



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Community Action Committee
Zoom
September 12, 2024, 10:00 am – 11:00 am**

Attendees:

Leslie Gahagan, Wolf Bay Watershed Watch/City of Foley
Ted Henken, Fowl River Area Civic Association
Nick Williams, Wolf Bay Watershed Watch
Margaret “Marty” Lind for Dr. Shu - Gulf Coast Environmental Equity Center
Chandler Ogburn, Dog River Clearwater Revival
Kathryn Millard, EPA Gulf of Mexico Division
Ramsey Sprague, Mobile Environmental Justice Action Coalition, NAACP
Mona Dominguez, AL Water Watch
Mark Berte, Alabama Coastal Foundation
Mimi Fearn, Dog River Clearwater Revival
Dennis Hatfield, Little Lagoon Preservation Society
Andy Lightbourne, Fowl River Area Civic Association
Johanna Gertsch - Weeks Bay NERR
Vaughn Millner, Alabama Audubon
[Ron Phelps](#),
Lani Cameron, Western Perdido Bay Watershed Action Committee
Carletta Davis, We Matter Eight Mile Association
[Roberta Swann](#), MBNEP
Shemika Brown, MBNEP
Bekah Farmer, MBNEP

Welcome and Introductions

Shemika Brown opened the meeting by welcoming attendees then turned the meeting over to Co-Chairs, Leslie Gahagan and Ted Henken.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 13, 2024, meeting were approved by the committee unanimously.

There was no old business to discuss.

The meeting was then turned over to Roberta Swann, Director of the MBNEP.

Roberta discussed the plans for the rewrite of the comprehensive conservation management plan (CCMP) for the next 5-year period, 2025 to 2030. She discussed the importance of reengaging, or in continuing to engage management conference committees and helping and working with them to develop their strategies or action plans for the next 10 years. Roberta discussed the Management Conference Survey that had been sent out to members of the CAC, the issues that it covers (sediment, management, waste management and growth management), what it means as it relates to the CAC and working with other Management Conference committees, what the MBNEP has learned over the past 10 years, and the upcoming joint meeting that will take place in October 2024. She encouraged everyone to complete the survey and asked Shemika to resend it to those who may need to retake it.

Questions for Mrs. Swann included:

1. What if members on the CAC are participating in other committees, should they take the survey for each committee? Johanna Gertsch, NERR.

- A. Yes. Committee members should answer from their perspective of the individual committee on which they serve. Members could potentially complete multiple surveys.

Mary Redditt added the importance of filling out every question, including all the contact information. If the survey isn't completely filled out, it will be thrown out, making it null and void.

Bekah Farmer gave a report on updates to watershed management plan suggested projects. The amount of suggested projects currently is 1,100, and that does not include the new manager plant plans that are coming out right now. She shared with the committee a map that has been created that identifies each suggested project and its current status. Bekah mentioned that the map and information will be included on the new CCMP website that is currently being created.

Discussion following Ms. Farmer's presentation included how the CAC should engage the community on a deeper level. Suggestions included going to churches and talking to government officials.

Mona Dominguez - AL Water Watch talked about the newly created partnership between MBNEP and AL Water Watch and the work they are doing with volunteer water monitors helping to inform members of the community about what the data means and how it can be better used.

Mark Berte discussed upcoming and ongoing events hosted by ACF.

Shemika Brown told the committee about this year's Bays and Bayous symposium being held in Biloxi, MS, November 19-20, 2024.

There were no other comments or concerns from the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.