

**FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT - EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE
JUNE 9-10, 2015
KEY WEST, FLORIDA**

The Executive Finance Committee met on June 9-10, 2015 in Key West, Florida. The minutes from the December 2015 Executive Finance Committee were approved. The Committee addressed the following items:

1. Status of the CY 2015 budget and budget expenditures

Mike Collins presented the final FY 2015 budget to the Committee and indicated how he developed the various funding line items. The Committee then approved the budget. He also noted that Attachment 2 shows our budget expenditures to-date and the obligations that will be incurred during the rest of the year.

2. Council Follow-Up and priorities

Gregg Waugh directed the members to Attachments 3a and 3b that show the Council's operations agreement and the previously approved priorities for 2015 and 2016. It was agreed the Council would look at modifying the priorities after the joint meeting with the Gulf Council.

3. Florida's consideration of management of Barracuda in federal waters

Jessica McCawley provided background on why the Florida is interested in managing barracuda in state and federal waters. She indicated that based on available information from stakeholder meetings and other sources there appears to be declines in barracuda populations. She requested a letter from the Council indicating that the Council had no intention of regulating barracuda in federal waters, similar to the letter the Council sent to the State of Florida on tarpon. There was a motion approved to send the State of Florida a letter stating the Council had no intention to manage barracuda in federal waters.

4. Overview of the Citizen Science Program Work Plan

John Carmichael briefed the Committee on the status of the Citizen Science Program Work Plan. He spoke about the progress made to-date by the organizing committee relative to the overall approach, planning and Terms of Reference. The proposed dates and location for the workshop are January 19-22, 2016 in Charleston, South Carolina. The estimated cost of the workshop is \$35K. Mike Collins indicated availability of funding in early 2016 should not be a problem, however, outside funding will also be pursued. A motion was approved to have appointments to the Citizen Science workshop participant list occur through the Data Collection Committee.

5. Joint South Florida Committee - Decision Document

Jessica McCawley made a presentation to the Committee providing background on the initial intent for the formation of the ad hoc joint committee and what their charge would be. She also covered how the role of the joint committee evolved over time as public meetings were held. She addressed some of the challenges, frustrations and difficulties that had been encountered dealing with these issues. There was significant discussion among Committee members addressing many of the issues.

Jessica McCawley and Gregg Waugh lead the Committee through the decision document. There were 17 motions approved and these will be used as the Committee/Councils positions on the south Florida issues at the joint council meeting on Thursday.

6. Motions

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE FINAL FY 2015 COUNCIL BUDGET.

MOTION #2: SEND THE STATE OF FLORIDA A LETTER INDICATING THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL HAS NO INTENTION OF MANAGING BARRACUDA IN FEDERAL WATERS.

MOTION #3: HAVE APPOINTMENTS TO THE CITIZEN SCIENCE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT LIST OCCURE THROUGH THE DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE.