

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)  
ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING I SUMMARY REPORT

OCTOBER 30, 2019  
APALACHICOLA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE  
EASTPOINT, FLORIDA

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING I SUMMARY REPORT

APPROVED BY THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD ON DECEMBER 18, 2019



FACILITATED AND SUMMARIZED BY ROBERT M. JONES AND JEFF BLAIR



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**APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)**  
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**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
October 30, 2019

Felicia Coleman, Director of the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory and a marine biologist on the FSU team welcomed the members and the public to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative's Community Advisory Board. An Apalachicola Bay System management and restoration plan for the management and recovery of the oyster reefs and the health of the Bay "will be developed with the stakeholders whose lives are tied inextricably to these waters – represented by members of this Community Advisory Board -- in concert with the agencies responsible for the management and conservation of the region and the natural and social scientists whose research will help inform the resulting policy decisions."

Coleman noted that the mission of the overall project is to determine the root causes of decline of the Apalachicola Bay ecosystem and the deterioration of oyster reefs. "This mission will require a clearer understanding of the trajectory of change in the physical structure and water flow over time, and will monitor oyster recruitment and survival, and conduct laboratory and field experiments that inform predictive models of oyster productivity and ecosystem health." She indicated that this plan and the coalescing of key restoration support partners and necessary resources would not be possible without the catalytic and essential input of funding from the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. and Florida State University.

She introduced FSU's core teams engaged in the ABSI project: the proposal writing team, consisting of Ross Ellington representing the FSU Office of Research and both Coleman and Sandra Brooke, faculty members at the FSUCML; and the ABSI Leadership Team which includes Gary Ostrander, Vice President for Research at FSU, Brooke who is leading the science and Coleman, leading the community engagement and policy components of the Initiative. In addition to the Community Advisory Board, FSU has formed a Science Advisory Board to provide input to the Leadership Team and the Community Advisory Board. It consists of four members with expertise in oyster reef mapping, oyster physiological and population ecology (including larval dispersal and settlement), restoration, and development of decision-making tools for guiding management actions.

She noted ABSI is also reaching out to the broader research community to find partners who can significantly broaden the impact of this Triumph- and FSU-funded initiative by bringing their own external funding to the table that is designed to fill gaps identified by the Community Advisory Board and resulting from our research. She introduced one such researcher, Ed Camp, a professor at the University of Florida, who was attending this meeting and with whom ABSI is developing a partnership.

Finally, Coleman introduced the ABSI Facilitation Team of Jeff Blair and Bob Jones of the FSU FCRC Consensus Center who are responsible for the design and facilitation of the Community Advisory Board meetings and the consensus process.

Members introduced themselves and described desired outcomes for a successful Community Advisory Board Process including:

- Bringing the community together to implement a plan of action to bring back a thriving Bay again with a balance of fresh and salt water
- A comprehensive and coordinated management plan with state support for the Bay for multiple species looking to restore the Bay and improve the natural oyster beds
- Restore and sustain the Bay ecosystem, water quality and oyster fishery and connect to the broader transboundary ACF plan
- A science driven plan and implementation process

The facilitators reviewed the Working Group operating assumptions and participation principles and consensus building procedures. After discussing the participation principles and consensus procedures, the Working Group unanimously agreed to follow and use these in the plan development process.

The Community Advisory Board members reviewed and agreed to a draft set of four guiding principles covering respecting differences, collaboration and consensus building, clear procedures equitably applied, and serving as liaisons with the stakeholder groups and interests they have been appointed to represent. The members discussed the importance of participation in the CAB meetings by state agencies, seeking input as we develop the plan from federal agencies working in the Bay and cultivating Legislative interest and support. They also suggested part of their recommendations should include an ongoing group of stakeholders and agencies to help implement the plan.

Sandra Brooke provided a presentation on the ABSI project. She noted that the ABSI seeks to gain insight into the root causes of decline of the Apalachicola Bay ecosystem, and the deterioration of oyster reefs and help to develop a management and restoration plan for oyster reefs and the long-term health of the Bay. She noted the project has four components: research; management; community engagement; and oyster reef and Bay restoration.

The initial research objectives include the elements below, but the ABSI will comprise several additional research objectives and deliverables.

- Reviewing the scientific literature to assess ecological changes in the ABSI region over time
- Updating and expanding existing intertidal and subtidal maps of oyster reefs in the Apalachicola Bay System (including areas immediately outside of the bay)\
- Supplementing existing monitoring programs, in coordination with FWC and ANERR, to avoid duplicating effort.
- Developing a bio-physical model that includes hydrodynamics + larval biology; and
- Constructing a Research Hatchery to condition, spawn and settle eastern oysters for larval and juvenile physiological experiments, restoration trials, and other research components.

The Community Engagement and Policy component includes the community aspect -- Community Advisory Board process, Public workshops, Shell recycling program, Hatchery Internships and a Volunteer Program – and a Management Component. The Management Component will use the results of ABSI and other research projects to develop management options and plans, in collaboration with Community Advisory Board stakeholders and state and federal management

agencies. These options may include ecosystem based management, re-shelling programs, seasonal closures, rotating harvest areas, sanctuaries, and state monitoring programs, among other things.

The Restoration component of the project will include models that will help determine the best restoration sites capable of supporting successful settlement and survival of larvae, test different construction materials and configurations for restoration efficacy, and apply results of restoration trials to developing full-scale restoration plan for the ABSI region in concert with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Community Advisory Board Member Questions and Comments following the Presentation covered: timeframe for the Research Hatchery, testing the best material for cultch, and the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) watershed Stakeholders plan which was released last week.

Members reviewed the Questionnaire responses for significant “Key Milestones,” “People”, and “Eras” in terms of the management of the ABSI oyster fishery and ecosystem and noted additional suggestions including the potential milestone of the influence of sea level rise for the Bay.

The Community Advisory Board reviewed the Questionnaire responses to setting the context by identifying tailwinds, headwinds and trends that will impact the project and plan. The Community Advisory Board then reviewed and discussed the Questionnaire responses to how critical a series of issues identified in the Stakeholder Assessment were for the CAB to consider. Member comments on the critical issues covered included: oyster farming vs. wild oyster harvest in terms of recovery and jobs; shell budgets; restoration efforts successes and failures; harvesting and limited entry into the commercial fishery; “oyster gardening;” historical dynamics among the seafood industry and workers; ecoservices provided by oyster; trends in the rec fisheries in the Bay; regulation of oysters and other fisheries in the Bay.

<b>CRITICAL ISSUES IN THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM FOR THE CAB TO CONSIDER</b>	
<i>Drawn from the Stakeholder Assessment Report and listed in order from the Questionnaire responses</i>	
<b>ISSUES IN THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM</b>	<b>HOW CRITICAL? <i>Questionnaire Avg.</i></b>
<b>1. Oyster reefs: suitable locations, heights, substrate, and salinity</b>	Average 3.8 of 4- <b>Very Critical</b>
<b>2. Water quantity and timing: freshwater flow, quantity, timing, salinity balance, predation and drought</b>	Average 3.8 of 4- <b>Very Critical</b>
<b>3. Lack of a holistic, sustainable Apalachicola Bay management plan informed by science.</b>	Average 3.5 of 4- <b>Very Critical</b>
<b>4. Overharvesting, and consideration for managing a limited effort oyster fishery</b>	Average 3.5 of 4- <b>Very Critical</b>
<b>5. Sustainability as a community: culture, economy, education, and retraining</b>	Average 3.3 of 4- <b>Critical</b>
<b>6. Oysters and Bay in decline: after the perfect storm, status quo is failing</b>	Average 3.1 of 4- <b>Critical</b>
<b>7. ABSI process and consensus</b>	Average 3.1 of 4- <b>Critical</b>
<b>8. The emergence of aquaculture, and its relationship to wild harvesting in the ABS</b>	Average 2.9 of 4- <b>Less Critical</b>
<b>9. Land use, development, and tourism impacts on the fishery and Bay System.</b>	Average 2.8 of 4- <b>Less Critical</b>

<b>10. What other issues do you believe the CAB should explore?</b> <i>(from the Stakeholder Assessment Report)</i>	<b>How Critical?</b> <i>Questionnaire Average</i>
A. Politics and managing the ABS.	Average 3.7 of 4- Very Critical
B. Water wars (ACF).	Average 3.4 of 4- Critical
C. Larvae/spat/spawning.	Average 3.4 of 4- Critical
D. Ecosystem benefits of oysters.	Average 3.4 of 4- Critical
E. ABSI: the get something done project.	Average 3.3 of 4- Critical
F. Enforcement of regulations.	Average 3.3 of 4- Critical
G. Shift in Community Perspectives on the health of Apalachicola Bay.	Average 3.2 of 4- Critical
H. Dams and storage.	Average 3.1 of 4- Critical
I. Water quality in the ABS.	Average 3.1 of 4- Critical
J. Climate change and the ABSI.	Average 3.0 of 4- Critical
K. Hurricane Michael and resiliency in the ABS.	Average 2.6 of 4- Less Critical
L. Bob Sykes Cut.	Average 2.4 of 4- Less Critical
M. Dredging and flushing the Bay.	Average 2.4 of 4- Less Critical
N. Impacts of silviculture <i>(after Hurricane Michael)</i> and upstream farming	Average 2.2 of 4- Less Critical
O. Deep Water Horizon Spill.	Average 2.1 of 4- Less Critical

Members noted in the Questionnaire responses how critical are science areas and gaps that were identified in the [Stakeholder Assessment report](#). Members noted that monitoring and mapping is accessible to the public and there was a suggestion for “Commonly accepted data” as a basis for the plan.

