APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)

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

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

PHASE IV MEETING II — WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022 — 8:30 AM

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

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD PHASE IV MEETING II OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda and Summary Report)
- ✓ To Review Updated Workplan and Meeting Schedule
- ✓ To Receive Project Briefings and Updates
- ✓ To Receive Reports from RFWG, Community Outreach, and CAB Successor Group
- ✓ To Discuss and Approve Community Outreach Plan
- ✓ To Provide Guidance for Development of Ecological Model and Discussion with FWC on Management
- ✓ To Identify Next Steps: Information, Presentations, Assignments, Agenda Items for Next Meeting

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD PHASE IV MEETING II AGENDA — 30 MARCH 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 (JAN. 26, 2022)**
5.)	**8:50**	**REVIEW OF UPDATED PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN**
6.)	**9:00**	**PROJECT BRIEFING** *ABSI Science and Data Collection Update.* Sandra Brooke, FSUCML (15)
7.)	**9:15**	**WORKING GROUP AND SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES** • *Restoration Funding Working Group Update.* Joel Trexler (5) • *Community Outreach Subcommittee Update.* Chad Hanson (5) • *Successor Group Subcommittee Update.* Anita Grove and Shannon Hartsfield (5)
~9:45 AM		***BREAK***
8.)	**10:00**	**COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN DISCUSSION**
9.)	**10:30**	**GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL (OYSTER) MODEL AND DISCUSSION WITH FWC ON MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**
~12:00 PM		***LUNCH — ON CAMPUS***
9.)	**12:30**	**GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL (OYSTER) MODEL AND DISCUSSION WITH FWC ON MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES — *CONTINUED***
10.)	**~2:30 PM**	**PUBLIC COMMENT**

11.)	**~2:50**	**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 May 25, 2022 CAB Meeting • Meeting Evaluation
~3:00 PM		***ADJOURN***

PROJECT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

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

PROJECT EMAIL: fsucml-absi@fsu.edu

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

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

ABSI CAB RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT
Located under the ABSI CAB Framework Adopted 16 November 2022 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. Chad Hanson^*#	The Pew Charitable Trusts
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
7. Bert Boldt^	Franklin County Commissioner
8. Anita Grove^*#	Apalachicola City Commissioner
RECREATIONAL FISHING	
9. Frank Gidus	CCA Florida
SEAFOOD INDUSTRY	
10. Shannon Hartsfield^	Seafood Management Assistance, Resource Recovery Team (SMARRT)-Oysterman
11. Gayle Johnson	Apalachicola Oyster Company
12. Roger Mathis^	Oysterman and Seafood Dealer (R.D.'s Seafood)
13. Steve Rash^	Water Street Seafood
14. TJ Ward	Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood
STATE GOVERNMENT	
15. Jenna Harper#	ANERR/DEP
16. Jim Estes^#	FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management
17. Katie Konchar#	FWC Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
18. Alex Reed#	FDEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection
19. Portia Sapp#	FDACS Division of Aquaculture
20. Paul Thurman#	NWFWMD
UNIVERSITY/RESEARCHERS/SCIENTISTS	
21. Mike Allen	Scientist: Director of UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station (NCBS)
22. Erik Lovestrand#	UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant/Franklin County Extension

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUP	
* Community Outreach Subcommittee	Lead: Chad Hanson*
# Restoration Funding Working Group	Lead: Joel Trexler#
^ Successor Group Subcommittee	Co-Leads: Anita Grove^ and Shannon Hartsfield^

PROJECT TEAM AND CAB FACILITATOR	
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	
Sandra Brooke*	Marine Biologist
Ross Ellington	Professor Emeritus of Biological Science
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 Draft Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan Framework's Restoration and Management Strategies, Restoration Projects Selection and Implementation, and Funding Planning — *Status Initiated*

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 restoration and management objectives for the Bay using decision support tools including predictive models coupled with available and emerging data and research. The CAB vets recommendations with restoration and management 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 working through its Community Outreach Subcommittee 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 multiple formats including 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 in-person and/or virtually depending on the COVID-19 pandemic status.

