APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)

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

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

PHASE IV SCOPING MEETING

MEETING I PHASE IV — WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022 — 8:30 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION OPTION VIA ZOOM: https://fsu.zoom.us/j/96687168909
MEETING ID: 966 8716 8909 — PHONE NUMBER: 646.558.8656

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD PHASE IV MEETING I OBJECTIVES
✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda and Summary Report) ✓ To Review Phase IV Scope of Work and Goals ✓ To Receive Presentation on Collaborative Modeling and Phase IV CAB Process ✓ To Receive Briefings on Project Predicative Models ✓ To Identify Next Steps: Information, Presentations, Assignments, Agenda Items for Next Meeting

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD PHASE IV MEETING I AGENDA — JANUARY 26, 2022		
All Agenda Times—Including Public Comment and Adjournment—Are Approximate and Subject to Change		
1.)	**8:30 AM**	**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**
2.)	**8:35**	**SOCIAL SCIENCE SURVEY**
3.)	**8:40**	**AGENDA REVIEW AND MEETING OBJECTIVES**
4.)	**8:45**	**APPROVAL OF FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY REPORT (NOV. 16, 2021 MEETING)**
5.)	**8:50**	**REVIEW OF PHASE IV PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND SCOPE OF WORK AND GOALS FOR PHASE IV**
6.)	**9:15**	**COLLABORATIVE MODELING AND CAB PHASE IV PROCESS PRESENTATION** • *Collaborative Modeling Principles and CAB Process.* Jeff Blair, Facilitated Solutions. (20) • *Question and Answers*
~9:45 AM		***BREAK***
7.)	**10:00**	**PREDICATIVE MODELS AND INITIAL ASSUMPTIONS BRIEFING** • *Ecological Model Update and Assumptions.* Ed Camp, UF. (20) • *River Flow Model Update and Assumptions.* Steve Leitman, FSU. (20) • *Hydrodynamic Model Update and Assumptions.* Steve Morey, FAMU. (20) • *Riverine Model Update and Assumptions.* Ken Jones, Rhumbline Consultants. (20) • *Questions and Answers*
8.)	**~12:00 PM**	**PUBLIC COMMENT**
9.)	**~12:10**	**NEXT STEPS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING** • Review of action items and assignments

		• Identify agenda items and needed information and presentations for the March 30, 2022 CAB meeting • Meeting evaluation
~12:15 PM		***ADJOURN***

PROJECT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

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

PROJECT EMAIL: fsucml-absi@fsu.edu

PROJECT FACILITATION: Jeff Blair of Facilitated Solutions, LLC.
Information at: http://facilitatedsolutions.org.

ABSI CAB ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL POLICES AND GUIDELINES:
Located under the ABSI CAB Procedures and Reports Menu: https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION	
MEMBER	**AFFILIATION**
AGRICULTURE/ACF STAKEHOLDERS/RIPARIAN COUNTIES	
1. Chad Taylor^	Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition/ACF Stakeholders/Agriculture
BUSINESS/REAL ESTATE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TOURISM	
2. Chuck Marks	Business (Insurance Industry)
3. Mike O'Connell*	SGI Civic Club/SGI 2025 Vision
4. John Solomon	Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce
ENVIRONMENTAL/CITIZEN GROUPS	
5. Georgia Ackerman^*#	Apalachicola Riverkeeper
6. Lee Edmiston	Citizen and Retired DEP/ANERR
7. Chad Hanson^*#	The Pew Charitable Trusts
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
8. Bert Boldt^	Franklin County Commissioner
9. Anita Grove^*#	Apalachicola City Commissioner
RECREATIONAL FISHING	
10. Chip Bailey	Peregrine Charters
11. Frank Gidus	CCA Florida
SEAFOOD INDUSTRY	
12. Shannon Hartsfield^	Seafood Management Assistance, Resource Recovery Team (SMARRT)/Oysterman
13. Gayle Johnson	Apalachicola Oyster Company
14. Roger Mathis^	Oysterman and Seafood Dealer (R.D.'s Seafood)
15. Steve Rash^	Water Street Seafood
16. TJ Ward	Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood
STATE GOVERNMENT	
17. Jenna Harper#	ANERR/DEP
18. Jim Estes^#	FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management
19. Katie Konchar#	FWC Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
20. Alex Reed#	FDEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection
21. Portia Sapp#	FDACS Division of Aquaculture
22. Paul Thurman#	NWFWMD
UNIVERSITY/RESEARCHERS/SCIENTISTS	
23. Mike Allen	Scientist: Director of UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station (NCBS)
24. Erik Lovestrand#	UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant/Franklin County Extension
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES	
* Community Outreach Subcommittee	Lead: Chad Hanson*
^ CAB Successor Group Subcommittee	Co-Leads: Anita Grove^ and Shannon Hartsfield^
# Restoration Funding Working Group	Lead: Joel Trexler#
PROJECT TEAM AND FACILITATOR	
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	
Sandra Brooke*	Marine Biologist
Ross Ellington	Professor Emeritus of Biological Science
Madelein Mahood*	Outreach and Education
Gary Ostrander	Former Vice-President for Research
Joel Trexler^#	FSUCML Director
Rachel Walsh*	Outreach and Education
FACILITATED SOLUTIONS, LLC	
Jeff Blair	Community Advisory Board Facilitator

