

COASTAL & HEARTLAND NATIONAL ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

Introduction to CHNEP for Potential Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Members

The National Estuary Program was established in 1987 by an amendment to the Clean Water Act to identify, restore and protect estuaries along the coasts of the United States. There are now 28 “estuaries of national significance” within the National Estuary Program. In 1995, Florida Governor Lawton Chiles submitted an application to designate the estuarine system around Charlotte Harbor. The application was accepted by Congress and the CHNEP (formerly the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program) was formed.

In 1996, a decision-making team of local citizens, elected officials, resource managers and resource users, known as the Management Conference, set to work to develop a 20-year *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP) that identifies the region’s common priority environment issues and actions needed to solve them. The region of concern includes the Myakka, Peace and Caloosahatchee river watersheds, as you can’t protect the water unless you protect the land that drains into it. The CCMP was accepted in 2001, and was substantially revised in 2019. The four priority actions identified by the CHNEP are water quality improvement, hydrological restoration, fish, wildlife and habitat protection and public engagement.

The program’s Management Conference is composed of the Management, Policy, Technical Advisory and Citizens Advisory Committees and the Program Office. Each committee serves a specialized role in supporting the program goals and objectives. Many government agencies, counties and cities provide financial support to the CHNEP. Many of the outreach projects are also supported by local foundations, conservation organizations, and businesses.

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members have a pivotal role in linking CHNEP to the county they are selected to represent. They represent public concerns and transfer information back to their local communities, including distributing educational information to the public. CAC members act as community leaders by funneling suggestions and ideas to the CHNEP as to how it can better serve the communities in their respective counties. CAC members also help the CHNEP locate projects, partners, and funding opportunities that implement the CCMP. Membership in the CAC is open to those who live or work in the CHNEP program area with a strong interest in furthering the objectives outlined in the CHNEP CCMP.

Although applicants may be members of various local organizations, clubs, or work which keeps them engaged in their community, as CAC members they will be approved as individuals (not as representatives of an organization) by the CHNEP Policy Committee. Presently, the CAC format is being adjusted to have 2 regular and 1 alternate CAC member seat for each of the ten counties the CHNEP serves. The regular members will have voting rights, with the alternates stepping in to vote when necessary. Individuals may apply as County Representatives for any county they live and/or work in, and are encouraged to apply for all counties they qualified to serve in. To facilitate communication between County CAC and Policy Committee Members, applicants are asked to establish communication with their respective CHNEP Policy Members during the application process. Please follow the Policy Member Reference instructions to reach out to the CHNEP Policy Committee Members.

Approved CAC members are expected to attend 3 meetings per year. Members who have not attended 2 consecutive CAC meetings during the previous 12 months automatically lose their voting rights, and have to reapply. Member terms last 4 years, after which members are welcome to reapply. CHNEP meetings operate under Florida Government’s Sunshine Law.

CAC CHNEP Staff Liaison:

Nicole Iadevaia, Research & Outreach Manager, niadevaia@chnep.org, (941-575-3313)

Additional information about CHNEP is on its website at www.CHNEP.org.

POLICY MEMBER REFERENCE INSTRUCTIONS

As part of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership's (CHNEP) Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) application process, each applicant is requested to contact CHNEP Policy Committee Member(s) from all CHNEP counties and/or cities they live and/or work in that they wish to represent.

Below is a list of the existing CHNEP Local Govt. Policy Committee Members and their contact information:

CHARLOTTE COUNTY	Commissioner Bill Truex	bill.truex@charlottecountyfl.gov	941-743-1300
CITY OF BARTOW	Councilman Billy Simpson	bsimpson@cityofbartow.net	813-431-5889
HARDEE COUNTY	Commissioner Colon Lambert	colon.lambert@hardeecounty.net	863-781-1103
CITY OF NORTH PORT	Councilwoman Debbie McDowell	dmcdowell@cityofnorthport.com	941-429-7071
LEE COUNTY	Commissioner Frank Mann	dist5@leegov.com	239-533-2225
CITY OF FORT MYERS	Councilman Fred Burson	fburson@cityftmyers.com	239-321-7005
CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS	Councilman Fred Forbes	fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org	614-975-3606
CITY OF PUNTA GORDA	Councilman Debby Carey	DCarey@cityofpuntagordafl.com	941-575-3323
POLK COUNTY	Commissioner Bill Braswell	billbraswell@polk-county.net	863-344-9446
CITY OF CAPE CORAL	Councilwoman Jessica Cosden	jcosden@capecoral.net	239-910-6565
DESOTO COUNTY	Commissioner Judy Schaefer	j.schaefer@destobocc.com	863-990-7858
VILLAGE OF ESTERO	Councilwoman Katy Errington	errington@estero-fl.gov	239-292-1237
CITY OF WINTER HAVEN	Mr. M.J. Carnevale	mcarnevale@mywinterhaven.com	863-229-6341
CITY OF SANIBEL	Vice Mayor Mick Denham	mick.denham@mysanibel.com	239-472-4135
MANATEE COUNTY	Com. Priscilla Whisenant Trace	priscilla.whisenanttrace@mymanatee.org	941-745-3701
CITY OF VENICE	Mayor Ron Feinsod	rfeinsod@venicegov.com	941-786-9217
SARASOTA COUNTY	Commissioner Nancy Detert	ncdetert@scgov.net	941-861-5398
CITY OF ARCADIA	Councilmember Robert Heine Jr.	rheine@arcadia-fl.gov	863-444-0806
HIGHLANDS COUNTY	Commissioner James Brooks	jbrooks@highlandsfl.gov	863-402-6839
HENDRY COUNTY	Commissioner Karson Turner	bocc5@hendryfla.net	863-983-4101
GLADES COUNTY	Commissioner Donald Strenth	dstrenth@myglades.com	863-946-6000
CITY OF LAKE LAND	Councilman Bill Read	tiger2read@aol.com	863-640-3636
TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH	Councilman Bill Veach	veachb@fmbgov.com	239-322-8615

Suggested talking points for phone call or email:

- Introduction of who you are including your occupation if presently employed, community organizations you are affiliated with, and any other relevant information you would like to share about yourself
- Explanation of your interest in the CHNEP and why you wish to serve on the CHNEP Citizens Advisory Committee

If you have attempted to contact your respective Policy Committee Member(s) but have not been able to make contact, please check yes on the application below anyhow to reflect that you attempted to make contact.

APPLICATION FOR CHNEP CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Name: Brian Kelly

Mailing Address: briantkelly80@gmail.com

City, State and Zip: Venice, FL

Phone Number with Area Code: _____

Email Address: briantkelly80@gmail.com

Please list all counties that you live and/or work in that you would like to be considered for:

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>REP SEAT APPLYING FOR</u>	<u>POLICY MEMBER CONTACTED</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manatee County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
X	Sarasota County	X Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charlotte County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lee County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Glades County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hendry County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hardee County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highlands County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Polk County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	DeSoto County	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Please tell us the name of the organizations you affiliate with and how? If the organization may not be well known, please include a brief description. For example, "Peace River Audubon Society, active member since 2000".

Board Member for Hands Along the Water in Venice

Why do you want to be a voting member of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership's Advisory Committee? What contributions do you feel like you can make to the CAC?

How will you help implement the *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan*? (A copy of this plan can be found here for your review: www.chnep.org/our-plan)

Hands along the Water are facilitating the installation and maintenance citizen science water goat trash cleanup devices into Venice. Also, researching soil health connected to water quality and tax credits for agricultural lands to increase soil health-regenerative agriculture.