

**CHNEP (Coastland & Heartland National Estuary Partnership) Policy Committee Meeting, January 27, 2022 (Virtual) attended by Commissioner Alice White**

**1. CHNEP Update given by Jennifer Hecker, Executive Director**

- a) Florida DEP Funding, “Florida Resilient Coastlines Program” (FRCP).

Over \$500,000 was awarded to the City of Punta Gorda to fully fund their “Living Shorelines” project. A “Living Shoreline” connects the land to the water to minimize the effects of rising sea levels. Projects must include careful consideration of “strategic placement of natural components” that minimize

**2. Overview of Red Tide/Dr. Kate Hubbard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Center for Red Tide Research.**

- Since 1953, the 5 major/long-lasting blooms occurred starting in 1994 (30 months), 2017 (16 months), 2020 (12 months).
- Factors we CANNOT control that contribute to Red Tide Blooms: Gulf shelf, currents, and high salinity of water (the Panhandle has less blooms that can be largely attributed to the fresh water flowing from the Mississippi River).

**3. Land-based Nutrients Effect on Duration and Intensity of Red Tide Events: Dr. Miles Medina, University of Florida**

- Land-based nutrients factors we CAN control: land-based nitrogen sources (nutrients) i.e. the use of synthetic fertilizers for lawns, septic tanks, the burning of fossil fuels, animal waste (26 tons (52,000 pounds) of pet waste is dropped everyday in Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Source: UF/IFAS (University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) Extension Sarasota County).