

## Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force

Monday, January 13, 2020 (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. EDT)

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

*Meeting open to the public.*

**Attending in Person:** Leanne Flewelling (Chair), Charles Jacoby, Andrew Reich

**By Conference:** Jill Fleiger, Rhonda Watkins, Barbara Kirkpatrick, David Whiting, Quay Dortch, Duane DeFreese, Sherry Larkin, Don Anderson

**Regrets:** None

### Meeting Minutes

#### 9:05 a.m. Meeting Opened

Welcome and introductions

Leanne Flewelling opened with roll call and connectivity, reviewed agenda. Note beginning with Focal Areas, then recommendations document. Ask members to identify prior to commenting.

#### 9:10 a.m. Discussion of long-term focal areas

Members discussed changes to Focal Areas adopted at December 2019 meeting with consideration of member and public comment feedback received. Changes as follows:

*The HAB Task Force has adopted broad, long-term focal areas within which it will evaluate existing approaches or knowledge; pinpoint gaps in our efforts or understanding; and build a prioritized portfolio of strategies and actions to fill those gaps by assessing their benefits and feasibility. The HAB Task Force will prioritize and recommend:*

- 1. actions to reduce excess loads of nutrients entering our freshwater and coastal systems developed in collaboration with the Blue-Green Algae Task Force, relevant entities identified in EO-19 and other stakeholders;*
- 2. improvements to current policies and procedures that prevent or mitigate the impacts of harmful algal blooms on public health, ecosystem sustainability, economic viability, and other valued facets of society;*
- 3. enhancements to communication, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among stakeholders charged with responding to harmful algal blooms and their effects; and*

4. *strategic research into the biology and ecology of species creating harmful algal blooms; detection, tracking, modeling, and prediction of blooms; fate of algal toxins; impacts of blooms on valued facets of society; prevention, control and mitigation of blooms; and other key issues.*

LF put forward vote to adopt revised Focal Areas with changes with consideration that future recommendations reports will include items not addressed in this first report such as working with the Blue-green Algae Task Force on nutrient issues and with Estuary Programs addressing HABs.

Members votes: 11 yeas, 0 nays

Motion to adopt focal areas with changes passed. LF – named called vote for item 1 to remove list and make broad entities:

9:40 a.m. Discussion of draft initial recommendations document

Members reviewed draft recommendations document section by section with consideration of member and public comment feedback received.

Members discussed introductory section through priority area 3 noting items not included in this initial document will be addressed by the Task Force at future meetings, including but not limited to:

- living marine resources
- sentinel species
- specific issues around toxins and testing

11:07-11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. Continued discussion of recommendations document

Members reviewed draft recommendations document from priority area 4 through to closing.

Discussion of actionable items included:

- 1) Motion for inclusion of additional recommendation drafted by Don Anderson:

“The 2016 -2018 *K. brevis* red tide was a highly significant event that can provide important lessons and data to help address future blooms. A coordinated effort is needed to collate data from multiple sources to address such issues as: 1) initiation and persistence of the red tide in different regions; the role of anthropogenic nutrients in bloom duration and magnitude; the effectiveness of monitoring and response efforts throughout the state; and the economic and social impacts of the bloom on different sectors.”

LF put forward vote to include additional recommendation.

Members voted: 3 yeas, 8 nays

Motion to adopt additional recommendation drafted by DA did not pass.

Task Force members discussed challenges with prioritizing recommendations.

LF put forward vote to include drafted recommendations as written but add subheadings relating recommendations to main priority areas to, and with consideration the Task Force will further discuss and amend at a meeting to be scheduled later this month.

Members voted: 11 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

12:37 p.m. Public comment

None.

12:38 p.m.

Recommendations document final action deferred for new draft.

1:00 p.m. Other business

Reviewed letter to legislature of HAB Task Force progress and initial action to support recommendations of the Blue-green Algae Task Force Consensus document.

LF put forward vote to accept the letter and forward to legislature.

Members voted: 11 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

1:20 p.m. Action items and Closing remarks

Members set January 23 meeting for additional discussion, final review and action of initial recommendations document.

Members discussed future meeting dates for one-day convening. Full membership is no longer available March 19 so may move to April. March agenda to include discussion of addressing recommended actions, public comment and participation, and HAB funding efforts. Possible dates for following meeting are June 24 or 25, to be confirmed.

1:24 p.m. Adjourned