



MEETING NOTES

HABITAT CONSERVATION
 SUBCOMMITTEE

JANUARY 24, 2018

9:30 AM –
 12:30 PM

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA
 ANNEX BUILDING
 3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE
 ROOM

MEETING CALLED BY	Allison Conner, CHNEP Program Scientist	
TYPE OF MEETING	Habitat Restoration Needs Project Status Update & Discussion	
MINUTES PREPARED BY	Allison Conner, CHNEP Program Scientist	
ATTENDEES	Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP Allison Conner, CHNEP Chris Warn, ESA Doug Robison, ESA BJ Quinton, ESA Mike Wessel, JEI Brett Solomon, ESA Lizanne Garcia, SWFWMD Aaron Brown, SWFWMD	Don McCormick, CHNEP Policy Committee Bill Byle, Charlotte County Corey Anderson, FWC Kevin Kalasz, USFWS (via WebEx) Lee Amos, CFGC Bob Clark, Venice Area Audubon Gary Raulerson, TBEP George Sprehn, Earth Balance Devon Moore, City of Winter Haven (via WebEx)
MEETING PURPOSE	To update the Habitat Conservation Subcommittee (HCS) on the progress of the CHNEP 2017 Habitat Restoration Needs (HRN) Project Tasks 1 - 3 and introduce the newly funded Habitat Resiliency to Climate Change (HRCC) Project.	

Habitat Restoration Needs Project

Tasks 1 through 3

ITEMS DISCUSSED	<p>The HCS meeting began with a review of the HRN Project Objectives.</p> <p>Task 1: Document Status and Trends of Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Table 3 of the Draft Task 1 Report contained 2009 Level 3 FLUCCS code data for the whole of the CHNEP. The use of the 2009 FLUCCS for the whole of the CHNEP was a methodology that was approved during 2017 HCS meetings. Using Level 3 codes to compare temporal habitat changes, i.e. comparing “apples to apples”, across the CHNEP created some discrepancies and/or anomalies that could not be adequately verified. In an effort to reduce those, the codes were rolled up into primarily Level 2 codes and presented to the HCS in tabular form. The extensive losses in the Upland Coniferous Forest (4100), Forested Uplands (4300), Wetland Coniferous Forests (6200) and Wetland Forested Mixed (6300) continued to show large losses at this Level (-29%, -23%, -39%, and -29%, respectively). It was theorized that some of this could possibly be due to conversion to created herbaceous freshwater wetlands.
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- Tidal Flats (6510) was determined to occur below the MHWL, thus was removed from the analysis.
- SWFWMD provided comments subsequent to the Draft Task 1 report presented at the last General TAC Meeting. They suggested use of 2011 FLUCCS mapping data (considered to be the best available data) to the tabular data in the draft report.
- There was discussion about the coarser-scale Level 2 FLUCCS codes in the 2011 SWFWMD data, and them not being the same year as what is available from the SFWMD. That said, all agreed that as long as original information is retained, the addition of the 2011 data would be beneficial. ESA agreed to do so within the existing scope and budget following HCS meeting. SWFWMD provided the merged SWFWMD-SFWMD data to ESA.
- Same photointerpretation guide and FLUCCS codes. However, changes in Land use between 2009 and 2011 should not be omitted.
- Consensus that the project should not be delayed for SWFWMD 2014 Land use data.
- The HRN has implications for the Charlotte Harbor SWIM Plan.
- Task 4 will include the additional analysis of the 2011 SWFWMD data based on the results from Task 1. The results of this analysis will be added to the existing draft Task 1 report.
- The merged 2009/2011 tables for the whole CHNEP study area and sub-basins will be included in the Task 1 section of the draft final report.

Task 2: Document Completed, Ongoing and Planned Habitat Restoration, Conservation and Land Acquisition Projects:

- Task 2A was presented at the last TAC
- The Areas of Restoration/Preservation/Acquisition map was presented to the HCS
- Florida Panther Focus Areas was also included on the map. CHNEP will assist ESA in getting additional critical panther habitat/corridor data from Dan Smith.
- 534,976 acres was preserved/restored/acquired
- State forests, state parks, mitigation lands, mosaic reclaimed lands, private mitigation via conservation easements. County easements may not be completely captured. Jim Beever's 2015 data was also included.
- Additional corridor 'wish list data' will need to be presented to the HCS to inform Task 4.
- Suggestion that maps included in the draft final report include county lines and possibly major roads to aid orientation.
- Task 2B will include incorporating the final Areas of Restoration/Preservation/Acquisition layer and the final List of Habitat Restoration Projects since 2011.
- CHNEP staff will be updating the HRN Project webpage with a Google Sheet for members of the HCS and TAC to comment on any of the draft deliverables.
- The year reported for any given project should reflect the year the project was completed.
- Due end of February. CHNEP will incorporate into Water Atlas.

