

CHNEP (Coastland & Heartland National Estuary Partnership) Meeting attended by Commissioner Alice White (via Zoom) May 26, 2022

1. **Charlotte County will now be hosting the CHNEP offices and provide support services (formerly was being done by Punta Gorda).** They will be in the Murdock Administration building effective Oct. 1, 2022
2. **Management Committee Report /James Evans**
 - Results of 2017 red tide: between 2018-2020 resulted in 4,400 acres of seagrass being lost resulting in decaying/dead organic material, causing increased nutrient levels.
 - Canals/waterways should be mechanically pruned; spraying results in dead organic material>increased nutrient levels.
 - Advanced Septic Systems: more expensive, need more maintenance to function properly.
3. **Blue/Green Algae Task Force/Mike Parsons** (appointed by Governor in 2019)
 - Recommendations of the Task Force led to the Clean Waterways Act (2020)
 - “Nutrient Loading” needs to be addressed by municipalities (practices that increase nutrient levels in our waterways).
 - Septic tanks do NOT reduce or address the issue of nutrient discharge; septic tanks were designed to ONLY reduce “pathogen risks”.
 - Advanced Septic Systems- more expensive to install, to maintain.
 - “Legacy Nutrients”: Task Force did not address the issue of dealing with the nutrient layers that have been allowed to accumulate for years, even decades, in retention pond/lake bottoms.
4. **Innovative Technologies Grants are available! Edward C. Smith, Director/Office of Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration/Department of Environmental Protection**

Program available for projects that implement innovative technologies and short-term solutions to combat algal blooms and **nutrient enrichment**.