — 2023

<p>Meeting #1 ANERR 8:30am</p>	<p align="center">Feb. 1, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries Model Simulation Results & Scenarios Refinements <input type="checkbox"/> Review of Plan Framework Strategies and Actions <input type="checkbox"/> Public Comment 	<p>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.</p>
<p>Meeting #2 ANERR 8:30am</p>	<p align="center">April 12, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptability Ranking of Strategies and Actions <input type="checkbox"/> Public Comment 	<p>ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Acceptability ranking of proposed strategies and actions for inclusion in the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Public comment.</p>
<p>Community Workshop Forum #1</p>	<p align="center">April 12, 2023 ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm</p>	<p>Community Input on ABSI Restoration Approaches, ABSI Management Strategies, and ABSI Science.</p>
<p>Meeting #3 ANERR 8:30am</p>	<p align="center">May 31, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptability Ranking of Strategies and Actions <input type="checkbox"/> Public Comment 	<p>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 proposed revisions to strategies and actions for inclusion in the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Public comment.</p>
<p>Meeting #4 ANERR 8:30am</p>	<p align="center">August 9, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptability Ranking of Proposed Revision to Strategies and Actions 	<p>ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Discussion on the Organizational Framework for the CAB Successor Group. Acceptability ranking of proposed revisions to strategies and actions for inclusion in the <i>Draft Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan</i> using the</p>



	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Comment	Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. CAB Report and Recommendations Outline overview. Public comment.
Community Workshop Forum #2	August 9, 2023 ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on ABSI Restoration Approaches, ABSI Management Strategies, and ABSI Science.
Meeting #5 ANERR 8:30am	Sept. 27, 2023 <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Approve Draft Report and Recommendations for the Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Public Comment	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Discussion on the Organizational Framework for the <i>Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay</i> (CAB Successor Group). Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum #2 input. Approval of the <i>CAB Draft Report and Recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan</i> . Public comment.
Community Workshop Forum #3	October 24, 2023 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> .
Meeting #6 ANERR 8:30am	Nov. 29, 2023 <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Final Plan Revisions <input type="checkbox"/> Public Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Final CAB Report and Recommendations for the Plan	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Approval of the Organizational Framework for the <i>Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay</i> (CAB Successor Group). Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum #3 input. Adoption of the <i>CAB Draft Final Report and Recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan</i> , and submittal to FSUCML. Public comment.



ATTACHMENT 3
KEY TO COMMON PROJECT ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
ABS	Apalachicola Bay System
ABSI	Apalachicola Bay System Initiative
ACFS	Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders
ANERR	Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
CAB	Community Advisory Board (ABSI)
County	Franklin County
DACS or FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
DEP or FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DOH or FDOH	Florida Department of Health
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
FSU	Florida State University
FSUCML	Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWRI	Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWC)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NWFWMD	Northwest Florida Water Management District
Plan	<i>Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan</i>
RESTORE	Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast Act of 2012
RCSG	Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition
RPC	Regional Planning Council
SAB	Science Advisory Board (ABSI)
SAV	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRIUMPH	Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
UF	University of Florida
UWF	University of West Florida



ATTACHMENT 4

CAB PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES (ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY OCTOBER 30, 2019)

CAB 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 CAB Process 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 meetings; Keep electronic devices turned off or silent.

CAB 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 5
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.



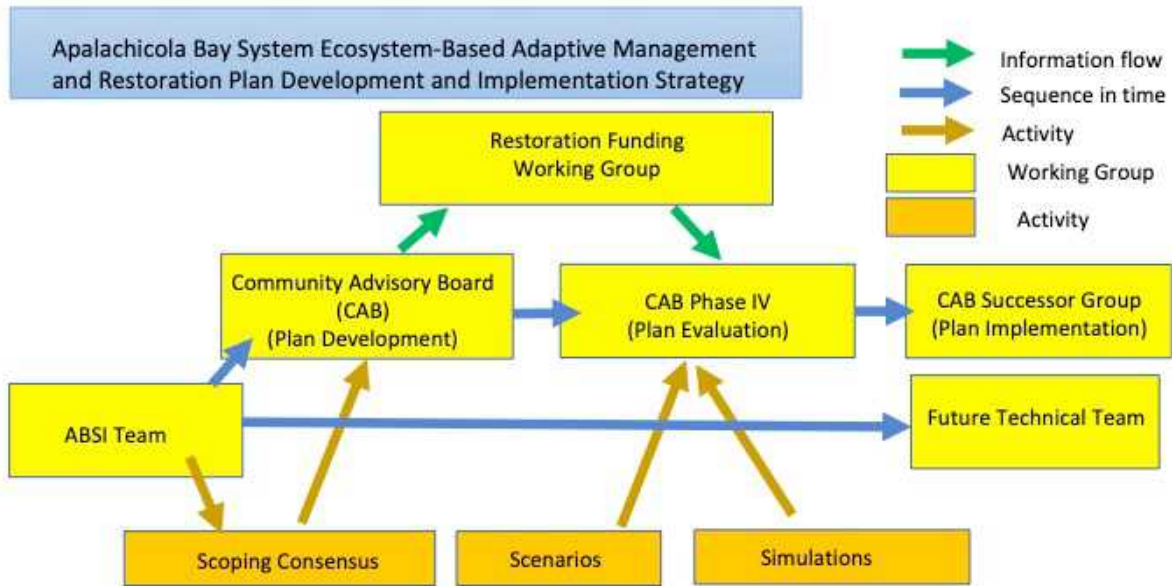
In instances where the Community Advisory Board finds that even 75% acceptance or support is not achievable, publication of recommendations will include documentation of the differences and the options that were considered for which there is more than 50% support from the Community Advisory Board. The 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 Facilitated Solutions, LLC 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.



ATTACHMENT 6 PROJECT FLOWCHART, MISSION, GOAL STATEMENT, AND 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 Apalachicola Bay System Initiative 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 (SAB) determine a viable course of action for improving its condition.

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD GOAL STATEMENT (ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY OCTOBER 30, 2019). 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 restoration and 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 restoration policies, oyster fishery practices, and management options 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.