- Suggestion to incorporated FLUCCs / Habitat and flow into Water Atlas Advanced Mapper feature.

Task 3: Asses Alternative Approaches to Identify CHNEP Habitat Restoration Vision and Goals:

- The Additive Hybrid Approach will consider: status & trends analysis of habitat loss and conversions, Integrated Habitat Network (IHN), MFL and flow trends, SLR projections, and species protection critical habitat and corridors.
- Geospatial analysis to identify areas for restoration, conservation, preservation, and/or reservation. Develop maps of focus areas. Quantitative targets.
- The POR for this project represents a snapshot of recent trends
- Physical alterations, hydrologic/flow alterations, water quality alterations will also be considered. Do we have adequate hydrology? Water quality?
- IHN Goals: Replace drainage and hydrologic functions disrupted by mining and provide quality wildlife habitat and corridors by maximization of habitat replacement, protection, and connection.
- Species-focused approach: considers the unique habitat requirements of key listed species in the planning area and expands linkages between existing conservation parcels.
- SLR Approach considers: landward expansion of coastal and aquatic habitats and 'pinch-out'.
- The CHNEP HRCC Project will further consider multiple existing models (HEM; SLAMM) to better plan for SLR. [HEM model predicts how habitats change with sea level rise.]
- Mangroves will likely be able to keep up with SLR so long as there are areas for them to retreat to.
- DEMs sourced from LABINs; 2, 3, and 5ft SLR scenarios presented as polygons.
- Storm surge is not included in the analysis because it is a discrete event.
- ESA has not explored how to preserve ecosystem services.
- Richter et al. 1996: Index of Hydrologic Alteration is not normalized to precipitation.
- Trend data may be useful in identifying changes in hydrology for each sub-basin.
- What are the most important metrics for floodplain function?
- Targets referenced in adopted MFLs may not be appropriate when assessing habitat restoration within the 500-year floodplain.
- 20 years of data is needed in order to assess annual trends in hydrology and water quality.
- Answer whether the system needs are being met.
- An aquatic habitat assessment should be included as a supplemental report to the HRN Project in the future.
- ESA will brainstorm on how flow will impact the HRN plan and how it will be useful in developing restoration targets for the habitats included in the SOW.
- Not being based on a specific time period.
- Task 3 Deliverables 2 and 3 will be a description of the geospatial analysis to derive restoration targets – not an algorithm.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendations for future analysis will be included in the draft final HRN report (e.g., expansion into subtidal habitats). ➤ Consensus to extend HRN timeline to coincide with Habitat Resilience project. SWFWMD will need to formally approve extension of final deliverable to July 15, 2019 and CHNEP will likely need to request amendment to SWFWMD Cooperative Agreement as well.
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Habitat Resilience to Climate Change

Tasks 1 through 2

ITEMS DISCUSSED	<p>HRCC Kick-off</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CHNEP staff presented a proposed timeline to incorporate the results of the HRCC analysis, with ample opportunity for commenting and vetting through multiple management conference cycles. Both projects are projected to be completed in the spring 2019 CHNEP Management Conference cycle. ➤ Use of existing SLR modeling to better inform the HRN project outcomes. ➤ Deliverables for Tasks 1 and 2 to be presented to the TAC in April 2018. ➤ CHNEP and SWFWMD will have to amend their funding agreement before changing the timeline for either the HRCC or HRN project. ➤ CHNEP staff will create a new HRN-HRCC project webpage with meeting notes, PowerPoints and Comment Tracker via Google Sheet.
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NEXT STEPS	DUE DATE	PERSON(S) ASSIGNED
✓ Create HRN-HRCC Project webpage accessible via chnep.org, including link to Google Sheet for HCS comment tracking	ASAP	CHNEP staff
✓ Draft HCS Meeting Notes, posting to HRN-HRCC Project webpage	ASAP	CHNEP staff
✓ Submit HRN Task 2 Deliverable to CHNEP	Feb. 28, 2018	ESA staff
✓ 2011 SWFWMD land use data analysis	April 5, 2018	ESA staff
✓ Submit Task 3 Deliverables 2 – 4 to CHNEP	April 5, 2018	ESA staff
✓ Submit HRCC Tasks 1 – 2 Deliverables to CHNEP	April 5, 2018	ESA staff
✓ Submit TAC presentation to CHNEP staff.	April 12, 2018	ESA staff
✓ Provide comments regarding Tasks 2 HRN Deliverables	April 5, 2018	HCS
✓ Present project update presentation to the TAC including a review of HRN Task 3 deliverables and HRCC Tasks 1 and 2 deliverables and discussion on HRN Task 4 and HRCC Task 3.	April 19, 2018	ESA staff
✓ HCS Meeting to review and discuss HRN (Task 4) and HRCC (Tasks 1 – 3) Project Deliverables.	June 2018	All parties