

# MOBILE BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

## Executive Committee Meeting

March 22, 2024

Good Morning!  
Please sign-in  
before you leave.



10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Hybrid: International Trade Center, Killian Room



Dauphin Island Sea Lab



[mobilebaynep.com](http://mobilebaynep.com)



## AGENDA

- Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions
- Approval of Minutes- September 29, 2023
- Director's Report
  - New Member Orientation
  - BIL Year 3 Workplan Overview/Approval
- Committee Reports
  - Science Advisory
  - Community Action
  - Project Implementation
  - Business Resources
  - Government Networks
  - Finance
- Old Business
- New Business
- Other/Announcements/Adjourn
  - Nex Meeting: **MAY**



# New Executive Committee Members

## NEW POSITIONS

Marc Wyatt, *U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Division*

Steve Stewart, *PEP Board of Directors*

Dr. Lebaron Byrd, *MOWA Choctaw Indians*

Keith Martin, *Poarch Band of Creek Indians*

## NEW FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Brandon McCray, *USDA NRCS*

Jennifer DeMaio, *U.S. EPA Region 4*

## NEW CO-CHAIRS

BRC John Barton, *TC Boiler*

CAC Ted Henken, *Fowl River Area Civic Association*

GNC Skip Gruber, *Baldwin County Commission*

PIC Shannon McGlynn, *ADEM Nonpoint Source*  
Will Underwood, *ADCNR State Lands*

SAC Dottie Byron, *DISL Alabama Center of Excellence*  
Steve Jones, *Geological Survey of Alabama*

## The Authorizing Law

## **The Clean Water Act**

(as amended by the US Congress, 1987)

*The National Estuary Program was created through amendments to the Clean Water Act, Section 320 in 1987, to "identify, restore, and protect nationally significant estuaries in the United States."*

**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program established 1995 by the USEPA**

## Section 320 of the Clean Water Act NEP Charge:

- 
- Assess trends
  - Identify causes
  - Develop relationships
  - Develop collective plan
  - Coordinate collective implementation
  - Monitor effectiveness
  - Provide consistency reviews
- Champion protection and restoration efforts through the **cultivation of partnerships**
  - Lead watershed protection by **coordinating collective actions** to measurably improve water quality, habitat management, and living resource management
  - Establish a **community of committed environmental stewards**

# MBNEP: How we achieve Collective Impact, Why?

**Common Agenda**

The vision for change

**Shared  
Measurement**

Data collection,  
interpretation

**Mutually  
Reinforcing  
Activities**

Coordinated Actions,  
partners

**Continuous  
Communication**

Consistent and open  
communication

**Backbone  
Support**

Coordination of efforts



Access to Water and Open Spaces



Coastlines  
(Beaches and Shorelines)



