

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Executive Committee Meeting
Original Oyster House Banquet Hall, Spanish Fort, AL
February 23, 2018 10am-12pm.

Attendees – Scott Bannon, ADCNR Marine Resources; Mark Berte, Alabama Coastal Foundation; Jennifer Denson, Partners for Environmental Progress; Mimi Fearn, Dog River Clearwater Revival; Judy Haner, The Nature Conservancy; Patric Harper, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Fred Leslie, ADEM; James Lyons, Alabama State Port Authority; Ben Malone, USDA-NRCS; Eliska Morgan, Alabama Gulf Coast Restore Council; Patti Powell, Susan Rees (Larry Parson-proxy), U.S Army Corps of Engineers; William Sisson (Bob Chappelle-proxy), Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; John Valentine, Dauphin Island Sea Lab; Hank Burch, ADCNR State Lands; Elizabeth Roney, Congressman Bradley Byrne’s Office

MBNEP Staff Present: *Roberta Swann, Tom Herder, Christian Miller, Rick Frederick, Kelley Barfoot, Jason Kudulis, Paul Lammers, Bethany Dickey, Jackie Wilson, and Ben Brenner*

1. **Introductions/Call to Order:** Fill-in Co-Chair Hank Burch called meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Burch asked for comments or revisions to the minutes from the November 17, 2017 meeting. Jennifer Denson made a motion to approve and Eliska Morgan seconded.

3. **Director’s Report**

Money from EPA data development will fund an Economic Impact Analysis in the D’Olive Watershed. The Wolf Bay Watershed Management Plan is next, but we are waiting on Federal funding. The West Fowl River WMP is in process. The Bayou La Batre WMP is in draft (sent back to contractor to fix a few things). The Federal Restore funding should be finalized this quarter. The Project Implementation Committee will be re-prioritizing the remaining watersheds for this round of funding. There is one project left in the D’Olive Creek restoration (broken into 3 parts). D’Olive monitoring is ongoing. There is some money left from the Tip of Mon Louis Island project that will possibly be reallocated. The 3MC Partnership is a group of private sector partners that have come together for the Three Mile Creek restoration. MBNEP has identified a project in the headwaters of Toulmins Spring Branch that will be from the NRDA Plan 2. Interviews for the Invasive Species Management Plan for Three Mile Creek are underway. Engineering and design for 12 Mile Creek is also in the interview process. The next Current Connections newsletter will come out in May. MBNEP is managing a grand total of \$25,106,053.58. Here is a list of MBNEP activities for 2018:

12 Mile Creek Engineering and Design starts	March, 2018
TMC Invasive Species Management Planning starts	March, 2018
Economic Impact Analysis of D’Olive Watershed Restoration	March, 2018
Cultural Resource Survey of MS Sound and Mobile Bay begins	March, 2018
Wolf Bay Watershed Planning begins	March, 2018
Congress Passes 2018 Budget	March, 2018
Dauphin Island Video: Flight of the Frigate Bird release	April, 2018
Hydrologic Modeling of Watersheds	April, 2018
Quarterly Committee Meetings	April, 2018
3MC Partnership will launch	May, 2018
Quarterly Committee Meetings	July, 2018
State of the Bay Report	October, 2018
CCMP Update Deadline	October, 2018
Quarterly Committee Meetings	October, 2018
Bays and Bayous 2018	November 28-29, 2018
Fowl River Marsh Study Completion	December, 2018
Coastal Habitat Restoration Plan	December, 2018
Annual Meeting	December, 2018

We will be updating the Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) this year. Each committee will review accomplishments, assess current objectives, and modify each CCMP strategy to encompass the goals for the next five years. We will be modifying the Ecosystem Restoration Strategy to conform with Alabama Non-Point Source Control Program requirements. We will also be reviewing current WMPs to determine any needed amendments.

4. Committee Reports (MBNEP Management Conference Co-Chairs)

Science Advisory Committee

Fred Leslie gave an update starting with the meeting on January 24th. The bulk of that meeting was spent reviewing the current Estuary Status and Trends CCMP goals, objectives and progress to date, and possible revisions. The Fowl River Marsh Study is underway and three contracts have been executed- USA, DISL, and Barry A. Vittor & Associates. The State of the Bay is ongoing. After five years the co-chairs of the SAC will be ending their tenure and new chairs will be appointed.

Project Implementation Committee

Judy Haner gave an update on the Habitat Tool that TNC is working on. It's in the formatting phase and maps will be generated soon. A workgroup has been formed to decide on the classifications of each habitat type. The February 1st PIC meeting focused on a SWOT analysis of the committee and measured the accomplishments from the current CCMP goals.

Government Networks Committee

Christian Miller gave an update on the February 23rd GNC meeting. The Federal Restore Council has selected EPA as the new federal chair. The Alabama Restore Council is meeting March 7th to make decisions on the projects from the RFE process. Congressman Bradley Byrne gave the GNC an update on Federal funding. The Appropriations Bill will be finalized the third week of March. He does not anticipate any cuts being made from programs that we care about. Byrne will be filing a bill that will take everything that is mandatory spending that's not Medicare, Social Security, Tricare, or Veterans' benefits and make it nonmandatory = \$1.2 trillion of spending. John Carlton discussed the completion of his Stormwater Regulatory Review he did for MBNEP. He reviewed existing municipal and county requirements relating to stormwater and resources management. He then created a matrix from 11 Mobile County municipalities and 14 Baldwin County municipalities plus ADEM and EPA regulations. The full report is available on the MBNEP website http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/Regularory_Review.pdf

Community Action Committee

Dr. Mimi Fearn reported on the January 31st meeting. Chris Johnson (ADEM's Water Quality Branch) attended the CAC meeting to discuss volunteer monitoring and answer questions that the CAC monitors have been frustrated about concerning the data that's being collected and whether ADEM will be able to use it. The Water Rangers web tool customization for coastal Alabama is ready to use. Over 24 new monitors have been trained since January 1st. The Marine Science Association at the University of South Alabama established a group to monitor Three Mile Creek Headwaters.

Business Resources Committee

Jennifer Denson reported on the February 22nd meeting. Like all other committees, the BRC is updating its CCMP 5 year strategy. The BRC is comprised of members who like to help on an advisory capacity, then members who like to be the boots-on-the-ground. The BRC would like to be the "hub" for all things Clean Water Future by developing stewardship standards, measuring and tracking the impacts of CCWF across all businesses/organizations, and recruiting more CWF members from Baldwin County (where membership has been lacking).

Community Resources Committee

Mark Berte reported on the February 22nd meeting. Because the CRC completed its CCMP strategy in 2017, the discussion for the CCMP update was easy. Members will be completing a survey to capture their

accomplishments from 2017. The CRC members also completed a SWOT analysis of the committee. An effort is underway to select a social marketing campaign for CRC support.

5. Other / Announcements

- The Exploreum water exhibit will be from June 11 through August.
- The 3MC Partnership will launch at Creek Fest in May.
- **Each committee will hold nominations for new co-chairs after their 5-year tenure.**

Adjourned at 11:25 a.m.