

## **Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Community Advisory Board**

### **Outreach & Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – 16 October 2023**

Part of the charge for all Members of the Community Advisory Board is to determine what each of them can do to inform people within their sphere of influence about ABSI and help tie ABSI tightly and positively to the community. Members are ambassadors for ABSI to bridge the gap between ABSI (academia) and the Franklin County community.

#### Subcommittee Members:

The ABSI Team (FSU): Sandra Brooke (Principal Investigator), Jared Fuqua and Maddie Mahood (Outreach & Education Coordinators), Betsy Mansfield (Brooke's postdoctoral student), and members of the ABSI Community Advisory Board: Georgia Ackerman and Cameron Baxley (Apalachicola Riverkeeper), Chad Hanson (The Pew Charitable Trusts, Chair of Subcommittee), Anita Grove (Apalachicola City Commissioner), Devin Resko (FWC).

#### Subcommittee Charge:

- To work with ABSI leadership and Community Advisory Board to inform the public about the development of the draft management plan, the science being conducted in the bay, and the condition of the oyster reefs.
- To create outreach & community engagement strategies that answer the public's questions about the project, and attract stakeholders and the general public to actively inform the public about the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative's goals and actions.
- To measure the effectiveness of these strategies through direct participation in achieving actions, as well as web analytics and media stories)

#### Agenda Items:

- Overview of Franklin County Commission Presentation on October 17th (Brooke and Resko)
- Overview of Upcoming Community Workshop on October 24 (All)
- Review/Edits of CAB Plan Presentation (to be given by Jenna) (All)
- Discuss Transition of Outreach Committee once CAB concludes on November 29<sup>th</sup> (All)
  - Sum of Plan Document/Story Map
  - Press Release?
- Update on New Admin Position
  - Role Description?
  - Discussion of Transition/Off-loading of information to new group
- Additional News Items
- Adjourn

#### Overview of Franklin County Commission Presentation on October 17th (Brooke and Resko)

- Resko provided new information to the commission in regards to the FWC/NFWF Restoration projects. The commission seemed satisfied with the updates and requested to remain in contact with Resko and FWC leadership
- Brooke's presentation was postponed due to an unexpected event that came up for the Commissioners in the middle of the meeting

## Overview of October 24<sup>th</sup> Community Workshop (All)

- ABSI Overview and Fishery Update from Dr. Sandra Brooke
- FWC Overview and Restoration Update from Devin Resko/Jon Creamer
- Condensed Draft Management Plan Presentation from potentially Jenna Harper (DEP/ANERR) and/or Ottice Amison (Franklin County Commissioner)
- All presentations will be followed by a similar booth layout from previous workshops, to allow for questions and input from community members

## Review/Edits of CAB Plan Presentation (All)

- Committee approved the CAB Plan Presentation
  - This will act as a baseline for the Plan summary document to be made at a later date
  - Resko notes that it is important to distinguish the “Plan” is a bundle of recommendations and suggestions to FWC for the restoration and management of the fishery – NOT demands

## Transition of Outreach Committee into Successor Group

- The Outreach Committee all agrees to continue work to advertise and inform the community about the “Plan,” even after the CAB concludes on November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Once the “Plan” is finalized, Mahood and members of the Outreach Committee will begin formatting an abbreviated version. Maybe 8 pages? Shorter?
- *Mahood will begin drafting a press release following finalization of the “Plan” and establishment of new group.*

## Update on New Admin Position

- Mahood is waiting on Dr. Trexler to provide a job description to begin advertising.
- In the meantime, Mahood will begin to compile data to provide to the successor group, and research website hosts

## No Additional News

## Adjourn

## Next Steps:

- *Mahood* – research website options and compile data for Successor Group, draft press release on the Plan