Fish and Wildlife



Heritage and Culture



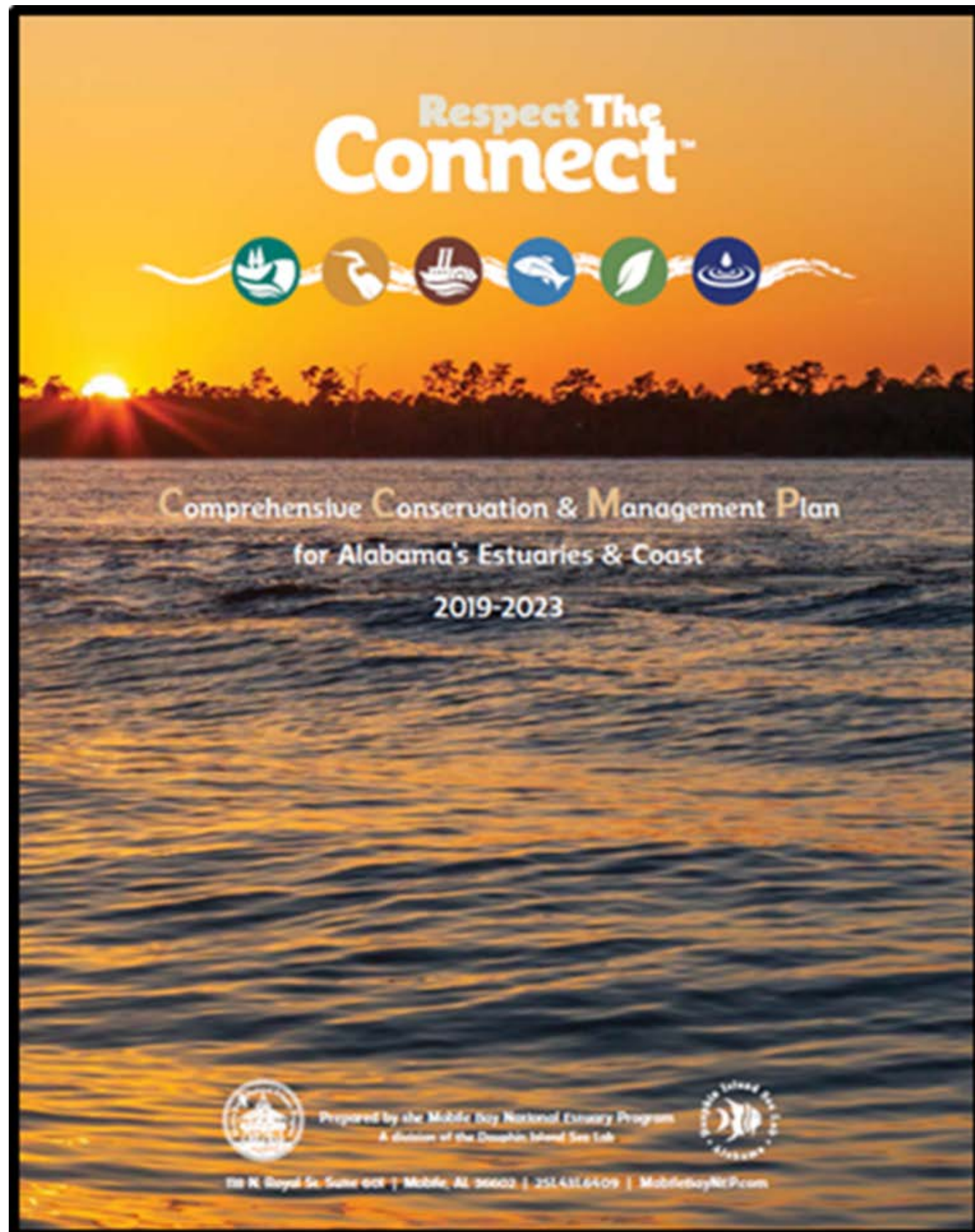
Environmental Health and Resilience



