



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Project Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2019
5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, Tensaw Theatre**



Attendees:

Lisa Adams (Mobile County)	Amanda Locascio (ADEM)
Monica Allen (MAWSS)	Shannon McGlynn (ADEM)
Justin Bousquin (EPA)	Megan Malish (EPA)
John Bowie (EPA)	Bruce Mowry (Stantec)
Mary Kate Brown (The Nature Conservancy)	Madison Jackson (EPA)
Wade Burcham (Geosyntec)	Veronica Klocinski (Payne Environmental)
Greg Dunn (ADPH)	Jeremiah Kolb (ADCNR, State Lands)
Benji Elmore (Alabama Forestry Commission)	Justin Rigdon (ADEM)
Camilla English (ADPH)	Randy Shaneyfelt (ADEM)
Walter Ernest (Pelican Coast Conservancy)	Brian Spears (U.S. Fish & Wildlife)
Jay Estes (Allen Engineering)	Woody Speed (City of Orange Beach)
Mike Eubanks (Thompson Engineering)	Laura Stone (Mobile Baykeeper)
Paige Felts (Volkert)	Sam St. John (Logical Computer Solutions/ACF Board)
Carl Ferraro (ADCNR, Coastal Section)	Mary Beth Sullivan (Moffatt & Nichol)
Casey Fulford (Baldwin Co. SWCD)	Lee Walters (Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood)
Caroline Garsed (Thompson Engineering)	Chris Warn (Environmental Science Associates)
Patric Harper (U.S. Fish & Wildlife)	Marc Wyatt (Anchor QEA)
Ashley Henderson (ASWCC)	Connie Whitacker (Alabama Coastal Foundation)
Kara Lankford (National Audubon Society)	Joyce Nicholas (NRCS)

MBNEP Staff: Roberta Swann, Christian Miller, Paul Lammers, Jason Kudulis, Madison Blanchard, and Bethany Dickey

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 pm by Patric Harper. Attendees went through a round of introductions.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Harper asked for any deletions, additions, changes to the minutes from September 27, 2018. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. Kara Lankford made the motion, which Carl Ferraro seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Presentation: US EPA: H2O Ecosystem Services Tool

Justin Bousquin and Madison Jackson, our guests from U.S. EPA's Region 4 Gulf Ecology Division, Ecosystems Services Team, introduced the EPA H2O tool. This tool is a desktop GIS-based decision support tool for assessing the provision of ecosystem services under different land use scenarios. Users can explore the spatial arrangement of ecosystem goods and services at regional to local scales, complete spatial queries along hydrological networks, and generate customized reports for scenario comparisons, all to gain a better understanding of where ecosystem services are produced and how land use change might affect future production. The tool is simple yet powerful with a graphical user interface designed for basic or advanced users. It demonstrates a fully populated case study database with the functionality to create new databases for other communities.

EPA H2O's reporting functions allow users to readily distribute findings to clients/stakeholders. EPA H2O

- Was originally designed to support ecosystem goods and services assessment in the Tampa Bay1 watershed.
- Provides a capacity to assess alternative land use scenarios in terms of a prosperous and environmentally sustainable future.
- Benefits a variety of users through summary reports of ecosystem services upstream and within their location of interest.
- Allows advanced users to compare different alternative future land use scenarios for Tampa Bay (or other regions) by altering, for example, the placement and shape of land use parcels, transportation paths, and the monetary value benefit functions.

[Download the EPA H2O Executable File](#)

4. Draft CCMP Ecosystem Restoration & Protection Update

Paul Lammers gave an update on the CCMP's updated ERP goals and objectives. The public comment period for the CCMP Update will be extended until May 3rd in order to collect more comments.

5. Updates on Programs and Projects:

- **Carl Ferraro, ADCNR, State Lands**
 - Proposals for the Point aux Pins Breakwater Project are due April 19, 2019.
 - The Fort Morgan Pier Rehabilitation Project
 - There is a Living Shorelines Workshop on March 29th at Grand Bay NERR.
- **Mary Kate Brown, The Nature Conservancy**
- **Christian Miller, Mobile Bay NEP**

The Statements of Qualification for the RFQ for Western Shore Watershed Management Planning were due March 8th and are being sent to the selection committee.
- **Jason Kudulis, Mobile Bay NEP**

The Fowl River Marsh Spits summary statements will be submitted by the end of March. An RFQ for Fowl River Marsh and Shoreline Stabilization and Restoration Phase I Engineering and Design will be going out in May.
- **Paul Lammers, Mobile Bay NEP**

Paul put together some great videos and drone footage of some of the projects underway in the D'Olive Watershed.

 - **D4-D6:** On March 3, the site received measurable rainfall over the course of a few hours, and the constructed channel was impacted. Runoff scoured the upstream portion and deposited sediment in the downstream reach. A rock check dam mitigated the loss of sediment from the site. The contractor installed instream structure, activated the new channel, and backfilled the former channel. Soil lifts were installed, and sod mats applied to the streambanks to initiate vegetation establishment. The floodplain had been graded to final grade, and offline oxbow ponds had been fashioned out of the former channel's pools for seepage interception and stormwater runoff management. We are looking forward to substantial completion by the end of April.
 - **DAF-1 Golf Course Trib:** Additional vegetation were needed for proper stabilization and additional structures were determined necessary for the tributary reach. Per Geotechnical Engineer's recommendations – a rock wall to floodplain of tributary and re-grading was needed to establish correct floodplain stabilization. 2-year period construction oversight as well as post-construction warrantee period monitoring will soon be underway.

- **DAF-1A Melanie Loop:** Permanent vegetation and live stakes have been implemented. Site monitoring is ongoing.

6. Announcements

- Carl Ferraro is retiring from ADCNR and his last day will be April 30th.
- Keri Coumanis has been hired to replace Eliska Morgan.
- The next PIC meetings will be held in May 16, 2019 and September 12, 2019. Both will be in the Tensaw Theatre at Five Rivers Delta Center.

7. Adjourn

Patric Harper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:04 pm. Kara Lankford made the motion, which was seconded by Carl Ferraro.