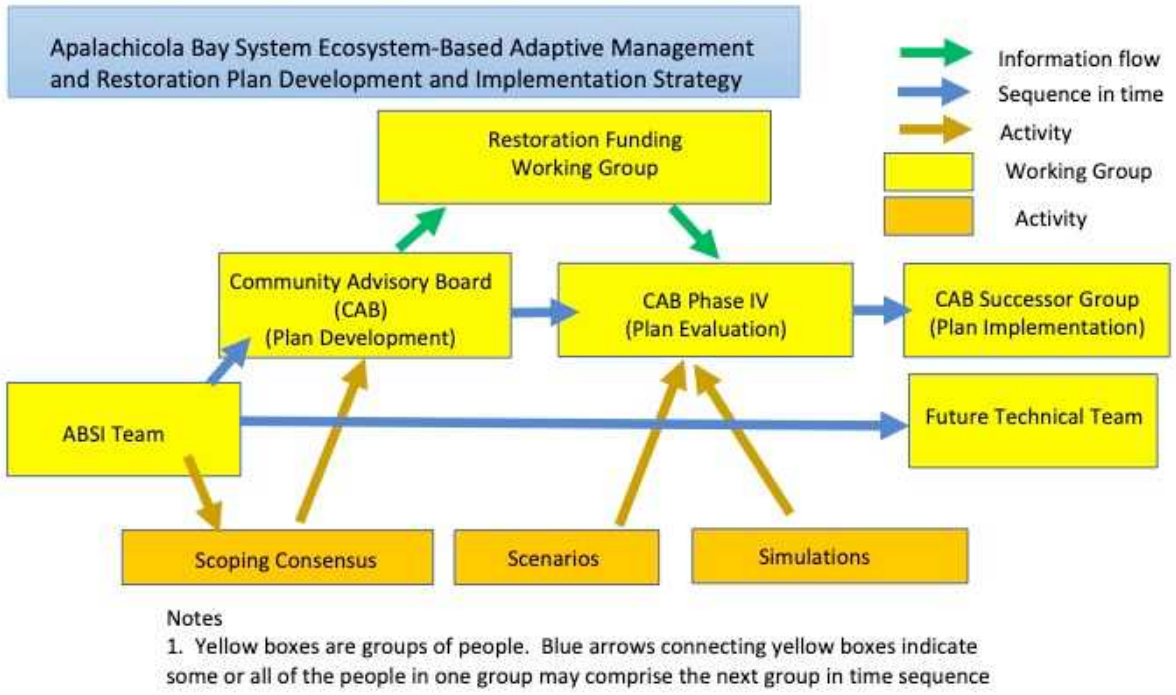
2. **Restoration Funding Working Group (RFWG).** Initiated in late 2021 the Restoration Funding Working Group's role is to seek resources and political, governmental, and organizational support for the CAB's priority recommendations.

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 ABSI. Overview of scope and goals for Phase IV. Briefing on collaborative modeling and CAB process for Phase IV. Briefing on ABSI predicative models (Ecological/Oyster, Hydrologic, Hydrodynamic, and Riverine). Public Comment.
Meeting II. ANERR	**Mar. 30, 2022** • Ecological (Oyster) Model Guidance	ABSI Science and data collection update. Sub-committee reports. Public Engagement Initiative strategy and plan discussion. Guidance regarding restoration and management

	• Management Strategies discussion with FWC	scenarios and performance measures for development of the Ecological (Oyster) Model. Comprehensive review and discussion on draft management strategies with FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management. Public comment.
Meeting III. ANERR	**May 25, 2022** • Model Simulation Results & Scenarios Refinements • Discussion with FDACS on Management Strategies	Member-requested presentations, and ABSI science and data collection and decision support tools update. Sub-committee reports. Review and discussion on draft management approaches (strategies) with FDACS Division of Aquaculture on harvest/closure areas. 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 scenarios for model simulations. Public Engagement Initiative results review. Public comment.
Meeting IV. ANERR	**July 27, 2022** • Model Simulation Results & Scenarios Refinements • Discussion with FWC/DEP/ANERR on Restoration Strategies	Member-requested presentations, and ABSI 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 scenarios for model simulations. Public Engagement Initiative results review. Public comment.
Meeting V. ANERR	**Sept. 28, 2022** • Model Simulation Results & Scenarios Refinements	Member-requested presentations, and ABSI 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 scenarios for model simulations. Public Engagement Initiative results review. Public comment.
Meeting VI. ANERR	**Nov. 30, 2022** • Model Simulation Results & Scenarios Refinements	Member-requested presentations, and ABSI 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 scenarios for model simulations. Public Engagement Initiative results review. Public comment.

ABSI CAB Process Flowchart and Project Area Map



Notes
1. Yellow boxes are groups of people. Blue arrows connecting yellow boxes indicate some or all of the people in one group may comprise the next group in time sequence

ABSI Project Area Map

ABSI Mission Statement, Project Summary, and CAB Goal Statement

Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Mission Statement. The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) seeks to gain insight into the root causes of decline of the Bay's ecosystem and the deterioration of oyster reefs. Ultimately, the 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.

GLOSSARY OF MODELING TERMS

Assumptions – A description of the world that is accepted as true and is based on common knowledge or theory but not on proof.

Baseline – Model output that is used as a starting point for comparison with other sets of model output.

Calibration – Process of adjusting model inputs or parameters to obtain optimal agreement between model output and observations (data).