The members reviewed the draft goal statement, discussed changes and agreed with the following statement:

The goal of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) 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 (ABS).

The goal of the Initiative is to ensure that the regulation and management of the oyster reef system and oyster restoration polices are informed by the best available science and shared stakeholder stewardship values, resulting in an economically viable, healthy and sustainable Apalachicola Bay System oyster reef ecosystem.

The process will be 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 Oyster Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan, will be directed to the ABSI project team, state managers and regulators, and other agencies/entities as appropriate and the CAB will continue to ensure the funding and implementation of the Plan.

Members reviewed the Questionnaire responses for an undesirable future for the ABS and added “oil exploration and extraction business in the Flood plain.” Members reviewed Questionnaire responses

for a successful future in 2030 in which everything is going right for a healthy Apalachicola Bay system and a management and restoration plan is being funded, implemented and meeting its targets.

They added the following to what this ideal future would look like: “A fully functioning community based stakeholder group including the state and agencies committed to supporting, funding, managing, adapting and implementing the plan.”

The draft “Vision of Success” themes were drawn from the CAB Questionnaire responses and reviewed and rated by the Community Advisory Board at the October 30 meeting. The vision themes represent key topical issue areas that characterize the desirable future for the oyster reef ecosystem and the Apalachicola Bay. The Vision Themes will be helpful in establishing a framework for the plan goals and objectives and are not ordered by priority. Revisions to that draft vision themes were based on October 30 Community Advisory Board discussion. The five draft vision of success themes are not listed in priority order.

### **1. A Healthy and Productive Bay Ecosystem.**

*Draft Vision Theme 1:* The Bay and the oyster reef ecosystem is enhanced and managed in a manner that supports ecosystem services by protecting and enhancing the habitat and resource in a sustainable and productive manner.

*Draft Goal:* The Apalachicola Bay System is a healthy and productive oyster reef ecosystem.

### **2. The Management and Regulation of the Oyster Fishery and Aquaculture Industry.**

*Draft Vision Theme 2:* The management, regulation, and restoration of the oyster fishery and aquaculture industry is conducted by working collaboratively with stakeholders to create, monitor and fund a plan that ensures that protection of the fishery and habitat, is implemented in a manner that is supported by science, data, and field and industry experience and observation, and provides fair and equitable access to the resource.

*Draft Goal:* A productive, and sustainably managed and regulated oyster reef fishery and ecosystem and aquaculture Industry in the Apalachicola Bay System.

### **3. A Thriving Economy Connected to the Apalachicola Bay System.**

*Draft Vision Theme 3:* The Apalachicola Bay System oyster fishery, aquaculture, and oyster reef ecosystem, and resilient coastal development serve as key components of the region’s economic viability and cultural heritage, and serve to sustain economically viable and thriving fisheries, recreation and tourism industries.

*Draft Goal:* The Apalachicola Bay Region is thriving economically as a result of a healthy Bay System.

### **4. An Engaged Community and Informed Public.**

*Draft Vision Theme 4:* Stakeholders, including regulatory agencies, of the Apalachicola Bay System are committed to continuously working together collaboratively to serve as a hub for research and best practices, and provide education and communication on the importance of maintaining the health and productivity of the oyster reef ecosystem, fishery, and aquaculture, and the role they play in ensuring the community thrives.

*Draft Goal:* The Apalachicola Bay System is supported by a continuously engaged and informed public.

## **5. A Science-Based and Fully Funded Management and Restoration Plan Supported by the Community.**

*Draft Vision Theme 5:* The science-based Apalachicola Bay System Management and Restoration Plan is developed with engagement and support from the community, and its implementation is adaptively managed with ongoing guidance from a stakeholder and agency committee and funded from dedicated sources.

*Draft Goal:* The Apalachicola Bay System Management and Restoration Plan is science-based, has community support, and is fully funded.

The Community Advisory Board heard comments from the public at the meeting including from: Ed Camp, University of Florida researcher who will be assisting the CAB in terms of modeling; Hope Childree and Kay Olin with Estuary Oysters; and Chucha Barber, Chucha Barber Productions and her colleague Josh McLawhorn, Level Up Digital Media.

The members of the Community Advisory Board discussed presentations/information needed. The facilitators then reviewed the agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting scheduled for December 18 at Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve in Eastpoint, Florida. They suggested refining the vision themes, goals and objectives and following up on member requests for presentations.

*The members completed meeting evaluation forms and adjourned at 1:45 pm.*



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**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING I SUMMARY**

*What follows is a more detailed summary with additional data from the presentations*

**I. INTRODUCTIONS AND ABSI PROJECT CONTEXT AND PROCEDURES**

**A. WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT**

Felicia Coleman, Director of the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory and a marine biologist on the FSU team welcomed the members and the public to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative’s Community Advisory Board. Coleman stated, “The ultimate outcome will be a plan – a treatment plan of action, if you will – for the management and recovery of the oyster reefs and the health of the Bay. The plan will be developed with the stakeholders whose lives are tied inextricably to these waters – represented by members of this Community Advisory Board -- in concert with the agencies responsible for the management and conservation of the region and the natural and social scientists whose research will help inform the resulting policy decisions.” She suggested this plan and the coalescing of key restoration support partners and necessary resources would not be possible without the catalytic and essential input of funding from the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. and Florida State University.

Coleman noted that the mission of the overall project is to determine the root causes of decline of the Apalachicola Bay ecosystem and the deterioration of oyster reefs. “This mission, will require a clearer understanding of the trajectory of change in the physical structure and water flow over time, and will monitor oyster recruitment and survival, and conduct laboratory and field experiments that inform predictive models of oyster productivity and ecosystem health. “

She introduced the FSU’s core teams engaged in the ABSI project: the proposal writing team, consisting of Ross Ellington representing the FSU Office of Research and both Coleman and Sandra Brooke, faculty members at the FSUCML; and the ABSI Leadership Team which includes Gary Ostrander, Vice President for Research at FSU, Brooke who is leading the science and Coleman, leading the community engagement and policy components She noted that Ostrander strongly supports the ABSI Community Advisory Committee role in the process and regretted he could not attend this meeting.

In addition to the Community Advisory Board, FSU has formed a Science Advisory Board to provide input to the Leadership Team and the ABSI Community Advisory Board. It consists of four members with expertise in oyster reef mapping, oyster physiological and population ecology (including larval dispersal and settlement), restoration, and development of decision-making tools for guiding management actions.

She noted that ABSI is also reaching out to the broader research community to find partners who can significantly broaden the impact of this Triumph- and FSU-funded initiative by bringing their own external funding to the table that is designed to fill gaps identified by the Community Advisory Board and resulting from our research. She introduced one such researcher, Ed Camp, a professor at the University of Florida, who was attending this meeting and with whom ABSI is developing a partnership.

Finally, Coleman introduced the ABSI Facilitation Team of Jeff Blair and Bob Jones of the FSU FCRC Consensus Center who are responsible for the design and facilitation of the Community Advisory Board meetings and the consensus process

## **B. COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' EXPECTATIONS FOR PROJECT SUCCESS**

The facilitators reviewed the meeting objectives and agenda (*See Appendix #1*) and the members (*See Appendix #2*) introduced themselves and described desired outcomes for a successful Community Advisory Board Process that included:

- Bringing the community together to implement a plan of action to bring back a thriving Bay again with a balance of fresh and salt water
- A comprehensive and coordinated management plan with state support for the Bay for multiple species looking to restore the Bay and improve the natural oyster beds
- Restore and sustain the Bay ecosystem, water quality and oyster fishery and connect to the broader transboundary ACF plan and
- A science driven plan and implementation process.