Water Quality



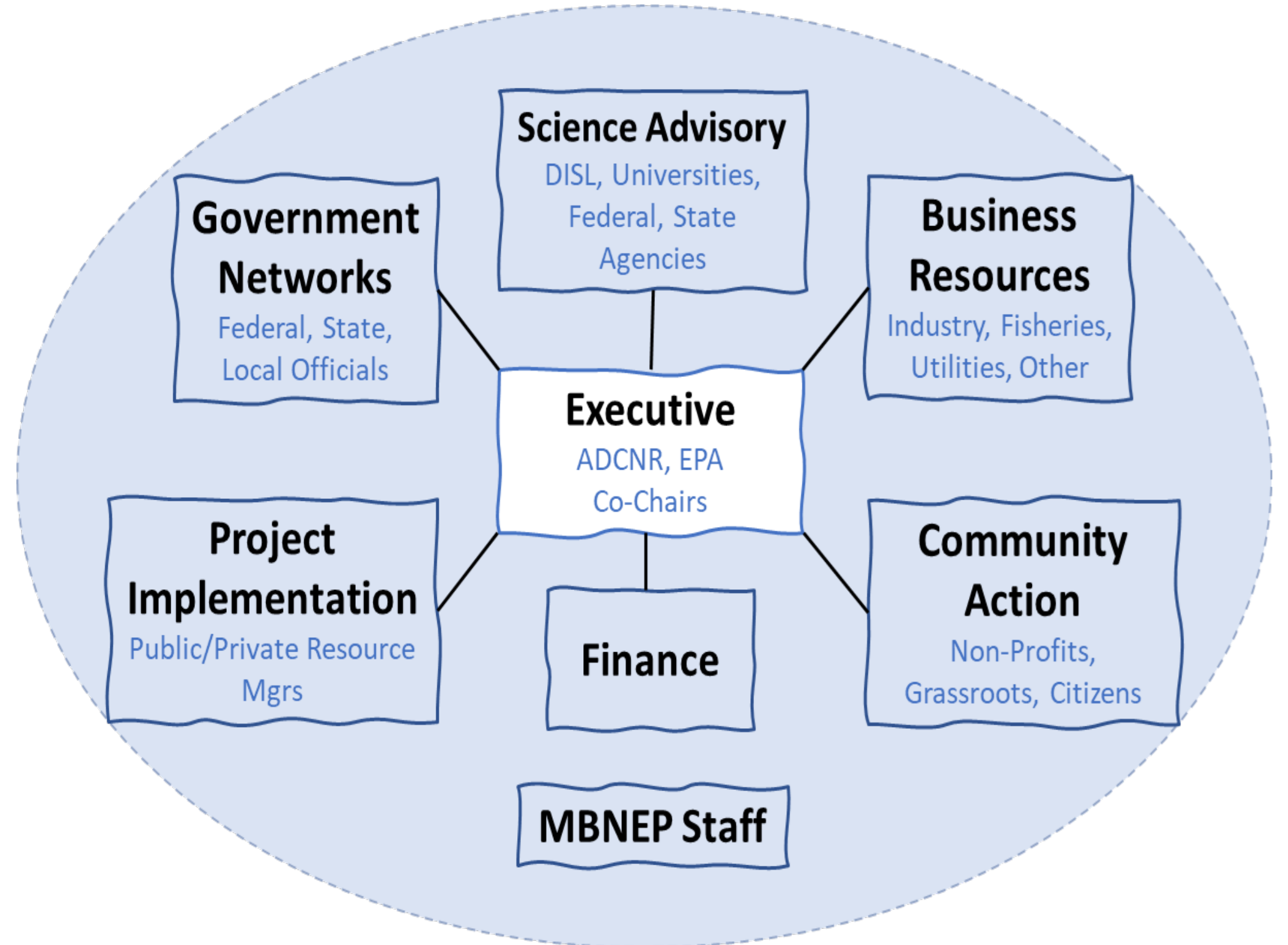
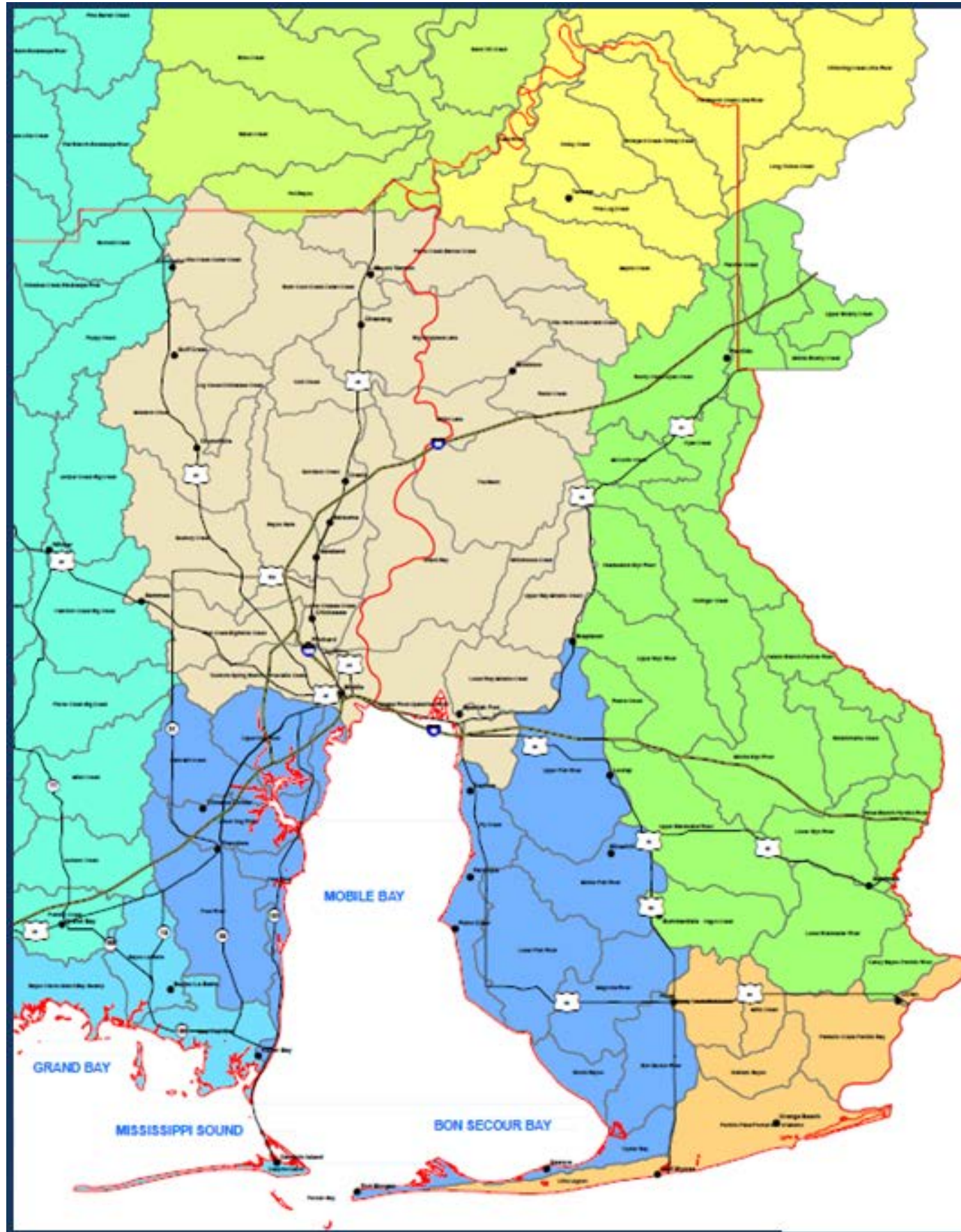
# The Common Agenda: The CCMP