ABSI CAB Project Schedule and Workplan

Updated As Of The 26 January 2022 CAB Meeting

Phase I (2019) — Standing up and Organization of the ABSI CAB — Status Complete

May 2019 – December 2019 (Assessment Process, Questionnaire, and 2 CAB Meetings)

Phase II (2020) — Scoping of Issues, Identification of Performance Measures & Strategies — Status Complete ***Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2020 (7 CAB Meeting & 1 Oystermen's Workshop)***

Phase III (2021) — Building Consensus on CAB Recommendations for the ABS Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan

Adoption of Final Draft Management and Restoration Plan Framework for Phase IV evaluation — Status Complete

Jan. 2021 – Nov. 2021 (7 CAB Meeting & 2 Oystermen's Workshops)

Phase IV (2022) — Evaluation of the Draft Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan Prioritized Strategies, Restoration Projects Selection and Implementation, and Funding Planning ***Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2022 (6 CAB Meetings, Public Workshops – TBD)***

1. **Community Advisory Board (CAB).** CAB initiates Phase IV and works on evaluating the best combination of strategies that will achieve management and restoration objectives for the Bay using decision support tools and available data. The CAB vets recommendations with management and restoration agencies. The CAB evaluates the priority and efficacy of strategies and actions and identifies specific recommended restoration projects and management approaches.

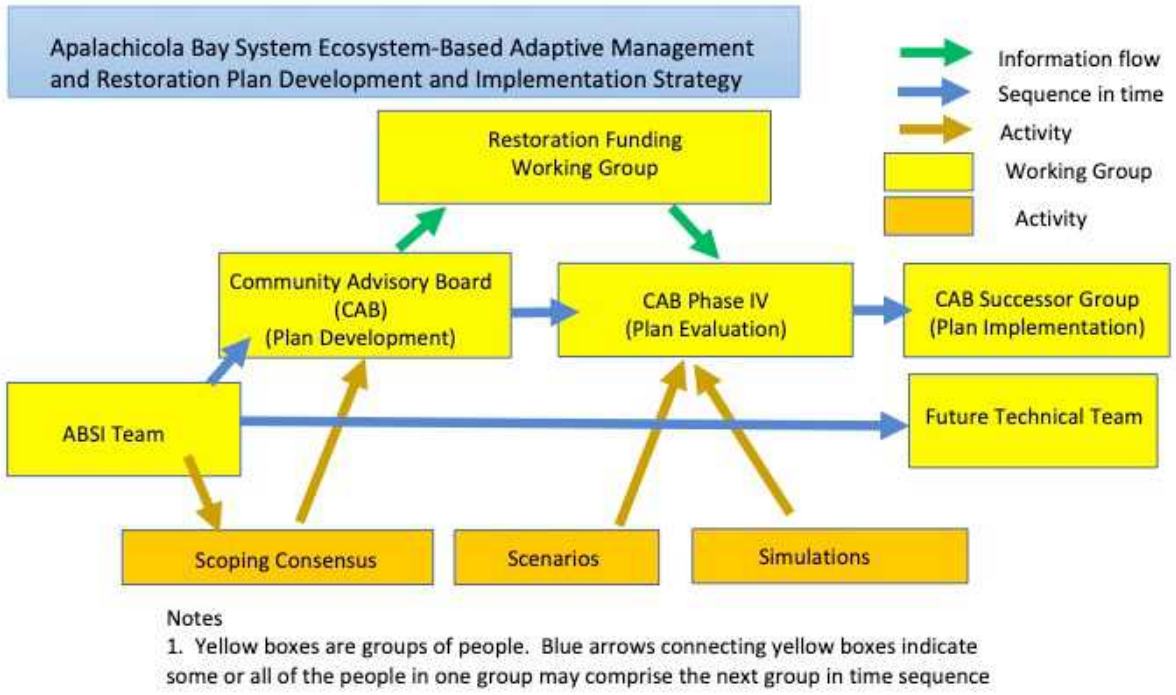
   Public Engagement in 2022. The CAB will initiate a community feedback initiative by soliciting and reviewing community input on the Plan Framework. The CAB will vet the results of their prioritized strategies with the larger ABS community through a questionnaire administered through a variety of methods including Facebook, online via the ABSI website, and direct mailings. In addition, public workshops will be held either in-person or virtually depending on the COVID-19 pandemic status.

