

MOBILE BAY

NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Finance Committee Meeting



10:00 am - 11:30 am , September 10, 2024, Zoom



Dauphin Island Sea Lab



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AGENDA

Meeting Objectives:

To discuss the next steps in getting to the next CCMP, revisit and redefine the role of the Finance Committee moving forward and reexamine strategic planning initiatives to ensure alignment with the MBNEP's goals.

1. Welcome and Introductions

FC Chair: Patti McCurdy, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

2. Review and Approval of Minutes: June 16, 2024, Meeting

3. Old Business

- a) Strategic Planning
- b) Cost Avoidance vs. Return-on-Investment Analysis

4. New Business

- a) Finance Committee role in the next CCMP

5. Adjourn

MBNEP Bylaws: Finance Committee Charge

Establishes an **investment program** that mixes State, local, and private sources to sustain the MBNEP's operations.

Advises and **assists** the MBNEP on the development of its **annual program budget** and methodologies for **obtaining match resources**.

Old Business

- Strategic Planning
- Cost Avoidance vs. Return-on-Investment Analysis

New Business

Finance Committee role in the next CCMP

Finance Committee Overview

- Includes community leaders committed to securing non-federal matching funds.
- Develop local ownership, responsibility, and partnerships for conservation.
- Establishes an investment program mixing state, local, and private sources.

Purpose of MBNEP Finance Strategy

- Develop dedicated and diverse funding sources.
- Implement the CCMP.
- Achieve improved environmental management in Baldwin and Mobile counties.

Previous Funding Sources

- Federal: Annual EPA funding, competitive grants.
- State of Alabama: State budget line, ADCNR Memorandum of Understanding, competitive grants.
- Counties: Baldwin and Mobile.
- Municipalities: Mobile, Daphne, Fairhope, Spanish Fort, Foley, Gulf Shores.
- National Groups: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Healthy Watersheds Consortium.
- Local Organizations: Partners for Environmental Progress, The Nature Conservancy, Alabama State Port Authority.

Goals of MBNEP Finance Strategy

- Educate government agencies on the value and accountability of MBNEP.
- Engage local, state, federal, and private sectors in specific projects.
- Secure long-term investments for program operation and CCMP implementation.

Objectives of MBNEP Finance Strategy

- Educate key stakeholders in Mobile and Baldwin counties.
- Solicit community investment equivalent to 10% of project costs.
- Secure annual investments from at least five new communities.
- Increase annual investments by 30% from existing communities.
- Establish a coastal restoration fund through the Community Foundation of South Alabama.
- Solicit contributions to the coastal restoration fund from the private sector.
- Create a revolving loan fund to support best management practices and local fishing interests.

Short-Term Funding Priorities

- Watershed Plans: Secured through federal RESTORE dollars.
- Restoration Monitoring: Funded by project-specific sources.
- Revolving Loan Fund: Establish using State Revolving Loan Funds.
- Watershed Plan Implementation: Pursue funding from NFWF GEBF.
- Create a Clean Water Future Campaign: Develop a sponsorship program.

Resource Needs for the Next Five Years

- Estuary Status and Trends: \$8,000,000
- Ecosystem Restoration and Protection: \$157,000,000
- Technical Assistance and Capacity Building: \$4,300,000
- Education and Public Involvement: \$2,000,000

Actions to Secure New Resources

- Federal: Secure long-term federal funding and support for Section 320.
- State: Engage other state agencies for increased investment.
- Local: Implement WMPs and conduct impact analyses to communicate program benefits.
- Private: Cultivate relationships with industry groups for increased support.

Current Funding Sources

- Federal Partners: EPA, Gulf of Mexico Program, MASGC, USACE.
- State Partners: ADCNR, State of Alabama.
- Local Partners: Cities of Daphne and Mobile, Baldwin and Mobile counties.
- Cash and In-Kind Contributions: From various sectors.

Grants and External Funding

- Federal, State, and Local Agencies: Funding for planning, research, monitoring, restoration, and education.
- Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Significant funding for restoration and conservation projects.

Old Business

a) Strategic Planning

b) Cost Avoidance vs. Return-on-

Investment Analysis





•Other

•Announcements

•Adjourn