- **Ecosystem Status and Trends**
- **Ecosystem Restoration and Protection**
- **Community Capacity Building**
- **Education and Citizen Involvement**



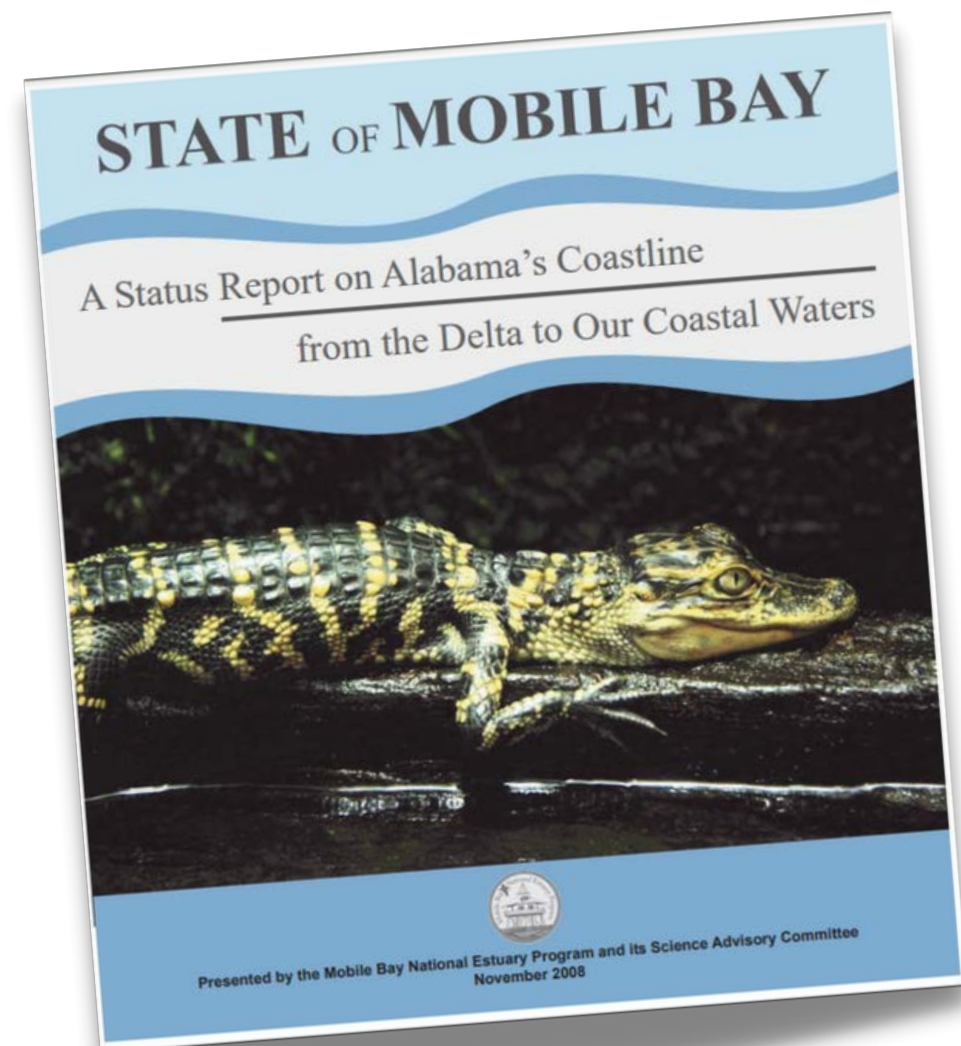
# MBNEP: Where we work, Who we are





# Estuary Status and Trends

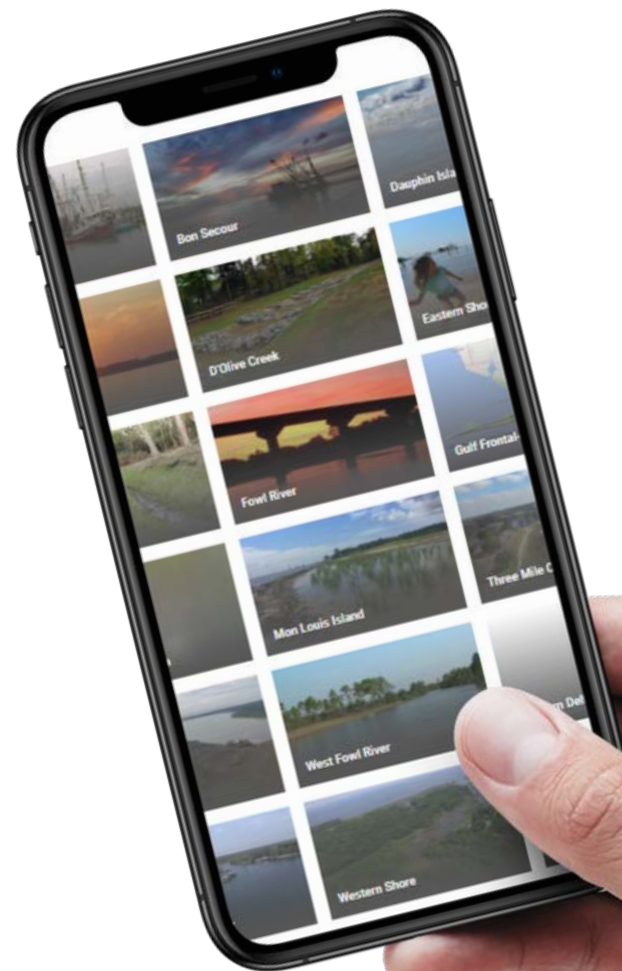
- Coastal monitoring
- Environmental reporting
- Ecosystem research





# Ecosystem Restoration and Protection

- Watershed planning & implementation
- Shoreline Sustainability
- Invasive species
- Water access





# Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

- Local government Policy Improvements
- Private Sector Incentives
- Community Training
- Decision Support Tools/Videos

Visit [oystersalabama.com](http://oystersalabama.com) for info on local oyster farms





# Education and Public Involvement

- Business outreach and involvement
- Community education, awareness, involvement
- Special events





# Director's Report

## Executive Committee Charge

Purpose	Develops policies on issues and funding; reviews/approves work plans, amendments, (Finance Committee); sets financial goals for non-federal share (Finance Committee); other guidance as needed
Identify Issues	NO – But develops policies for program based on identification of issues by other committees
Authority to Approve Action Plans	YES
Advocating for Environmental Needs - federally, statewide, locally	NO
Effecting Policy Changes	NO; YES within the MBNEP
Raising Cash and Other Resources	YES - Through Finance Committee
Undertaking Projects	NO
Catalyzing Community Action	NO
Governance	Co-chairs from USEPA and ADCNR; Simple majority rules
Meetings	Quarterly



# Director's Report

## Program Funding Available through MBNEP for CCMP Implementation

<b>Project Funding Source</b>	<b>Total Budget All Years (2018-present)</b>	<b>Balance Forward 10/01/2023</b>	<b>Balance Available 02/29/2024</b>
<i>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation GEBF</i>	37,442,092	19,863,082	18,542,212
<i>U.S. EPA Section 320</i>	6,798,052	1,926,414	1,354,330
<i>Alabama Department of Conservation &amp; Natural Resources (including RESTORE)</i>	4,397,811	321,898	8,000
<i>National Coastal Resilience Fund</i>	3,800,000	3,800,000	92,412
<i>U.S. EPA Bipartisan Infrastructure Funds</i>	1,819,601	1,819,601	1,183,151
<i>U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Division (Including RESTORE)</i>	1,654,076	462,516	360,637
<i>Alabama Department of Environmental Management</i>	794,999	560,198	560,198
<i>Private Sector</i>	85,654	76,606	75,885
<b>Grant Total Funding Available</b>	<b>56,792,285</b>	<b>28,830,315</b>	<b>22,176,825</b>



# Director's Report

## Program Funding Available through MBNEP for CCMP Implementation *Pending Awards*

Project Funding Source	Project	Budget
<i>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation GEBF</i>	Fowl River, Phase II	8,951,952
<i>U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Division</i>	Grand Bay WMP	25,000
<i>Alabama Department of Environmental Management</i>	D'Olive Restoration	360,000
<i>Local- City of Daphne Capital Improvement Funds</i>	D'Olive Restoration	255,000
<b><i>Total Pending Awards</i></b>		<b>9,591,952</b>



# Director's Report

## Program Activity Status by Thematic Area *Estuary Status & Trends*

Project	Funding	Beginning Budget	Available Balance
Environmental Monitoring/ State of the Bay	EPA	140,250	10,250
Coastal Monitoring	EPA	21,460	-
Coastal Environmental Monitoring Program- BIL	EPA-BIL	175,241	75,741
<b>EST Totals</b>		<b>336,951</b>	<b>85,991</b>



# Director's Report

## Program Activity Status by Thematic Area *Ecosystem Restoration & Protection*

Project	Funding	Beginning Budget	Available Balance
Shoreline Resilience Program	EPA-BIL	475,241	250,690
Justice 40 Green Infrastructure Program	EPA-BIL	750,000	510,000
Access Enhancements- ADA Access	EPA	24,760	9,000
Comprehensive Shoreline Management Plan	NFWF NCRF	575,000	-
Watershed Planning & Implementation- General	EPA	115,278	-
Coastal AL Comprehensive WMP	Restore/ADCNR	4,368,811	-
D'Olive Creek, Tiawasee	NFWF/ADEM	3,238,709	853,750
Fowl River	NFWF	8,005,304	6,868,865.40
Deer River	NFWF	19,270,611	3,339,766
Three Mile Creek	GMD	1,708,810	590,626
Lower Fish River	NFWF	10,947,467	7,480,444
<b>ERP Totals</b>		<b>49,479,991</b>	<b>19,903,141</b>



# Director's Report

## Program Activity Status by Thematic Area *Technical Assistance & Capacity Building*

Project	Funding	Beginning Budget	Available Balance
Volunteer/Citizen Monitoring	EPA	102,683	48,133
Government Capacity Building	EPA	12,500	2,505
Fisheries Capacity Building	EPA/AL Power	62,500	46,212
<b>TAC Totals</b>		<b>177,683</b>	<b>96,850</b>