### *10-30 CAB Member responses*

- ABSI could build something to bring the community together on a plan of action
- Comprehensive management plan for the Bay for multiple species looking to restore the Bay
- A Bay management plan agreed to by everyone who knows what their role are in implementing the plan to bring back a thriving Bay again
- A lot of things to be done, but improving the oyster natural beds is a priority
- Water quality and sustainable oyster fishery restored
- Provide a way forward to sustain the fishery and ecosystem
- Why hasn't it come back this time? Need to answer this first
- Bay brought back to what it can be. Look at Bob Sykes cut and determine its impact
- Bring back the balance of fresh and salt water and water quality
- A science driven process
- Looking for long term sustainable management for the Bay ecosystem
- Comprehensive restoration plan to protect and manage the Bay. State takes ownership of the Bay's management- need them to get behind the plan
- Missing a coordinating plan- need all working in the same direction
- Come up with a comprehensive and unified effort to get things done
- Plan developed integrated into a broader 3 state comprehensive transboundary plan
- Bay returned and maintained, managed, steady conservation and took care of going forward

- Restore the Bay to where it once was.

### C. CONSENSUS PROCEDURES

The facilitators reviewed the Working Group operating assumptions and participation principles and consensus building procedures. After discussing the participation principles and consensus procedures, the Working Group unanimously agreed to follow and use these in the plan development process (*see Appendix #5*).

### D. ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Community Advisory Board members reviewed and agreed to a draft set of guiding principles covering respecting differences, collaboration and consensus building, clear procedures equitably applied, and serving as liaisons with the stakeholder groups and interests they have been appointed to represent. The principles are noted below:

1. Community Advisory Board members will strive to work together collaboratively, and seek to understand and respect differing perspectives.
2. The Community Advisory Board will strive to achieve consensus on the evaluation and development of recommendations submitted to the FSU project team and appropriate management and regulatory agencies.
3. The Community Advisory Board will operate under policies and procedures that are clear, concise, and consistently and equitably applied.
4. Community Advisory Board members will serve as accessible liaisons between the stakeholder groups they have been appointed to represent and the ABSI Community Advisory Board, and should strive to both inform and seek input on issues the Community Advisory Board is addressing from those they represent.

#### *10-30 CAB Comments following acceptance of the Guiding Principles*

- FWC absent today? We need them here. *A: Jim Estes has expressed strong commitment to and support for the CAB process. He had a previous commitment but intends to participate and have a FWC presence in the CAB meetings going forward*
- CAB- recommendations need to get accomplished- Agencies, Legislature, County. Need to focus on implementation. How do we proceed from here to make things happen
- USFWS and Army Corp of Engineers? Not at the table? *A: They were interviewed for the assessment, are aware of the CAB's process and agreed to assist when needed*
- We need to cultivate Legislative interest and support
- In the past- implementation is where these kinds of efforts have fallen apart. We need to recommend a committee to “Shepard” the plan through to completion  
ACOE invite to observe. Legislative offices
- Joshua Gabel, from Senator Marco Rubio’s office indicated he wanted to learn about the ABSI and relay things to the Senator’s Office
- Resource managers- need their help in getting plans and policies implemented
- A 2014 restoration plan for the Bay was presented to FWC, but its consideration was hindered by the lawsuit. The State has been reluctant to engage because of the lawsuit. Is the state of Florida behind restoring Apalachicola Bay?

- The US Supreme Court Special master will convene a hearing on November 7. Send a link- post to the circuit, and transcripts. Need common information
- The Consensus Center has a role in facilitating coordination among projects and science from Perdido-Pensacola estuary to Cedar Key/Suwannee sound over the coming years.

## II. OVERVIEW PRESENTATION ON THE ABSI PROJECT AND RESEARCH

Brooke provided a presentation on the ABSI project. She noted that the ABSI seeks to gain insight into the root causes of decline of the Apalachicola Bay ecosystem, and the deterioration of oyster reefs and help to develop a management and restoration plan for oyster reefs and the long-term health of the Bay. She noted the project has four components: research; management; community engagement; and oyster reef and Bay restoration.

The initial research objectives include the elements below, but the ABSI will comprise several additional research objectives and deliverables.

- Reviewing the scientific literature to assess ecological changes in the ABSI region over time
- Updating and expanding existing intertidal and subtidal maps of oyster reefs in the Apalachicola Bay System (including areas immediately outside of the bay)
- Supplementing existing monitoring programs in coordination with FWC and ANERR, to avoid duplicating effort
- Developing bio-physical model that includes hydrodynamics + larval biology; and
- Constructing a Research Hatchery to condition, spawn and settle eastern oysters for larval and juvenile physiological experiments, restoration trials, and other research components.

The Community Engagement and Policy component includes the community aspect -- Community Advisory Board process, Public workshops, Shell recycling program, Hatchery Internships and a Volunteer Program – and a Management Component. The Management Component will use the results of the ABSI and other research projects to develop management options and plans, in collaboration with Community Advisory Board stakeholders and state and federal management agencies. These options may include ecosystem based management, re-shelling programs, seasonal closures, rotating harvest areas, sanctuaries, and state monitoring programs, among other things.

The Restoration component of the project will include models that will help determine the best restoration sites capable of supporting successful settlement and survival of larvae, test different construction materials and configurations for restoration efficacy; and apply results of restoration trials to developing full-scale restoration plan for the ABSI region in concert with the Florida Fish & Wildlife conservation Commission.

*CAB Member Questions and Comments following the Presentation:*

- What is the timeframe for the Research Hatchery? *A: ABSI will have a temporary version of the hatchery running in early 2020, and will be hiring a hatchery manager in Spring 2020, enabling them to conduct preliminary research on adult conditioning and physiology of oyster larvae and juveniles. The permanent research*

*hatchery will be built in the following year. They are planning to have spat-enhanced restoration materials after 2022*

- When we’ve put material down, we see that the new material has a better result initially but that doesn’t last. I have tonged the bay and I’m observing no settlement attaching. The East End does better than West End. I am surprised to see a small area doing well while a nearby area is not doing well There is new material in these areas and not higher on the reefs. We’ve haven’t had boring sponge in last couple years and oyster drills are only where the oysters are. *A: This is interesting and we would like to go out with Mr. Hartsfield and see if we can find an explanation for this observation.*
- The ACF stakeholders plan was released last week. *A: -We will determine the best method for making these sorts of documents available to the Community Advisory Board*

### III. SHARED HISTORY—LOOKING BACK—WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

Members noted any additional significant “Key Milestones,” “People”, and “Eras” in terms of the management of the ABSI oyster fishery and ecosystem.

*10-30 CAB Comments:*

- Incorporate this shared history into the process.
- Consider as a milestone the potential influence of sea level rise.
- 2013-16- research on oyster mortality? Is this correct? *A: There was some.*

### IV. LOOKING AROUND—SETTING THE CONTEXT

#### A. TAILWINDS, HEADWINDS, & TRENDS

The Community Advisory Board reviewed the Questionnaire responses to tailwinds, headwinds and trends.

#### 1. Tailwinds- Questionnaire Responses and Working Group Comments

<b>TAILWINDS—ENHANCING THE HEALTH OF THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM</b> <i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
1.) Multiple stakeholders, elected leaders and public interested in improving the Bay’s health. (3) ACF and the Supreme Court. (3)
2.) Ongoing monitoring for managing the Bay. (2) Conservation protected land. (2)
4.) Aquaculture. (1) Funding available for projects. (1) The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative. (1) Fresh water continues. (1) Little harvesting. (1)

#### 2. Headwinds- Questionnaire Responses and Working Group Comments

<b>HEADWINDS—IMPEDING THE HEALTH OF THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM</b>
<i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
1.) Low fresh water delivery: frequency, magnitude, and duration. (6)
2.) Lack of consensus, mistrust and lack of unity. (5)
3.) Changing Bay ecosystem. (4) Poorly planned growth throughout the Basin. (4)
5.) “Water wars.” (3)
6.) Oyster reef ecosystem under stress. (2)
7.) Poor funding decisions regarding restoration of Bay (1) Politics, not science and policy guiding decisions (1) Lack of enforcement (1) Opposition to aquaculture (1) No shelling program (1) Deep Water Horizon (1)