Circulation/Hydrodynamic Model – A mathematical tool that calculates water currents and water properties (like salinity and temperature).

Data Gap – The lack of data or information necessary for a given scientific study.

Data Set – A collection of observations or measurements.

Deviation – The difference between a data point and a model prediction.

Hypothesis – An idea that can be tested.

Larval Transport – The movement of oyster larvae in the water.

Model – A series of mathematical equations that describes, with great simplification, how a part of the world works.

Model Output/Model Result – A solution or a set of solutions obtained from a model simulation.

Performance Measure/Metric – A number used to indicate the effectiveness of an option for achieving a desired outcome.

Population Dynamics – The growth, death, and reproduction of individuals over time that leads to increase, decrease, persistence or extinction of a population.

Simulations – Repeated runs of a model using different inputs (e.g., different options).

Uncertainty – A way to represent how likely model predictions are given the inherent variability in the environment and the difference between model output and observations.

Validation – Comparison of model output with a set of independent data to determine the degree of confidence in model results.

Water Quality – Describes the physical, chemical, biological, and aesthetic characteristics of water and is a measure used to determine the suitability of water for a specific purpose (e.g., drinking, fishing, swimming, etc.).

GLOSSARY OF ABSI PROJECT TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM: Consists of six bays: Apalachicola Bay, East Bay, St Vincent Sound, East and West St George Sound, and Alligator Harbor comprising a total of 155,374 acres (62,879 Ha). Confined to Franklin County and ending to the north at river mile zero (0). Important considerations include riverine and offshore inputs to the ABS as well as the reciprocal influences of outputs from the ABS to the Gulf of Mexico.

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM, HEALTHY:
A healthy ecosystem is one in which material and energy flows are balanced through interacting biological, physical, and chemical processes (involving microorganisms, plants, animals, sunlight, air, water) that conserve diversity, support fully functional evolutionary and ecological processes, and sustain a range of ecological and ecosystem services.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: The direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human wellbeing. These services include **provisioning services** (food, raw materials, fresh water, medicinal resources), **regulating services** (climate, air quality, carbon sequestration & storage, moderation of extreme events, waste water treatment, erosion prevention & maintenance of soil fertility), **habitat or supporting services** (habitat for all species, maintenance of genetic diversity), and **cultural services** (recreation for mental & physical health; tourism; aesthetic appreciation and inspiration for culture, art & design; spiritual experience & sense of place).

ESTUARINE METRICS: These are variables that can be measured and used to assess the benefits or impacts of the different upstream management and climate scenarios that influence freshwater flow into the ABS.

GOAL: A goal is a statement of the project's purpose to move towards the vision expressed in fairly broad language.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: The Community Advisory Board's Guiding Principles reflect the broad values and philosophy that guides the operation of the Community Advisory Board and the behavior of its members throughout its process and in all circumstances regardless of changes in its goals, strategies or membership.

OBJECTIVE: Objectives describe in concrete terms how to accomplish the goal to achieve the vision within a specific timeframe and with available resources. *(E.g., by 2023, the State of Florida will have approved a stakeholder developed Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan for the Apalachicola Bay System.")*

OUTCOME: Outcomes describe the expected result at the end of the project period – what is hoped to be achieved when the goal is accomplished. (*E.g., an ecologically, and economically viable, healthy and sustainable Apalachicola Bay System oyster fishery and ecosystem*)

OYSTER RESOURCES: Sources of oysters that provide natural and cultural benefits to humans. These sources can come from the wild or from aquaculture (see ecosystem services). The responsible management of oyster resources for present-day needs and future generations requires integrated approaches that are place-based, embrace systems thinking, and incorporate the social, economic, and environmental considerations of sustainability.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: The regular measurement of outcomes and results, which generates reliable data on the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of programs and plans.

RESTORATION: The process of establishing or re-establishing a habitat that in time can come to closely resemble a natural condition in terms of structure and function.

STAKEHOLDERS: All interest groups whether public, private or non-governmental organizations who have an interest or concern in the success of a project, and can affect or be affected by the outcome of any decision or activity of the project. For purposes of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative, stakeholders include but are not limited to: agriculture, silviculture, business, real estate, economic development, tourism, environmental, citizen groups, recreational fishing, commercial seafood industry, regional groups (i.e., ACF Stakeholders, and Riparian Counties), local government, state government, federal government, universities, and research interests.

STRATEGY: A method, action, plan of action, or policy that can be tested to determine whether it solves a problem and helps to achieve objectives and goals in the context of bringing about a desired future for the Apalachicola Bay System.

VISION: An idealized view of where or what the stakeholders would like the oyster resource and ecosystem to be in the future.

VISION THEMES: The related key topical issue area strategies that characterize the desirable future for the oyster resource and ecosystem. The Vision Themes establish a framework for goals and objectives. They are not ordered by priority.