# Director's Report

## Program Activity Status by Thematic Area *Education & Public Involvement*

Project	Funding	Beginning Budget	Available Balance
Management Conference Support	EPA	24,062	7,000
Private Sector Education Programs	EPA	9,720	9,000
Current Connections Newsletter	EPA/ADCNR	58,128	19,713
CCMP Rewrite	EPA	318,255	218,055
Interpretive Signage	EPA	12,185	2,000
Video Production	EPA	104,877	13,720
Special Events	EPA	44,532	12,000
Promotional Materials	EPA	35,306	15,000
Create a Clean Water Future Campaign & Website	EPA	113,164	32,347
<b>EPI Totals</b>	<b>EPA</b>	<b>720,229</b>	<b>328,835</b>



# Director's Report

## Program Obligations Associated with Continued US EPA Funding

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
EPA Section 320 Funding				Midyear Status Report to EPA		Annual Workplan to EPA			Habitat and Leverage Reports to EPA	Annual Report to EPA		
EPA Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding			Annual BIL Workplan to EPA	Midyear Status Report to EPA						Annual Report to EPA		
Executive Committee Meetings			X		X				X			X

**Annual Workplans must be approved by the Executive Committee before submission to EPA for approval.**



# Vote to Approve

## Year 3 (2023-2024) Bipartisan Infrastructure Work Plan

### Coastal Monitoring Program: \$100,000

- **ARCOS:** Install equipment at the lighthouse and collect monitoring data.
- **Baldwin County Monitoring Program:** Collect data through 7 stream gauges and build a hydrologic model for Western Perdido Bay. \$50,000
- **Mobile County Monitoring Program:** Re-establish continuous monitoring of USGS gauges in Bayou Sara and conduct planning for a more comprehensive monitoring program. \$50,000



# Vote to Approve

## Year 3 (2023-2024) Bipartisan Infrastructure Work Plan

### Justice 40 Green Infrastructure Initiative: \$342,471

- **Eight Mile Creek Watershed Program:** WMP in progress; identification and implementation of activities to jump start plan implementation. \$100,000
- **TMC/Lower Chasaw Gulf Village:** Continue to work with Mobile County to develop and implement a comprehensive stormwater management plan. \$50,000
- **Wolf Bay- Beulah Heights:** Continue to support the installation of green infrastructure in partnership with the City of Foley. \$72,514
- **General LID Installations:** Continue to develop LID project inventory for Justice 40 areas and pursue additional funding to implement the comprehensive Toulmins Spring/Gum Tree Branch watershed LID plan. \$75,000
- **Project Delivery:** Continue to coordinate with engineering firms, communities, and funders to guide project implementation. \$44,957



# Vote to Approve

## Year 3 (2023-2024) Bipartisan Infrastructure Work Plan

### **Comprehensive Shoreline Management Plan: \$348,659**

- **Shoreline Management Plan:** Shoreline Management Planning initiated; re-establish interagency task force with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to incorporate beneficial use of dredge material in shoreline stabilization and enhancement activities.
- **Shoreline Cost Share Program: \$300,000** Initiate planning for cost share program with stakeholders.
- **Project Delivery: \$48,659** Continue to coordinate with engineering firms, communities, and funders to guide project implementation.

# Director's Report

## Status of CCMP Activities

Element	Completion Date	Status
Watershed Plan Assessment	9/30/2023	Complete
CCMP Evaluation of Implementation Technical Report	9/30/2023	Complete; Conference 30-day comment period
Stressor Evaluation Technical Report	1/31/2024	Complete; 30-day comment period
Management Conference Organizational Assessment-Bylaws Update	3/31/2024	Complete
State of the Bays and Coast Report	6/30/2024	In Progress
CCMP Development-Outreach, Strategies for each committee, Financing, Publication	6/30/2025	In Initial Planning; this will be a mix of in-house staff effort and support from contractors
CCMP Comment Period and Approvals	9/30/2025	Not initiated