### 3. Trends- Questionnaire Responses and Working Group Comments

<b>TRENDS—IMPACTING THE HEALTH OF THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM</b>
<i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
1.) Growth. (6)
2.) Climate change impacts. (5) Upstream agriculture and forest management impacts on water quality and supply. (5)
3.) Bay’s and industry’s decline and loss of seafood culture. (3)
4.) Enforcement. (2) Disagreement on how to achieve sustainability (2)
6.) Growing tourism economy. (1) Loss of bio-diversity. (1) Rise of aquaculture. (1)

### B. CRITICAL ISSUES IN THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM

- 1.) Oyster reefs: suitable locations, heights, substrate, and salinity (*Questionnaire Average- Critical Issue 3.8 of 4*)

<b>OYSTER REEFS—ISSUES AND INFORMATION NEEDED</b>
<i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
<b>ISSUES THE CAB SHOULD CONSIDER:</b>
1. Substrate and reefs. (6)
2. Oyster farming and relation to oyster reef ecosystem. (3) Lake Wimico and connection to the Bay. (3) Water chemistry and oyster reef ecosystem. (3)
3. Sikes Cut. (2) Flows and basin wide management. (2)

4. Enforcement of rules. (1) Dredging. (1) Sea level rise. (1)
<b>INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NEEDED:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common agreed upon data and information. (8)</li> <li>• Understanding Historic changes to the river and Bay. (6)</li> <li>• Oyster farming impacts on oyster reef system. (1)</li> <li>• Data on local enforcement. (1)</li> </ul>

10-30 CAB Comments:

- Oyster farming- reproductivity of the strains using on the farming. Some don't and do. Little more information. (DACS presentation?)

2.) Water quantity and timing: freshwater flow, quantity, timing, salinity balance, predation and drought. (*Questionnaire Average- Critical Issue 3.8 of 4*)

<b>WATER QUANTITY AND TIMING IN THE BAY SYSTEM—ISSUES AND INFORMATION NEEDED</b> <i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
<b>ISSUES THE CAB SHOULD CONSIDER:</b>
1. Hydrology, droughts, freshwater flows and salinity. (4)
2. What is already accomplished and being done. (2)
3. Historical changes to the River and Bay. (1) Upstream water use. (1) Oyster farming impact on natural bars. (1) Increase resiliency of the system. (1)
<b>INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NEEDED:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping and identifying system components and interconnectivity</li> <li>• Hydrodynamic modeling</li> <li>• Upstream water management</li> <li>• Local monitoring</li> <li>• ACF water wars</li> <li>• ACF Stakeholders plan and assessment</li> <li>• Research from places with the same issues</li> </ul>

10-30 CAB Comments:

- None

3.) Lack of a holistic, sustainable Apalachicola Bay management plan informed by science. (*Average 3.5 of 4*)

<b>HOLISTIC, SUSTAINABLE APALACHICOLA BAY MANAGEMENT PLAN</b> <b>ISSUES AND INFORMATION NEEDS</b> <i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
<b>ISSUES THE CAB SHOULD CONSIDER:</b>

1. Long term plan laying out the basic elements is critical. (3) The Bay collapse and the ACF system (3)
2. Enforcement of harvest rules. (2)
3. Invest in science. (1) Healthy productive ecosystem is the primary consideration. (1) Ongoing process conveners. (1)
<b>INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NEEDED:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of similar science-based restoration efforts</li> <li>• State management efforts</li> <li>• Summaries of previous significant work done on the ABS</li> <li>• How salinity works in the Bay</li> <li>• Better fisheries data</li> <li>• Historical use of the Bay</li> <li>• Seafood harvest rules information</li> </ul>

10-30 CAB Comments:

- Better understanding of past and current restoration efforts, including successes and failures.

4.) Overharvesting, and consideration for managing a limited effort oyster fishery. (Average 3.5 of 4)

<b>OVERHARVESTING AND CONSIDERATION OF A LIMITED OYSTER FISHERY</b> <b>ISSUES AND INFORMATION NEEDS</b> <i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
<b>ISSUES THE CAB SHOULD CONSIDER:</b>
1. Address in the management plan. (4)
2. Enforcement of harvesting rules. (3) Harvesting information and Bay Closure. (3)
3. Modeling scenarios regarding harvest and recovery rates. (2)
4. Extent of historical reefs and expectations for a robust fishery. (1)
<b>INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NEEDED:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status and condition of oyster beds and oyster fishery.</li> <li>• Overharvesting data and sustainable harvest level.</li> <li>• Enforcement data.</li> </ul>

10-30 CAB Comments:

- Shell budget- what types? What is the rate of harvest that will maintain shell in the Bay?
- Harvesting- Bay opening and closing management is an issue we should consider
- Review of current harvesting rules- what they should be like and what they are. How do other states regulate their oyster industries
- Limited entry into the commercial fishery
- TURF issues among different management plans- Will we review these? A: Yes



5.) Sustainability as a community: culture, economy, education, and retraining. (Average 3.3 of 4)

<b>SUSTAINABILITY AS A COMMUNITY ISSUES AND INFORMATION NEEDS</b> <i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
<b>ISSUES THE CAB SHOULD CONSIDER:</b>
Enforcement, harvesting ethics and limited entry. (5)
Learn why the decline from past failures. (3)
Support for aquaculture in light of decline. (3)
Adaptive management and partnerships. (2)
Alternative economies and retraining for the industry (1)
Lack of spat (1)
<b>INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NEEDED:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modeling scenarios on timelines for economic success in Franklin County.</li> <li>• What are the options for retraining- need to hear from stakeholders.</li> <li>• Funding opportunities for engaging the seafood industry. What are the costs of starting an aquaculture operation?</li> <li>• What has not worked in the past? What are similar seafood communities that had issues with resource depletion.</li> </ul>

10-30 CAB Comments:

- We need options for helping of those living on the water. Offering garden cages on the docks?
- Oyster gardening experience in other estuaries would be helpful to hear from FWC about their efforts on Florida's east coast. There are public health concerns to be weighed.

6.) Oysters and Bay in decline: after the perfect storm, status quo is failing. (Questionnaire Average-Critical Issue 3.1 of 4)

<b>OYSTERS AND BAY IN DECLINE ISSUES AND INFORMATION NEEDS</b> <i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
<b>ISSUES THE CAB SHOULD CONSIDER:</b>
Enforcement, harvesting ethics, and limited entry. (5)
Learn why the decline happened from past failures. (3)
Support for aquaculture in light of decline. (3)
Adaptive management and partnerships. (2)
Alternative economies for the Bay. (1)
Lack of spat. (1)

<b>INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NEEDED:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research on the decline.</li> <li>• Recruitment.</li> <li>• Shell budget.</li> <li>• Limited entry.</li> <li>• Aquaculture costs</li> </ul>

10-30 CAB Comments:

- None

7.) ABSI process and consensus. (*Questionnaire Average- Critical Issue 3.1 of 4*)

<b>ABSI PROCESS AND CONSENSUS ISSUES AND INFORMATION NEEDS</b> <i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
<b>ISSUES THE CAB SHOULD CONSIDER:</b>
Open, transparent, and user-friendly communication with community. (4)
How will science inform the management and restoration plan? (4)
Equitable representation and respect. (3)
ABSI Community Advisory Board impact on management decisions. (2)
<b>INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NEEDED:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of stakeholder points of contention.</li> <li>• Communication and public expectations.</li> </ul>

10-30 CAB Comments:

- Seafood workers involved on the CAB? Historical dynamics among the industry.

8.) The emergence of aquaculture, and its relationship to wild harvesting in the ABS. (*Questionnaire Average- Critical Issue 2.9 of 4*)

<b>THE EMERGENCE OF AQUACULTURE IN THE BAY ISSUES AND INFORMATION NEEDS</b> <i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
<b>ISSUES THE CAB SHOULD CONSIDER:</b>
Conflict resolution and local government's view of aquaculture. (3)
Do both wild and aquaculture. (3)
Aquaculture impacts on the Bay and oyster reef system ecology. (2)
Best site locations for aquaculture. (2)
Education, Funding/capital for starting aquaculture operations. (2)
Law Enforcement (1)
<b>INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NEEDED:</b>

- Economic and marketing data on benefits/costs to using local aquaculture.
- Carrying capacity for aquaculture in the Bay.
- Impacts on other users and resources.
- Best practices.
- Industry participation.

10-30 CAB Comments:

- Important to point out and acknowledge wild oyster reefs and aquaculture separate issues. Jobs. Aquaculture won't address the health of the Bay.
- Ecoservices provided by oyster- does aquaculture provide any ecoservices like wild reefs.