2. **Restoration Funding Working Group (RFWG).** The Restoration Funding Working Group's role is to seek funding to implement the CAB's priority recommendations. The RFWG will be in place in early 2022.

3. **CAB Successor Group.** The CAB Successor Group will be ready to convene when the CAB completes their work on the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan. The Successor Group's role will be to organize a group of key stakeholders committed to working collaboratively for the long-term, and once the CAB process is complete (~June 2024), to ensure that the Plan is implemented, monitored, and adaptively managed over time and has the support of the Community.

Meeting I. Virtual	**Jan. 26, 2022** • Review of Predictive Models	Initiation of Phase IV of project. Discussion on scope and goals for Phase IV. Briefing on collaborative modeling and CAB process for Phase IV. Briefing/update on predicative models. Public Comment.
Meeting II. ANERR TBD	**Mar. 30, 2022** • Discussion with FWC on Management Strategies	Member-requested presentations and science and data collection update. Sub-committee reports. Briefing/update on decision support tools (in addition to the predictive models). Comprehensive review and discussion on draft management approaches (strategies) with FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management. Public Engagement Initiative strategy and plan discussion. Public comment.
Meeting III. ANERR TBD	**May 25, 2022** • Strategies Refinements • Discussion with FDACS on Management Strategies	Member-requested presentations, and science and data collection and decision support tools update. Sub-committee reports. Comprehensive review and discussion on draft management approaches (strategies) with FDACS Division of Aquaculture. Review and discussion of model simulation results for initial priority Habitat Restoration (Goal A) and Fisheries Management (Goal B) strategies. Agreement on next suite of strategies for model simulations. Public Engagement Initiative results review. Public comment.
Meeting IV. ANERR TBD	**July 27, 2022** • Strategies Refinements • Discussion with FWC/DEP/ANERR on Restoration Strategies	Member-requested presentations, and science and data collection and decision support tools update. Sub-committee reports. Comprehensive review and discussion on draft restoration approaches (strategies) with FWC Division of Habitat and Species Conservation/ANERR/DEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection. Review and discussion of model simulation results for initial priority Habitat Restoration (Goal A) and Fisheries Management (Goal B) strategies. Agreement on next suite of strategies for model simulations. Public Engagement Initiative results review. Public comment.
Meeting V. ANERR TBD	**Sept. 28, 2022** • Strategies Refinements • Discussion with SAB on Restoration and Management Strategies	Member-requested presentations, and science and data collection and decision support tools update. Sub-committee reports. Comprehensive review and discussion on draft restoration and management approaches (strategies) with Science Advisory Board. Review and discussion of model simulation results for initial priority Habitat Restoration (Goal A) and Fisheries Management (Goal B) strategies. Agreement on next suite of strategies for model simulations. Public Engagement Initiative results review. Public comment.
Meeting VI. ANERR TBD	**Nov. 30, 2022** • Strategies Refinements	Member-requested presentations, and science and data collection and decision support tools update. Sub-committee reports. Review and discussion of model simulation results for initial priority Habitat Restoration (Goal A) and Fisheries Management (Goal B) strategies. Agreement on next suite of strategies for model simulations. Public Engagement Initiative results review. Public comment.

