



Mobile Bay National Estuary Program  
Business Resources Committee Meeting  
International Trade Center  
September 8th, 2016

The Business Resources Committee of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) met on Thursday September 8th, 2016 at the International Trade Center in Mobile, AL. The meeting was attended by: Co-chairs Jennifer Denson, Partners for Environmental Progress and Darrelyn Dunmore, Strategic Wealth Specialists; Ashley Jones Davis, No. Baldwin Chamber; Cheryl Monroe, Sweep Masters; Jay Weber, Servis 1<sup>st</sup> Bank; Renie Kennemer and Christopher Grant, Thompson Engineering; Steve McClure, Hargrove Engineers; Chandra Wright, MS-AL Sea Grant; Eliska Morgan, AL. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources; John Croom, Southern Water Technologies; Laura O'Connor, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; Heather Dennison and Ken Mohr, EnviroChem, Inc.; Hayden Olds, Olds Filtration; Colette Boehm, Colette Boehm Freelance; John T. Bender, McFadden, Lyons, Rouse Atty.; Andrea Moore, Manufactures Packaging; Webb Jackson, Parsons Engineering; Trevor Boehm, Gulf Coast Containers; Robin Delaney, Delany Properties; MBNEP staff- Rick Frederick, Ben Brenner, Dixie Pomerat, Jason Kudulis.

**Mission of the BRC: To advocate for streamlined regulations and balanced business practices that are in the best interest of the region's economic and environmental resources.**

*Meeting Summary:*

- *Committee updated on watershed management plans (WMP), Restoration project on Mon Louis Island in the Fowl River Watershed, and Create a Clean Water Future campaign.*
- *5 new members welcomed to the BRC.*
- *Opportunities for BRC members to sponsor and support were presented- Small Stream Litter Trap, Alabama Coastal Cleanup, Mobile United's MLK Day of Service and One Mile Creek Amphibious Clean Up, Citizen Water Monitoring, and Field Trips.*

Co-chairs Jennifer Denson and Darrelyn Dunmore opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. First-time attendees: Ken Mohr, Hayden Olds, Andrea Moore, Trevor Boehm, Robin Delaney, Renie Kennemer, and Christopher Grant. After introductions, Rick Frederick gave an overview and status of the 7 watershed management plans either recently completed (Fowl River) or in various planning stages (Bayou La Batre, Dog River, Fish River/Weeks Bay, Bon Secour/Oyster Bay, Wolf Bay, and Tensaw Apalachee) around the Bay. BRC members were encouraged to stay abreast of WMPs through steering committee, community outreach meetings and the MBNEP website. A status report of the Mon Louis Island restoration project (funded by oil spill money through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation) and a brief history and background of the Mobile Bay NEP was provided for new members to the BRC. Lunch was provided to the group and sponsored by the Partners for Environmental Progress.

Ben Brenner, MBNEP Digital Production Coordinator, shared the latest updates to the *Create a Clean Water Future* website. Ben demonstrated how the process to “Become a Partner” has been simplified with clearer path to complete and submit the required form. A welcome letter with suggested tips on immediate ways to use the campaign was distributed to the group and will be part of the welcome packet for new members. The committee was also given stickers to place in their window or lobby of their organizations. The committee was encouraged to visit the website, join the campaign, and provide suggested tips and companies that can be referenced on the site.

<http://www.cleanwaterfuture.com/>

Rick Frederick discussed several opportunities for BRC members to get involved directly (or recruit others) and participate and/or sponsor upcoming events and projects:

1). Small Stream Litter Trap- A solution, created and championed by the Thompson Engineering team, for small stream litter collection to enhance water quality in all local watersheds. The goal is to have 20 “Litter Gitters” installed by January 1, 2017. The trap is a basket style device moored to the bank via floating booms. The prototype has been tested and the provisional patent has been applied for. Initial tests show that the Litter Gitter functions as planned and is suitable for a larger deployment. Potential partner for the initial launch is the Dog River Clear Water Revival. Other potential partners include The City of Mobile for site selection among other tasks, Mobile Bay NEP for communication and facilitation, Gulf Coast Containers for maintenance, and Brunson Net and Twine for manufacturing. Project is still in initial planning stage with opportunities for sponsorship through the BRC to follow.

2). 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup on Sat. Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. Various locations around Mobile Bay. Thompson Engineering sponsoring two sites where volunteers can plug in: On Dog River for a traditional clean up; and on Weeks Bay at the mouth of Fish River where Thompson will provide a barge for canoes and kayaks to be deployed along Fish River. Paddlers can reach trash on the banks for the river before returning to the barge at the end of the event. Create a Clean Water Future will provide signage, bags, and trash pickers.

3). Mobile United's Natural Resources Committee will kick off 2017 with a community wide Clean Up and Day of Service on MLK Day weekend in January 2017. The cleanup will focus on the lower reaches of Three Mile Creek and partner with the Cities of Mobile and Prichard, as well as numerous stakeholders throughout the community. This will kick off the MUNRC efforts to promote the Create a Clean Water Future campaign as part of their 2017 project. The BRC will be tasked with an industrial cleanup and "Amphibious Assault" on One Mile Creek in conjunction with the MLK Day event. Members will be asked to use their resources, influence, and contacts, in conjunction with the City of Mobile's recent Tiger Grant Award, to remove "Legacy Trash" in One Mile Creek. Once the decades old trash has been removed, the City will be challenged, as part of the revitalization of Three Mile Creek, to keep the trash from returning via the city streets.

Jason Kudulis, recently hired by the Mobile Bay NEP, lead a discussion on Citizen water monitoring. He introduced to the group the Alabama Water Watch (AWW), a citizen-based volunteer monitoring program coordinated through Auburn's Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquaculture, a program which began in 1992. Jason explained that volunteer monitoring educates citizens about water issues, supplements government agencies, coordinates and disseminates data through ADEM to the public, and can be a fun and meaningful way to connect to your favorite waterway and give back to the community. BRC members were encouraged to take this information to their organizations and make available to their employees.

Finally, Rick Frederick offered and encouraged members to take part in field trips offered by the Mobile Bay NEP in various watersheds. Getting in the field helps raise awareness and allows community members to become familiar fist hand with the projects and efforts currently taking place on both sides of the bay. Members asked to express interest where they might like to "plug in".

Jennifer Denson closed the meeting with two announcements - the PEP Reverse Trade Show on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Ft. Whiting and Lance LeFleur, Director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) as guest speaker at the November 17<sup>th</sup> PEP breakfast meeting. For more information: [www.pepmobile.org](http://www.pepmobile.org)

**The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's Annual Breakfast meeting will take place on Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Official "Save the Date" to follow.**