9.) Land use, development, and tourism impacts on the fishery and Bay System. *(Questionnaire Average- Critical Issue 2.8 of 4)*

<b>LAND USE, DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM IMPACTS ON THE BAY SYSTEM</b> <b>ISSUES AND INFORMATION NEEDS</b> <i>Listed In order of frequency from the Questionnaire responses</i>
<b>ISSUES THE CAB SHOULD CONSIDER:</b>
Development impacts (e.g., stormwater runoff) on the fishery. (5)
Stormwater runoff. (4)
Planning for resilience. (2)
Cattle operations in the Basin. (1) Aquaculture as an eyesore, (1) Rural fishing lifestyle. (1)
<b>INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NEEDED:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development, future land use and population projections.</li> <li>• Pollution related to development.</li> </ul>

10-30 CAB Comments:

- Trends in the rec fisheries with the up/downs of the Bay.
- St. George Island is a giant drain field for septic systems.

**10. Other ABSI Issues**

Other issues were identified in the ABSI Stakeholder Assessment Report. The members' average ratings from the Questionnaire regarding how critical each of these issues is, are listed below in order from the most to least critical.

<b>What other issues do you believe the CAB should explore?</b> <i>(from the Stakeholder Assessment Report)</i>	<b>How Critical?</b> <i>Questionnaire Average</i>
A. Politics and managing the ABS.	Average 3.7 of 4- Very Critical
B. Water wars (ACF).	Average 3.4 of 4- Critical
C. Larvae/spat/spawning.	Average 3.4 of 4- Critical
D. Ecosystem benefits of oysters.	Average 3.4 of 4- Critical
E. ABSI: the get something done project.	Average 3.3 of 4- Critical
F. Enforcement of regulations.	Average 3.3 of 4- Critical
G. Shift in Community Perspectives on the health of Apalachicola Bay.	Average 3.2 of 4- Critical
H. Dams and storage.	Average 3.1 of 4- Critical
I. Water quality in the ABS.	Average 3.1 of 4- Critical
J. Climate change and the ABSI.	Average 3.0 of 4- Critical
K. Hurricane Michael and resiliency in the ABS.	Average 2.6 of 4- Less Critical
L. Bob Sykes Cut.	Average 2.4 of 4- Less Critical
M. Dredging and flushing the Bay.	Average 2.4 of 4- Less Critical
N. Impacts of silviculture <i>(after Hurricane Michael)</i> and upstream farming	Average 2.2 of 4- Less Critical
O. Deep Water Horizon Spill.	Average 2.1 of 4- Less Critical

*10-30 CAB Comments:*

- Regulations effect on the harvesting of seafood but other critters in the Bay. Redfish and speckled trout used to be rec and commercial. The rec fish only. So many red fish eating crab fishery and declined. Look for unintended consequences.

**C. CRITICAL ABSI DATA AND SCIENCE TOPICS AND GAPS**

Members noted how critical are the following science areas and gaps that were identified in the [Stakeholder Assessment report](#). The areas and gaps are listed in order of most to least critical reflected in the average rating for each. The facilitator noted the members will review these research topics and gaps at the subsequent CAB meetings.

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>How Critical?</b> <i>Questionnaire Average</i>
A.) ABSI data gaps and concerns. Access to science. Coordination of data. Insufficient monitoring data. Oyster bar mapping.	3.5 of 4
B.) Research on rebuilding reefs.	3.5 of 4
C.) Restoration research.	3.4 of 4
D.) Research on larval transport and spat survival.	3.4 of 4
E.) Research to establish thresholds for sustainable harvest.	3.4 of 4
F.) Research on upstream impacts on the Bay.	3.3 of 4
G.) Modeling and quantitative tools to analyze management strategies. Research to establish thresholds for sustainable harvest.	3.2 of 4

H.) Research on oysters and fresh water flow.	3.2 of 4
I.) Research on the ABS collapse.	3.1 of 4
J.) Research on climate and rising sea levels.	2.6 of 4

*10-30 CAB Comments:*

- Monitoring and mapping will be accessible to the public? *A: Yes*
- “Commonly accepted data”- use this term? Been a problem with ACF stakeholders.

## V. COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD DRAFT GOAL STATEMENT

The members reviewed the draft goal statement, discussed changes and agreed with the following statement:

**The goal of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) 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 (ABS).**

**The goal of the Initiative is to ensure that the regulation and management of the oyster reef system and oyster restoration polices are informed by the best available science and shared stakeholder stewardship values, resulting in an economically viable, healthy and sustainable Apalachicola Bay System oyster reef ecosystem.**

**The process will be 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 Oyster Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan, will be directed to the ABSI project team, state managers and regulators, and other agencies/entities as appropriate and the CAB will continue to ensure the funding and implementation of the Plan.**

*Original draft with changes agreed to by the CAB:*

The goal of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) 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 (ABS).

The goal of the Initiative is to ensure that the regulation and management of the oyster ~~reef system fishery,~~ and oyster restoration polices are informed by the best available science and shared stakeholder stewardship values, resulting in an economically viable, healthy and sustainable Apalachicola Bay ~~oyster fishery and~~ oyster reef ecosystem.

The process will be 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 Ecosystem-Based ~~Fisheries~~ Oyster Management and Restoration Plan, will be directed to the ABSI project team, state managers and regulators, and other agencies/entities as appropriate and the CAB will continue to ensure the funding and implementation of the Plan.

10-30 Member comments on the draft Goal Statement:

- Add “make sure this is implemented”
- Degree of separation restoring oyster reefs and commercial oyster fishery. We need healthy oyster reefs regardless of the presence of the fishery
- Apalachicola Bay System Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management and Restoration Plan? Only interested in oysters? This is about more than oysters
- Delete “Fisheries”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. More complicated regulatory environment. We may need to clarify regulation of other aspects related to the Bay and fisheries.
- Take care of the foundation first, restoring oyster reefs is key first step. May or may not lead to a commercial oyster fishery
- Restoration funding will be important to keep oysters and commercial fishery in the picture.
- Are there consultation services that are part of Triumph proposal? *Deliverables on Triumph-consulting services regarding entrepreneurial services to 45 entities in the region*
- Stakeholder- alienated by acronyms. Use Community Advisory Board (vs. CAB).

## VI. VISION OF SUCCESS FOR THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM

### A. AN UNDESIRABLE FUTURE FOR THE ABSI

A very undesirable picture of a possible future for the Apalachicola Bay System in 2030
Collapsed fisheries and reef system with no sign of recovery in the Bay. The Bay the same as now. (11)
Bay decline due to changing conditions not predicted and loss of fishing lifestyle in Apalachicola. (6) Unsustainable development due to lack of recovery of oyster harvesting and the oyster reef ecosystem. (6)
Bay habitat degraded and fragmented. (2)
Poverty and unemployment. (1) Commercial dredging resumes. (1) Upstream agricultural irrigation continues to expand. (1)

10-30 CAB Additional Comments:

- Developing oil exploration and extraction business in the Flood plain. Change the character of the area.

### B. A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE FOR THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM IN 2030

In their Questionnaire responses, Members envisioned a successful future in 2030 in which everything is going right for a healthy Apalachicola Bay system. A management and restoration plan is being funded, implemented and meeting its targets. They described what this ideal future would look like and added their comments on it during the meeting:

10-30 CAB Additional Comments:

- Fully functioning community based stakeholder group to support funding and managing and implementing the plan
- Address adapting the Plan. This needs to be built into the Plan
- Economic metric- bring the price from \$100 a bag/ \$40 a quart of tupelo honey
- State and agencies commitment to full time management of the Bay.

### **C. DRAFT VISION OF SUCCESS THEMES**

The following draft “Vision of Success” themes were drawn from the CAB Questionnaire responses and reviewed and rated by the Community Advisory Board at the October 30 meeting. The vision themes represent key topical issue areas that characterize the desirable future for the oyster reef ecosystem and the Apalachicola Bay. The Vision Themes will be helpful in establishing a framework for the plan goals and objectives and are not ordered by priority. Revisions to that draft vision themes were based on October 30 Community Advisory Board discussion and are noted with a strikethrough (deletions) or underline (additions).

The draft vision of success themes, not listed in priority order, that were reviewed by the members were:

- A Healthy and Productive Bay Ecosystem
- The Management and Regulation of the Oyster Fishery and Aquaculture Industry
- A Thriving Economy Connected to the Apalachicola Bay System
- A Continuously Engaged Community and Informed Public
- A Science-Based and Fully Funded Management and Restoration Plan Supported by the Community.