ABSI CAB Process Flowchart and Project Area Map



ABSI Project Area Map

ABSI MISSION STATEMENT, PROJECT SUMMARY, AND CAB GOAL STATEMENT

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE MISSION STATEMENT. The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) seeks to gain insight into the root causes of decline of the Bay's ecosystem and the deterioration of oyster reefs. Ultimately, the ABSI will develop a management and restoration plan for the oyster reefs and the health of the Bay.

PROJECT SUMMARY. In response to the rapidly declining health of the Apalachicola Bay System (ABS) and the collapse of the oyster fishery and reefs therein, Florida State University sought and was awarded a grant from Triumph Gulf Coast Inc. to undertake a series of scientific approaches intended to aid in the development of an ecosystem-based oyster management and restoration plan for the Apalachicola Bay System. The plan will be informed by science while involving representative stakeholders and the public in its creation, development and implementation by state and federal management agencies. Developing such a plan will help the state agencies responsible for marine resources improve the overall health and the rich biological diversity of the bay, including that of other ecologically and economically important species. Because oyster populations are declining in estuaries across the Florida panhandle, ABSI project leads will work with scientific, non-profit and governmental entities working on similar issues throughout this region to develop a consistent oyster management framework.

The vitality of Apalachicola Bay is key to the socio-economic prosperity of Franklin County and the surrounding area. Specifically, as the bay's health has declined, so has the area's once-booming oyster industry, resulting in widespread job loss and increased economic insecurity for many Franklin County residents whose livelihoods are tied to the Bay.

Florida State University through its Coastal and Marine Laboratory is investigating what precipitated the dramatic decline of the Apalachicola Bay System, and working with the ABSI Community Advisory Board (CAB) and Science Advisory Board determine a viable course of action for improving its condition.

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD GOAL STATEMENT. The overarching goal of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Community Advisory Board is to develop a package of consensus recommendations informed by the best available science, data, and stakeholders' experiences for the management and restoration of the Apalachicola Bay System, and to ensure there is a reliable mechanism and process for the monitoring, funding, and implementation of the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan.

A critical component of the management plan is oyster reef restoration with full consideration of factors affecting the biology, ecology and sustainable management of the resource. Restoration related actions, as indicated above, should be informed by the best available science and shared stakeholder values, that in turn, result in an economically viable, healthy, and sustainable Apalachicola Bay System.

The process is designed so that members can explore and evaluate oyster fishery practices and management options, and restoration policies in the Apalachicola Bay System. The Community Advisory Board's consensus recommendations, in the form of an Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan, will be directed to the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Project Team, natural resource managers and environmental regulators, and other agencies/entities as appropriate.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD CONSENSUS BUILDING PROCESS (ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY OCTOBER 30, 2019)

The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) Community Advisory Board (CAB) will seek consensus on its recommendations for options to be evaluated using the best available science and decision-support tools for management and restoration of the Apalachicola Bay System (ABS).

General consensus is a participatory process whereby, on matters of substance, the members strive for agreements which all of the members can accept, support, live with or agree not to oppose. In instances where, after vigorously exploring possible ways to enhance the members' support for the final package of recommendations, and the Community Advisory Board finds that 100% acceptance or support is not achievable, final consensus recommendations will require at least 75% favorable vote of all members present and voting. This super majority decision rule underscores the importance of actively developing consensus throughout the process on substantive issues with the participation of all members and which all can live with.

In instances where the Community Advisory Board finds that even 75% acceptance or support is not achievable, publication of recommendations will include documentation of the differences and the options that were considered for which there is more than 50% support from the Community Advisory Board. The report that will be a product of the Community Advisory Board process will clearly describe the level of agreement between Community Advisory Board members on each specific recommendation as well as on the suite of recommendations as a whole.

The Community Advisory Board will develop its recommendations using consensus-building techniques with the assistance of the facilitator. Techniques such as brainstorming, ranking and prioritizing approaches will be utilized. The Community Advisory Board's consensus process will be conducted as a neutrally facilitated consensus-building process. Community Advisory Board members, project staff, and the facilitator will be the only participants seated at the table. Only Community Advisory Board members may participate in discussions and vote on proposals and recommendations. The facilitator, or a Community Advisory Board member through the facilitator, may request specific clarification from a member of the public in order to assist the Community Advisory Board in understanding an issue. Observers/members of the public are welcome to speak during the public comment period provided at each meeting, and all comments submitted in writing will be included in the next meeting's facilitator's summary report.