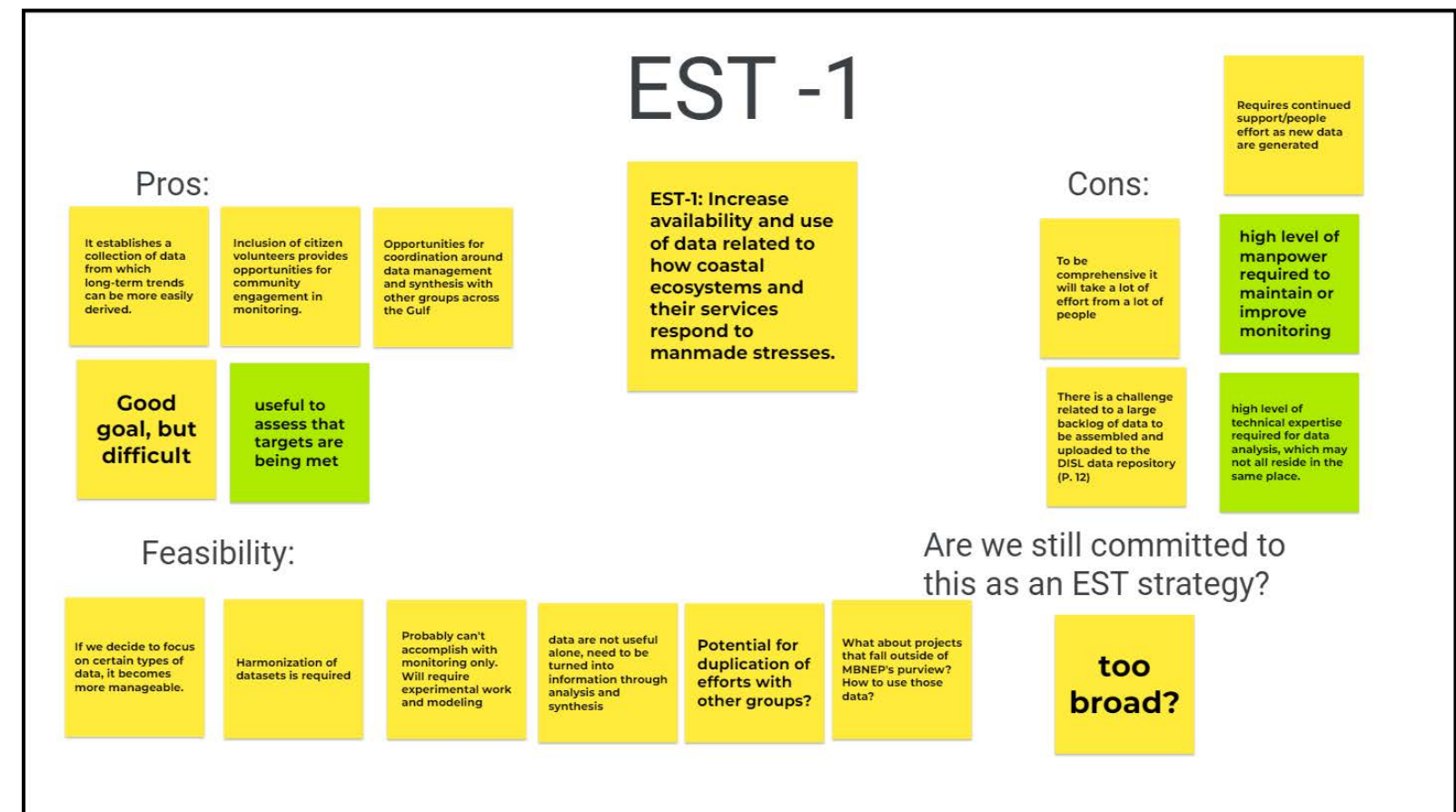
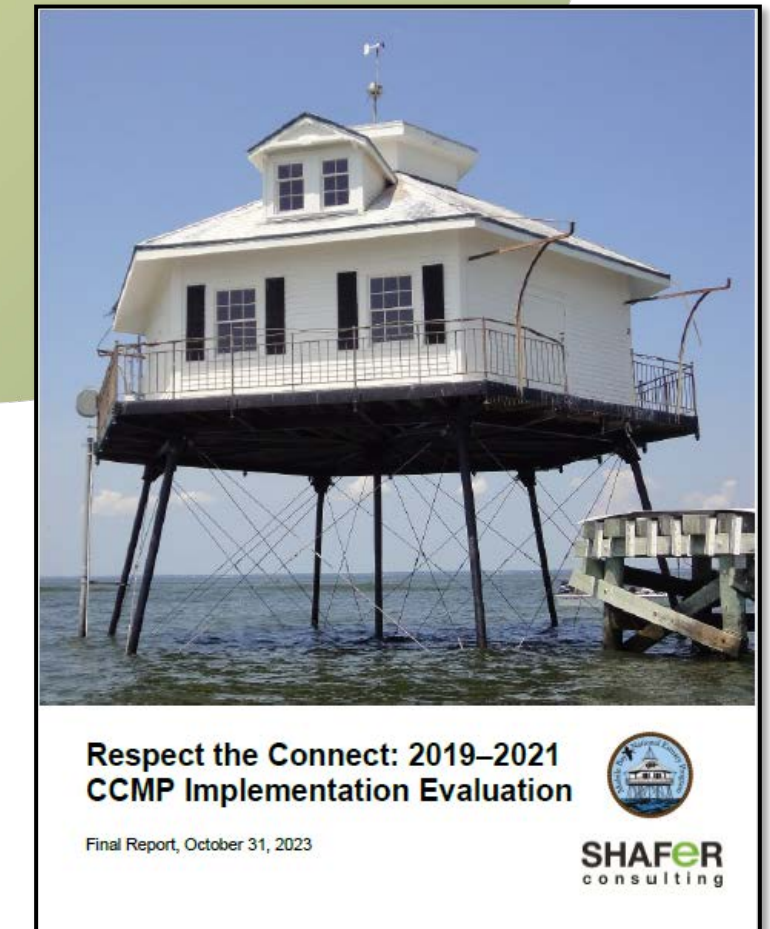
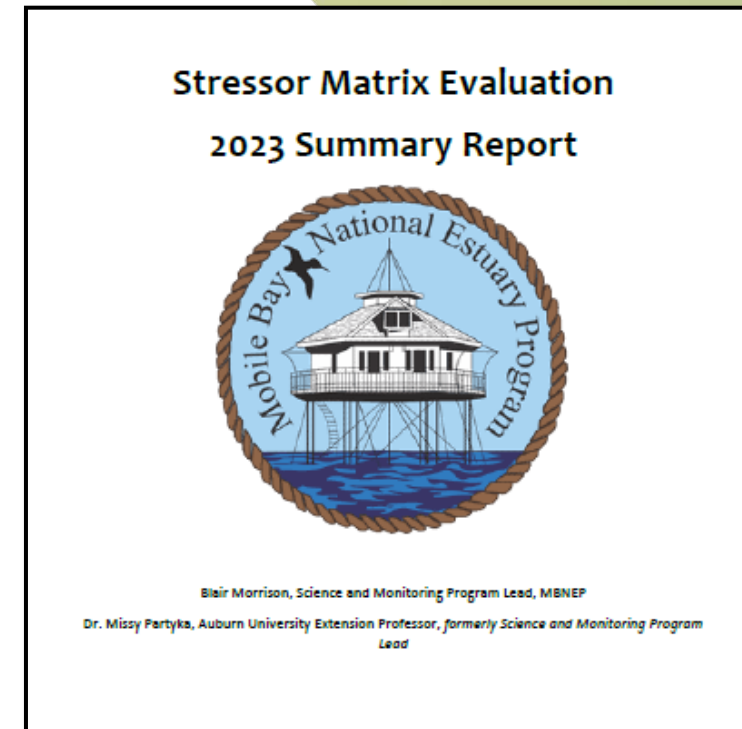


# Science Advisory Committee

**SAC Meeting:** March 15, 2024 (Hybrid)

- Introduced 30-day review procedure for evaluating SAC documents (2023 Stressor Matrix Report)
- Reviewed 2018-2023 CCMP Implementation Evaluation and Recommendations
- Breakout group discussions of EST strategy pros, cons, feasibility, and what's missing
- Upcoming off-cycle meetings
- Monitoring Summit
- State of the Bay Workshop