#### **1. A Healthy and Productive Bay Ecosystem.**

*Draft Vision Theme 1:* The Bay and the oyster reef ecosystem is enhanced and managed in a manner that supports ecosystem services by protecting and enhancing the habitat and resource in a sustainable and productive manner.

*10-30 CAB Additional Comments:*

- Is “enhanced and managed”
- Make this A (it was B on the draft list)

*Draft Goal:* The Apalachicola Bay System is a healthy and productive oyster reef ecosystem.

*10-30 CAB Additional Comments:*

- None

#### **2. The Management and Regulation of the Oyster Fishery and Aquaculture Industry.**

*Draft Vision Theme 2:* The management, regulation, and restoration of the oyster fishery and aquaculture industry is conducted by working collaboratively with stakeholders to create, monitor and fund a plan that ensures that protection of the fishery and habitat, is implemented in a manner that is supported by science, data, and field and industry experience and observation, and provides fair and equitable access to the resource.

*10-30 CAB Additional Comments:*

- Ordering is important. Wording is right for the original draft B but should be A.
- Active community support? We need a process that supports this.
- Keep together oyster industry and aquaculture? Different contexts and two separate issues?
- C. merged with A?
- E.g. 2 days of harvest- 8200 bushels. Rebuild the beds and aquaculture will be competing with wild harvest.
- Don't gloss over wild vs. aquaculture. Don't underestimate this issue which have a history.

*Draft Goal:* A productive, and sustainably managed and regulated oyster reef fishery and ecosystem and aquaculture Industry in the Apalachicola Bay System.

*10-30 CAB Additional Comments:*

- None

### **3. A Thriving Economy Connected to the Apalachicola Bay System.**

*Draft Vision Theme 3:* The Apalachicola Bay System oyster fishery, aquaculture, and oyster reef ecosystem, and resilient coastal development serve as key components of the region's economic viability and cultural heritage, and serve to sustain economically viable and thriving fisheries, recreation and tourism industries.

*10-30 CAB Additional Comments:*

- I like it references the economy in the region, not narrowly formed around only oysters.

*Draft Goal:* The Apalachicola Bay Region is thriving economically as a result of a healthy Bay System.

*10-30 CAB Additional Comments:*

- None

### **4. An Engaged Community and Informed Public.**

*Draft Vision Theme 4:* Stakeholders, including regulatory agencies, of the Apalachicola Bay System are committed to continuously working together collaboratively to serve as a hub for research and best practices, and provide education and communication on the importance of maintaining the health and productivity of the oyster reef ecosystem, fishery, and aquaculture, and the role they play in ensuring the community thrives.

*10-30 CAB Additional Comments:*



- “Continuously engaged and informed public:
- “Stakeholders and regulatory agencies”
- Hub for info exchange but they will not do the research.
- Researchers included? Yes.

*Draft Goal:* The Apalachicola Bay System is supported by a continuously engaged and informed public.

*10-30 CAB Additional Comments:*

- None

## **5. A Science-Based and Fully Funded Management and Restoration Plan Supported by the Community.**

*Draft Vision Theme 5:* The science-based Apalachicola Bay System Management and Restoration Plan is developed with engagement and support from the community, and its implementation is adaptively managed and funded from dedicated sources.

*10-30 CAB Additional Comments:*

- Missing the “who”? Plan won’t oversee itself. “Bay management committee” oversee the plan. Body needs to be established to see that this plan continued.

*Draft Goal:* The Apalachicola Bay System Management and Restoration Plan is science-based, has community support, and is fully funded.

*10-30 CAB Additional Comments:*

- None

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Community Advisory Board heard comments from the public at the meeting.

- Ed Camp, University of Florida researcher who will be assisting the CAB in terms of modeling agreed that it would be clearer to separate the wild and aquaculture elements of the plan
- Hope Childree and Kay Olin with Estuary Oysters, offered they were excited about the launch of the CAB and noted their Oyster farm in Oyster Bay and willingness to share what they see on their leases and partner with the CAB and ABSI in any way.
- Chucha Barber, Chucha Barber Productions and her colleague Josh McLawhorn, LevelUp Digital Media, noted they are producing a documentary that they hope will be released in 2020 and they hope they can present a dynamic story and it can serve as a vehicle to help spread the word about oysters. She noted the irony that the DEP granted oil drilling permit while the CAB were talking today.

## **VIII. NEXT STEPS**

The members of the Community Advisory Board discussed presentations/information needed and offered the following ideas:

- **Research** updates on the ABSI research-may be at every meeting
- Bob Sykes- any studies or research on how cut has affected salinity over the years?
- **History** of the management and regulation informed by FWC and FDACS
- FWC- for wild oyster regulation and management. FDACS for aquaculture
- Past restoration efforts in the Bay
- History of events in Apalachicola Bay from 2000 forward, e.g., oyster population research, shelling programs etc., changes in regulations (e.g., bag limits, open and close)
- **ACF.** Invite General Counsel from DEP to provide an update the state and potential outcome of the US Supreme Court case
- In addition to Florida's perspective. Invite presentations touching on AL and GA view of the interstate water issues. Better understand others positions
- Invite at an upcoming meetings Mark Masters from Albany (ACF Stakeholders) to make a presentation on the ACF plan.
- **Models** and decision making tools- overview
- Decision support tools- a deeper dive
- Invite Ed Camp, Steve Leitman, Steve Morey who are working on models to assist the CAB in reviewing options in a few months. Have them present at the same time/meeting
- Steve Leitman and his colleague with the ACOE to present the models. Present at a future meeting. Watershed work.
- **Experience elsewhere.** In the future it might be helpful to have an Oyster Futures Chesapeake Bay- Choptank River System presentation on the process and science.
- **Communication.** Set up a chat room? E.g. presentation on ACF and post the ACF stakeholder plan. *A: The FSU team will look into that and other communication strategies.*

The facilitators then reviewed the agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting scheduled for December 18 at Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve in Eastpoint, Florida. They suggested refining the vision themes, goals and objectives and following up on member requests for presentations. The facilitators and science team agreed to review the suggestions for December 18 draft agenda. The meeting will commence at 8:30 am and adjourn at 1:00 pm.

*The members completed meeting evaluation forms and adjourned at 1:45 pm.*

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX #1 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA OCTOBER 30, 2019

<b>APALACHICOLA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE, EASTPOINT, FLORIDA</b>		
<b>ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING I OBJECTIVES</b>		
✓		To Review ABSI Goal in Convening the Community Advisory Board
✓		To Review Member Expectations for Success-Questionnaire Results
✓		To Review and Agree on Participation Guidelines and Consensus-Building Process
✓		To Provide an Overview Presentation on the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative
✓		To Review Questionnaire Results for Looking Back and Looking Around
✓		To Review Questionnaire Results for Critical Issues and Challenges
✓		To Review Questionnaire Results for Key ABSI Data and Science Gaps
✓		To Review Questionnaire Results for Looking Ahead: ABSI Vision Themes and Related Draft Goals
✓		To Discuss Next Steps, Schedule and Assignments
<b>ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING I AGENDA—OCTOBER 30, 2019</b>		
<i>All Agenda Times—including Public Comment and Adjournment—are Approximate and Subject to Change</i>		
1.)	8:30 AM	<b>WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE ABSI GOAL IN CONVENING THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD, INTRODUCTION OF THE FACILITATION TEAM</b>
2.)	8:45	<b>INTRODUCTIONS &amp; REVIEW OF EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS FOR THE ABSI PROCESS</b> <i>(Review Questionnaire Responses)</i>
3.)	9:15	<b>AGENDA REVIEW AND MEETING OBJECTIVES</b>
4.)	9:20	<b>REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES AND CONSENSUS-BUILDING PROCEDURES, AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES</b>
5.)	9:30	<b>APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM (ABS) OVERVIEW PRESENTATION</b>
6.)	10:00	<b>LOOKING BACK:</b> <i>Review of Questionnaire Results</i>
<i>~10:15</i>		<b>BREAK</b>
7.)	10:30	<b>LOOKING AROUND: SETTING THE CONTEXT</b> <i>(Review of Questionnaire Results)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Factors enhancing success- Tailwinds</li> <li>• Factors impeding success- Headwinds</li> <li>• Key Trends driving the Region</li> </ul>
8.)	10:45	<b>LOOKING AROUND: SETTING THE CONTEXT-</b> <i>Critical Issues and Challenges (Review of Questionnaire Results)</i>
9.)	11:45	<b>LOOKING AROUND: SETTING THE CONTEXT-</b> <i>Key ABSI Data and Science Gaps Note: To be reviewed in Meeting I and discussed in Meeting II.</i>
<b>12:00 PM</b>		<b>WORKING LUNCH—ON SITE</b> <b>LUNCH PROVIDED BY FSU</b>
10.)	12:30	<b>REVIEW AND RATING OF CAB DRAFT GOAL STATEMENT</b>
11.)	1:00	<b>SHARED VISION OF SUCCESS IN 2030—MOVING FROM THEMES TO GOALS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and Discussion of Vision Themes <i>(Review of Questionnaire Results)</i></li> <li>• Review and Discuss ABSI Goal Framework</li> </ul>
12.)	2:30	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>
13.)	2:45	<b>NEXT STEPS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the CAB Schedule of Meetings</li> <li>• Review of action items and assignments</li> <li>• Identify agenda items and any needed information for the 2<sup>nd</sup> CAB meeting</li> <li>• Meeting evaluation</li> </ul>
<i>~3:00 PM</i>		<b>ADJOURN</b>

