FUNDING IN FLUX

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program faces federal money cut

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Federal funding used to study and help improve area waterways has been eliminated in the latest budget from the White House.

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Director Jennifer Hecker confirmed this is a first for the program — at least in recent memory.

And if funding — which stands at about $600,000 — ends, then so might important projects planned and underway, according to Hecker.

“As part of the Administration’s initiative to refocus EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) on its core mission, the President’s Budget continues to eliminate funding for lower priority programs, programs that have duplicative functions with other agencies, activities that can be absorbed into other functions, and responsibilities that should be primarily for state and local governments,” according to a public document that was part of President