*Total Attendees: 24*



# Project Implementation Committee

**PIC Meeting:** March 21, 2024 (Hybrid)

- Committee input session for new CCMP
- Reviewed Ecosystem Restoration and Protection implementation evaluation and recommendations
- PIC Planning Workshop coming up





# MBNEP Restoration Updates

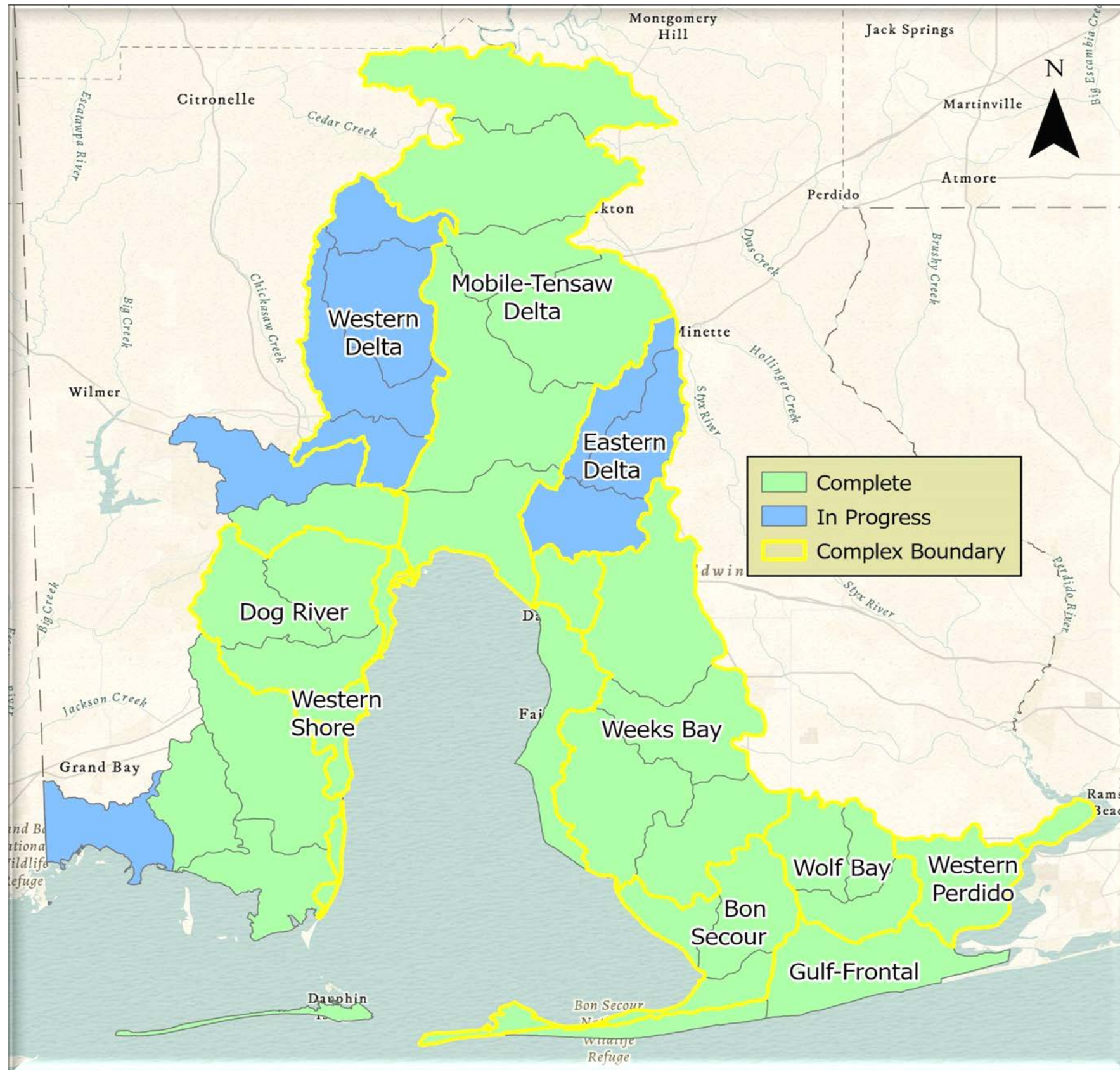
- D'Olive
- Lower Fish River
- Fowl River
- Three Mile Creek
- Deer River

Deer River





# Watershed Planning Update



Watershed	Status
MTA Delta	Complete
Eastern Shore	Complete
Dauphin Island	Complete
Western Perdido Bay	Final Draft
Western Delta	In Progress
Eastern Delta	In Progress
Grand Bay	In Progress
Eight Mile Creek	In Progress



# Government Networks Committee

**GNC Meeting:** March 22, 2024 (Hybrid)

- Reviewed Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Strategies and CCMP evaluation recommendations
- Discussed Supreme Court Decision of Waters of the U.S. and potential impacts for local resource management
- Discussed Baldwin County's use of Zoning to enhance natural resource protection



# Business Resources Committee

**BRC Meeting:** March 14, 2024

- Presentation by Christensen Global Strategies
- Discussion of how BRC can convene the business sector for around growing green economy in coastal AL
- Working groups created for
  - Asset Mapping
  - Communication, Education, and Engagement
  - Waste to Value Circular Economy
- Partnering with PEP and USA on “Carbon Capture” learning session