**APPENDIX #2 WORKING GROUP MEMBERS & FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY TEAM**  
**ABSI Community Advisory Board Members, Project Team & Facilitators Bold= Participating Member**

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
<b>Agriculture/ACF Stakeholders/Riparian Counties</b>	
1. Chad Taylor	Riparian Counties Stakeholder Group/ACF Stakeholders/Agriculture
<b>Business/Real Estate/Economic Development/Tourism</b>	
2. Chuck Marks	Acentria Insurance
3. Mike O'Connell	SGI Civic Club/SGI 2025 Vision
4. John Solomon	Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce
<b>Environmental/Citizen</b>	
5. Georgia Ackerman	Apalachicola Riverkeeper
6. Lee Edmiston	Retired DEP/ANERR
7. Chad Hanson	Pew Charitable Trusts
<b>Local Government</b>	
8. Anita Grove	Apalachicola City Commissioner
9. Smokey Parrish	Franklin County Commissioner
<b>Recreational Fishing</b>	
10. Chip Bailey	Peregrine Charters
11. Frank Gidus	CCA Florida
<b>Seafood Industry</b>	
12. Shannon Hartsfield	Franklin County Seafood Workers Association
13. Kevin Landry	Apalachicola Oyster Company, Aquaculture
14. Lynn Martina	Lynn's Quality Oysters
15. Vance Millender	Millender & Sons Seafood
16. Steve Rash	Water Street Seafood
17. TJ Ward	Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood
<b>State Government</b>	
18. Jim Estes	FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management
19. Jenna Harper	ANERR/DEP
20. Becky Prado	FDEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection
21. Portia Sapp	FDACS Division of Aquaculture
22. Paul Thurman	NWFWMD
<b>University/Researchers</b>	
23. Tom Frazer	UF/DEP Governor's Science Advisor
24. Erik Lovestrand	UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant Franklin County
<b>PROJECT TEAM AND FACILITATORS</b>	
<b>FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY</b>	
Sandra Brooke	Marine Biologist
Felicia Coleman	Marine Biologist
Gary Ostrander	Vice-President for Research
Madelein Mahood	Public Outreach Specialist
<b>FCRC CONSENSUS CENTER, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY</b>	
Jeff Blair	Community Advisory Board Facilitator
Robert Jones	Community Advisory Board Facilitator
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b>	
Chucha Barber, Chucha Barber Productions	Joshua Gabel, Sen. Marco Rubio Office
Ed Camp, University of Florida	Josh McLawhorn, Level Up Digital Media
Hope Childree Estuary Oysters	Johnathan Nurse, FSU Federal Relations
W. Ross Ellington, Florida State University	Kay Olin. Estuary Oysters

## APPENDIX #3 MEETING EVALUATION SUMMARY

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD</b> <b>OCTOBER 30, 2019—EASTPOINT, FLORIDA</b></p>
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### MEETING EVALUATION SUMMARY

*Members used a 0 to 10 Rating where a 0 meant Totally Disagree and a 10 meant Totally Agree. 17 evaluation forms were submitted.*

#### 1. PLEASE ASSESS THE OVERALL MEETING.

- 8.2 \_\_\_ The background information was very useful.
- 8.5 \_\_\_ The agenda packet was very useful.
- 8.3 \_\_\_ The objectives for the meeting were stated at the outset.
- 8.8 \_\_\_ Overall, the objectives of the meeting were fully achieved.

#### 2. DO YOU AGREE THAT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING OBJECTIVES WAS ACHIEVED?

- 8.7 \_\_\_ ABSI Goal in Convening the ABSI CAB.
- 8.0 \_\_\_ Member Expectations for Success.
- 8.5 \_\_\_ Participation Guidelines and Consensus-Building Process Agreements.
- 9.1 \_\_\_ Presentation on the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative.
- 8.7 \_\_\_ Questionnaire Results for Looking Back and Looking Around CAB Review.
- 8.1 \_\_\_ Questionnaire Results for Critical Issues and Challenges CAB Review.
- 8.0 \_\_\_ CAB Goal Statement Discussion and Rating.
- 8.0 \_\_\_ Looking Ahead—Vision Themes Discussion and Rating.
- 8.6 \_\_\_ Next Steps, Schedule and Assignments Discussion.

#### 3. PLEASE TELL US HOW WELL THE FACILITATOR HELPED THE PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE IN THE MEETING.

- 9.4 \_\_\_ The members followed the direction of the Facilitator.
- 9.4 \_\_\_ The Facilitator made sure the concerns of all members were heard.
- 9.6 \_\_\_ The Facilitator helped us arrange our time well.
- 9.5 \_\_\_ Participant input was documented accurately in the meeting.

#### 4. PLEASE TELL US YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THE MEETING?

- 8.7 \_\_\_ Overall, I am very satisfied with the meeting.
- 9.3 \_\_\_ I was very satisfied with the services provided by the Facilitator.
- 8.5 \_\_\_ I am satisfied with the outcome of the meeting.

#### 5. PLEASE TELL US HOW WELL THE NEXT STEPS WERE COMMUNICATED?

- 8.9 \_\_\_ I know what the next steps following this meeting will be.
- 9.1 \_\_\_ I know who is responsible for the next steps.

#### 6. WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE MEETING?

- Organized
- Organization
- Well organized
- Organization and flow of conversation
- Run efficiently, inclusive and sought and accepted input from everyone
- Good group of folks
- Lots of participation
- Willing participants
- Laying the groundwork
- Presentation on science
- ABSI project presentation
- Background presentation
- Review of Questionnaire
- Finished ahead of schedule, kidding but nice
- Public comments

#### **7. HOW COULD THE MEETING HAVE BEEN IMPROVED?**

- Some key folks not here
- Wish everyone would have come. Full participation would have been great for the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting,
- More focus on the shared vision
- More in depth discussion on goals, ask difficult
- More background information on the Bay
- The “issues” and “goal development” statement development and discussion was a little too fast. People were trying to digest info and people were slipping behind. Difficult to follow.
- Maybe spend a little more time on the research component
- What is going on the rest of the country?
- More input from the public, maybe more advertising of the meeting so more people could attend
- Better sound system
- Better sound system, hard to hear all comments
- Room AC is set too low

#### **8. OTHER COMMENTS?**

- Thanks for getting us started

**APPENDIX #4 PROJECT SCHEDULE & WORKPLAN** *Meetings Dates are Subject to Change*

<b>ABSI CAB DRAFT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN</b>		
<b>STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABSI CAB</b>		
Meeting I.	Oct. 30, 2019	Scoping and organizational meeting, review and refinement of overall project purpose, vision and goal framework.
Meeting. II	Dec. 18, 2019 Wed.	Introduction to decision-support tools and member requested presentations. Review and refinement of vision themes and goal framework.
Meeting III.	Jan. 8, 2020	Member requested presentations. Review and refinement of vision themes and goal framework continued
<b>SCOPING OF ABSI ISSUES, IDENTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES &amp; OPTIONS</b>		
Meeting IV.	Mar. 11, 2020	Identification of decision-support tools options, review of performance measures and identification of policy issues, review of Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan outline.
Meeting V.	May 6, 2020	Review of decision-support tools scenarios and consensus rating of options and policy Issues. Review and agreement on draft Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan. Public Workshop Draft.
Meeting VI.	July 8, 2020	Review and agreement on draft Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan. Public Workshop Draft.
Public Workshop 1	August 2020	Review of Vision, Goal Framework, Plan outline, issues & options.
<b>BUILDING CONSENSUS ON ABS OYSTER ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>		
Meeting VII.	Sept. 9, 2020	Review of public comments on Draft Plan, review of decision-support tools scenario results and consensus rating of options, draft performance measures, and identification of policy issues.
Meeting VIII.	Nov. 4, 2020	Review of Draft Plan, recommendations on policy issues, decision-support tools scenario results, and consensus rating of options.
<b>FINALIZING CONSENSUS ON ABS OYSTER ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>		
Meeting IX.	Jan. 13, 2021	Review and consensus testing of Draft Plan and recommendations on policy issues.
Meeting X.	TBD	Review and consensus testing of Draft Plan and implementation guidance and agreement on Workshop Draft Plan.
Public Workshop 2	TBD	Review of GPBS Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan and implementation guidance.
Meeting IX.	TBD	Review of public comment, refinement and consensus on the GPBS Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan, and implementation guidance.

