

Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2020 (3:30 p.m. EDT)

Location: FWC-FWRI, 100 8th Ave SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Meeting open to the public.

By Conference: Leanne Flewelling (Chair), Don Anderson, Duane De Freese, Quay Dortch, Jill Fleiger, Charles Jacoby, Barbara Kirkpatrick, Sherry Larkin, Andrew Reich, David Whiting

Regrets: Rhonda Watkins

Meeting Minutes

3:30 p.m. Meeting opened

Welcome and introductions

Leanne Flewelling (LF) opened meeting with roll call and welcomed members of the public. The agenda was reviewed and LF recommended a change to move Public Comment to the beginning of the meeting to ensure public comment is heard and captured prior to recommendations review discussion.

Revised agenda approved by consensus

3:40 p.m. Discussion of recommendations document

LF asked task force members for input on graphic design layout of recommendations report prior to public comment.

Charles Jacoby (CJ) requested all images in document have photo credits and descriptions. Recommendation approved by consensus.

Don Anderson (DA) suggested using an image under management and response recommendation demonstrating a mitigation and control strategy rather than monitoring. Recommendation approved by consensus.

3:50 p.m. Public Comment

Speaker 1: Haley Busch, Outreach Director with [1000 Friends of Florida](#). 1000 Friends is a Florida not-for-profit smart growth advocacy organization. Busch noted she was glad to receive some clarity on the difference in missions and work of the HAB Task Force and Blue Green Algae Task Force. She added there are some very actionable items in the HAB Task Force's long-term focal areas and draft recommendations document that her organization could work on with the Task Force. Examples include tangible things to reduce runoff such

as smart land management and growth planning. Busch requested the Task Force consider the importance of prevention as a tool to protect Florida water.

Speaker 2: Scott Phillipott of Red Tide Research Group. Phillipott described his background as a retired navy captain with expertise in large scale data mining. He noted he started the non-profit Red Tide Research Group out of personal interest and expertise. Phillipott has been using big data techniques for global HAB issues to improve knowledge and understanding. He is interested in learning more about the work of the Task Force and where Red Tide Research Group may be able to assist. [A handout of the Red Tide Research Group was given.](#)

LF thanked members of the public for their participation and encouraged them to continue to come to future Task Force meetings.

3:54 p.m. Continued discussion of recommendations document

LF suggested members begin review of the draft text recommendations document starting with the recommendations section, which was not completed at the January 13 meeting, then moving to full document review.

Recommendation approved by consensus.

LF noted feedback was received for recommendations section to include clear take home messages highlighted from main report text.

Members reviewed draft document section by section. Sections were reviewed in the following order: HAB Task Force Recommended Actions, Looking Beyond Challenges to Opportunities, Background, Florida Responds, Public Health, and Communications. Members made wordsmithing changes to improve clarity of language and key messaging. No major changes were incorporated.

Members agreed priority needs and information gaps related to wildlife and domestic animals would be discussed at future meetings and not included in this report.

5:30 p.m. Members Jill Fleiger and Quay Dortch excused themselves from meeting due to time constraints.

Remaining members reviewed final sections of Management and Response, and Research. Members made wordsmithing changes to improve clarity of language and key messaging. No major changes were incorporated. As participating members left the conference, their approval on finalizing the document was recorded.

LF put forward motion to accept this version of the document as final text.

Motion approved by quorum (10/11 members)

6:45 p.m. Other business and closing remarks

Members discussed the timeframe of finalizing the print version of the report and the importance of expeditiously forwarding to legislature.

Next full-day meeting dates were confirmed. Spring meeting March 19, 2020 is rescheduled to April 22, 2020, and summer meeting is confirmed for June 24, 2020.

7:00 p.m. Adjourned