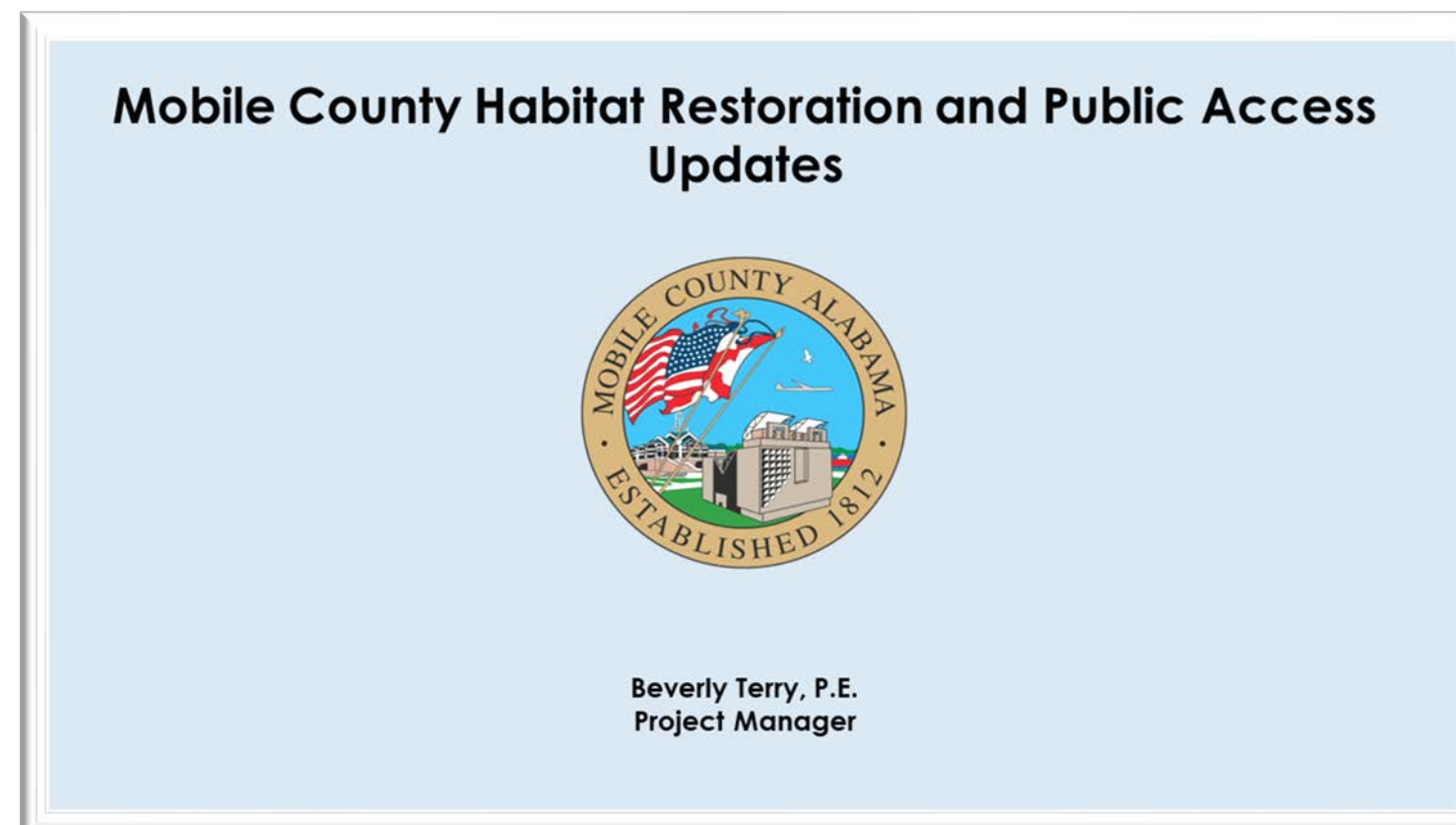
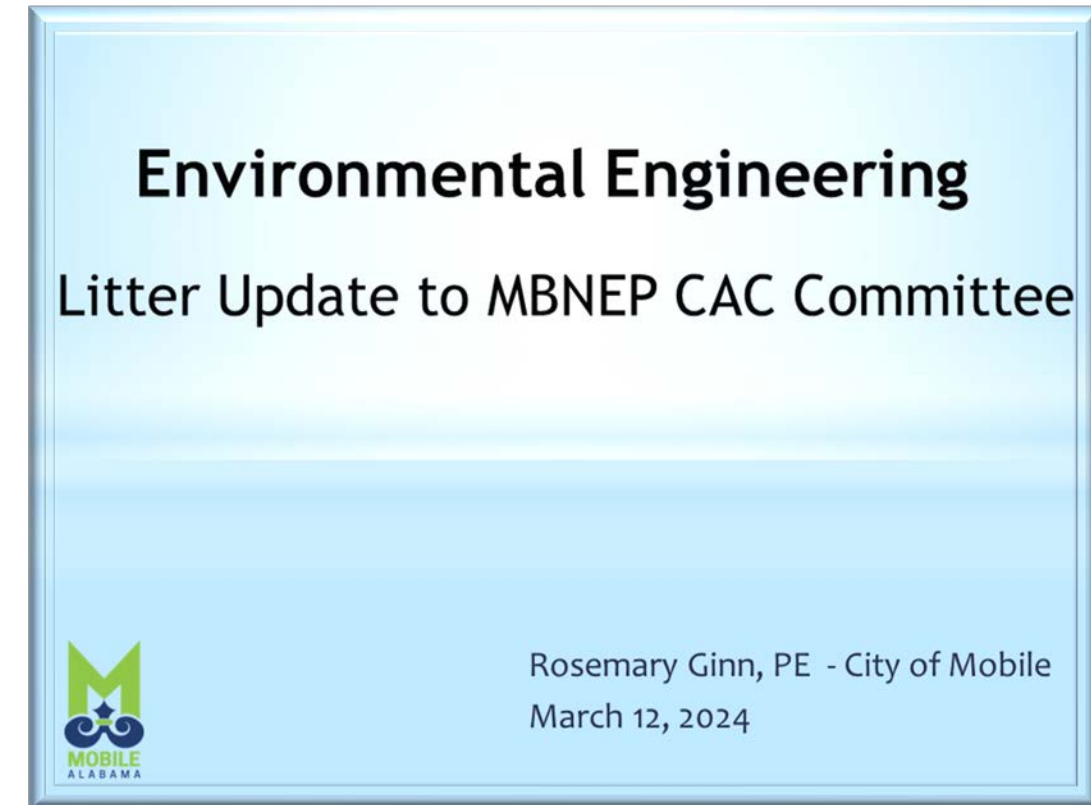




# Community Action Committee

**CAC Meeting:** March 12, 2024 (Hybrid)

- Presentations from the City of Mobile and Mobile County
- Discussed the charge of the committee as it relates to the CCMP, and how the members would like the group to go and grow.





# **Finance Committee**

**FC Meeting: April 5, 2024**







# **New Business**



- Other

- Announcements

- Adjourn