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

## APPENDIX #5 ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

### COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD OPERATING ASSUMPTIONS AND PRINCIPLES, AND PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

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

- ✓ All voices are invited, respected and heard.
- ✓ All experiences are treated as valid.
- ✓ Notes are captured in writing, on flip charts or on computers.
- ✓ We listen to each other.
- ✓ We observe time frames.
- ✓ We seek common ground and action.
- ✓ Differences and problems are honored—not “worked”.
- ✓ There is full and active attendance.
- ✓ We make the time and space to connect with each other.

#### THE FACILITATORS WILL SEEK TO:

- ✓ Structure and facilitate a process that will enable us to discover and build on our best moments and practices as stakeholders in the ABS.
- ✓ Keep us informed of established parameters for time and tasks.
- ✓ Support and facilitate Community Advisory Board discussions.
- ✓ Create the environment that helps people to be at their best.
- ✓ Keep purpose front and center.
- ✓ Suggest and encourage new ways of thinking and doing.
- ✓ Keep us focused and on track.
- ✓ Start and stop on time.

#### COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS WILL:

- ✓ Participate actively and share opinions in the conversation—engage fully in this process.
- ✓ Tell stories, provide information—make meaning.
- ✓ Experiment & take risks to share, while engaging in conversation with others.
- ✓ Actively contribute to the creation of a shared vision, and management and restoration strategies for a healthy and sustainable Oyster Fishery and ABS Ecosystem.
- ✓ Listen actively, attentively, respectfully.
- ✓ Demonstrate caring . . . about the ABS and our dialogue.
- ✓ Take responsibility . . . for the conversation and the ideas developed here.
- ✓ Be here for the entire Community Advisory Board process, be on time, and be *here* while you’re here.
- ✓ Refrain from using electronic devices during the Community Advisory Board meetings—keep all electronic devices turned off or in a silent mode; your participation is valued.
- ✓ Be willing to reach consensus.

#### COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS’ ROLE



- ✓ The Community Advisory Board 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.
- ✓ Look to the Facilitator to be recognized. Please raise your name tent or hand 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"*.
- ✓ To the extent possible, offer options to address other's concerns, as well as your own.
- ✓ Participate fully in discussions, and complete meeting assignments as requested.

### **ABSI PROJECT RESEARCH TEAM'S ROLE**

- ✓ Provide science-based research and information as requested by Community Advisory Board members and facilitators.
- ✓ Consult with stakeholders and provide guidance in using tools and objective science to analyze proposed options.
- ✓ Use best available tools and science to analyze options in response to stakeholder input.
- ✓ Organize meeting logistics and provide relevant documents for use during meetings.
- ✓ Attend all CAB meetings.
- ✓ The ABSIs Project Team will deliver a project report that will include the results and products of the Community Advisory Board to managers, regulators, and other agencies as appropriate for consideration in its planning for management and restoration of the oyster fishery and ABS ecosystem.

### **FACILITATOR'S ROLE**

- ✓ Design, facilitate and report on a collaborative Community Advisory Board process.
- ✓ Assist the Community Advisory Board members to build understanding and consensus on action recommendations.
- ✓ Provide process design and procedural guidance to members.
- ✓ Assist members to stay focused and on task.
- ✓ Assure that participants follow *Community Advisory Board Participation Guidelines*.
- ✓ Accurately and fairly capture summary of key discussion points during the Community Advisory Board meetings.

### **GUIDELINES FOR BRAINSTORMING**

- ✓ Offer one idea per person without explanation.
- ✓ No comments, criticism, or discussion of other's ideas.
- ✓ Listen respectfully to other's ideas and opinions.
- ✓ Seek understanding and not agreement during this phase of identifying issues or options.

### **THE NAME STACKING PROCESS**

- ✓ Determines the speaking order.
- ✓ Participant raises hand to speak during CAB meetings. Facilitator will call on participants in turn.

- ✓ Facilitator may interrupt the stack (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.

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD CONSENSUS-BUILDING PROCEDURES

### DEFINITIONS

**Consensus** is a **Process**, an **Attitude** and an **Outcome**. Consensus processes have the potential of producing better quality, more informed and better-supported outcomes.

As a **Process**, consensus is a problem solving approach in which all members:

- Jointly share, clarify and distinguish their concerns;
- Educate each other on substantive issues;
- Jointly develop alternatives to address concerns; and then
- Seek to adopt recommendations everyone can embrace or at least live with.

In a consensus process, members should be able to honestly say:

- I believe that other members understand my point of view;
- I believe I understand other members' points of view; and
- Whether or not I prefer this decision, I support it because it was arrived at openly and fairly and because it is the best solution we can achieve at this time.

Consensus as an **Attitude** means that each member commits to work toward agreements that meet their own and other member needs and interests so that all can support the outcome.

Consensus as an **Outcome** means that agreement on decisions is reached by all members or by a significant majority of members after a process of active problem solving. In a consensus outcome, the level of enthusiasm for the agreement may not be the same among all members on any issue, but on balance all should be able to live with the overall package.

Levels of consensus on a committee outcome can include a mix of:

- Participants who strongly support the solution;
- Participants who can "live with" the solution; and
- Some participants who do not support the solution but agree not to veto it.

For Community Advisory Board purposes, **consensus recommendations** shall be defined as any option/recommendation achieving a 75% or greater number of 4s and 3s in proportion to 2s and 1s based on the results of all members present and voting.

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD CONSENSUS-BUILDING PROCEDURES

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 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 facilitators. Techniques such as brainstorming, ranking and prioritizing approaches will be utilized. The Community Advisory Board's consensus process will be conducted as a facilitated consensus-building process. Community Advisory Board members, project staff, and facilitators 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 facilitators, or a Community Advisory Board member through the facilitators, 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 on the public comment forms provided will be included in the facilitators' summary reports.

Facilitators will work with the ABSI project team and Community Advisory Board members to design agendas that will be both efficient and effective. The ABSI project team will help the Community Advisory Board with information and meeting logistics.

To enhance the possibility of constructive discussions as members educate themselves on the issues and engage in consensus-building, members agree to refrain from public statements that may prejudice the outcome of the Community Advisory Board's consensus process. In discussing the Community Advisory Board process with the media, members agree to be careful to present only their own views and not the views or statements of other participants. In addition, in order to provide balance to the Community Advisory Board process, members agree to represent and consult with their stakeholder interest groups.

## **ACCEPTABILITY RATING SCALE FOR OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

During an early meeting Community Advisory Board members will be asked to propose an initial suite of options to address each of the Key Topical Issues in turn. During subsequent meeting(s) Community Advisory Board members will be asked to review existing proposed options and will be invited to propose any additional options for Community Advisory Board consideration, and

subsequently to rate the options for acceptability. In addition, following discussion and refinement of options, members may be asked to do additional ratings of proposed options if requested by a Community Advisory Board member or project team member. Members should be prepared to offer specific refinements to address their reservations.

Once rated for acceptability, options(s) with a 75% or greater number of 4s and 3s in proportion to 2s and 1s will be considered preliminary consensus recommendations for inclusion in the final package of recommendations.

At any point during the process, any option may be re-evaluated and rated at the request of any Community Advisory Board member. The status of a rated option will not be final until the final Community Advisory Board meeting, when a vote will be taken on the entire package of consensus ranked recommendations.

The following scale will be utilized for acceptability rating exercises:

<b>Acceptability Rating Scale</b>	<b>4 = Acceptable, I agree</b>	<b>3 = Acceptable, I agree with <i>minor reservations</i></b>	<b>2 = Not Acceptable, I don't agree unless <i>major reservations</i> addressed</b>	<b>1 = Not Acceptable</b>
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