

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Executive Committee Meeting
Original Oyster House Banquet Hall, Spanish Fort, AL
May 18, 2018 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Attendees – Scott Bannon, ADCNR Marine Resources; Mark Berte, Alabama Coastal Foundation; Chris Blankenship, ADCNR; Ruth Carmichael, Dauphin Island Sea Lab; Jennifer Denson, Partners for Environmental Progress; Darrelyn Dunmore, Strategic Wealth Specialists; Mimi Fearn, Dog River Clearwater Revival; Leslie Gahagan, City of Foley; Charles “Skip” Gruber, Baldwin County Commission; Judy Haner, The Nature Conservancy; Patric Harper, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Amy Hunter, ADCNR; James Lyons, Alabama State Port Authority; Ben Malone, USDA-NRCS; Eliska Morgan, Alabama Gulf Coast Restore Council; Chris Plymale, EPA Region 4; Patti Powell, ADCNR; William Sisson (Bob Chappelle-proxy), Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; LaDon Swann, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant/Auburn; Chris Thomas, EPA Region 4; John Valentine, Dauphin Island Sea Lab

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

1. **Introductions/Call to Order:** Commissioner Chris Blankenship called meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Blankenship asked for comments or revisions to the minutes from the February 23, 2018 meeting. Eliska Morgan made a motion to approve and Mark Berte seconded the motion.
3. **Director’s Report**
 - a) **Budget vs. Actual:** our EPA grant has followed our 5-year CCMP. Our new 5-year EPA grant will begin October 1, 2018. We are trying to zero out the EPA funded grants (shown on the BVA) to close out the grant. We did ask for a 9-month extension for about \$42,000 because there are some activities funded through the EPA grant that we anticipate going past September 30 (Annual Meeting Video and Citizen Monitoring).
 - b) **CCMP Update Process:** We will be updating the Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) this year for the next 5 years. We have contracted with Shafer Consulting from Sarasota, FL, who has worked on CCMP updates with Tampa, Charlotte Harbor and Sarasota NEPs, to assist with our update. Each committee is reviewing accomplishments, assessing current objectives, and modifying each CCMP strategy to encompass the goals for the next five years. We will be working with the State to conform with Alabama Coastal Non-Point Source Control Program requirements. We will be engaging the Management Conference by having a planning meeting with entire conference in September and come up with a final strategy matrix. The updated CCMP will be completed by January.
 - c) **Key Accomplishments:** We finally finished the “Flight of the Frigate Bird” film about Dauphin Island. We have already had a premiere on Dauphin Island and soon to have one in Mobile County. MBNEP recently received a grant for \$300,000 from the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities for healthy watershed protection through conservation of headwater habitats in the Mobile Bay Basin. Our goal is to protect 10,000 acres in the first year and 100,000 over 5 years.

Our annual workplan is due to EPA on June 1st. Because we are in the process of updating our CCMP, some of the goals will change, but the budget numbers will stay the same. Our EPA grant for the upcoming FY 2018-2019 will be \$600,000, with a projected non-federal match dollar amount of \$354,088, giving us a total of \$954,088 in EPA related funding. Ms. Swann asked for approval of the Annual Workplan Budget. Darrelyn Dunmore made a motion to approve and Eliska Morgan seconded the motion. The submitted budget includes funding from local municipalities. (See attached).

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

Science Advisory Committee

Dr. Ruth Carmichael gave an update on the SAC meeting on May 16th. The meeting focused on the Fowl River Marsh Health Study. The team provided a project update based on the work being done with each component - vegetation, hydrology, and sediments. Dr. Carmichael made a request to the Executive Committee to add a hydrodynamic modeling component to the study. Mark Berte made a motion of approval and Dr. Mimi Fearn seconded the motion. Motion carries with no opposition. Dr. John Lehrter and Dr. Amy Hunter have agreed to be the next SAC co-chairs. State of the Bay content creation continues. Tom Herder asked all members of the SAC to write vignettes of their own research for State of the Bay, which gives them the chance to advertise their own work.

Project Implementation Committee

Judy Haner gave an update on the May 3rd PIC meeting. The PIC went through a voting process to re-prioritize the remaining watersheds from RESTORE funding. The top three watersheds are the MTA Delta, Fly Creek, and Bayou Sara. Roberta pointed out that all the other committees will be doing this ranking process and that the priorities are different among the other committees.

Government Networks Committee

Commissioner Skip Gruber gave an update on the May 18th GNC meeting. Justin McDonald with USACE presented an overview of their Coastal Vulnerability Assessment. The members did the watershed prioritization exercise. A Survey Monkey is being conducted to assess current strengths and weaknesses to determine ways the GNC can better serve its members.

Community Action Committee

Leslie Gahagan reported for the CAC. The next meeting is scheduled for May 30th. The committee will undergo the CCMP review and set committee goals for 2018-2019. A conference call was organized with ADEM and AWW to work on getting a better relationship between agency and volunteer monitoring groups. 15 new monitors have been trained since February. The Alabama Water Watch annual meeting will be held in coastal Alabama in 2019.

Business Resources Committee

Darrellyn Dunmore and Rick Frederick reported for the BRC. The next meeting is scheduled for June 26th. Litter Gitters are being deployed in both counties. MBNEP has two grants (EPA Trash Free Waters, Gulf of Mexico Program) for the construction, installation, and maintenance of a total of 14 Litter Gitters, 10 of which will be in Three Mile Creek. MBNEP and PEP are sponsoring another 3 Litter Gitters in Dog River. The Gulf of Mexico Grant is also funding the implementation of a volunteer monitoring program (SWAMP) and the implementation of a plan targeting 5 businesses in the watershed to encourage alternative packaging. The BRC is re-launching the Create a Clean Water Future Campaign. Since there aren't any parameters to who can join CCWF, there will soon be membership levels, brand requirements and other requirements like company recycling, company cleanups, and clean parking lot programs.

Community Resources Committee

Mark Berte reported on the May 9th CRC meeting. The committee completed an evaluation of the 5-year CCMP EPI goals, objectives, and activities. "The Diverse Delta" was the top choice for the CRC social marking campaign. The committee is in the process of conducting an inventory of completed activities from year 4 of the CCMP.

5. Other / Announcements

- Alabama Mississippi Bays & Bayous will be held in Mobile this year- November 28-29, 2018
- The Twelve Mile Creek stream restoration project is underway and the community meeting will be held June 7th
- The Exploreum water exhibit opens June 13th

- Governor Ivey is hosting a restoration summit October 11th for coastal Alabama.
- **Each committee will hold nominations for new co-chairs after their 5-year tenure.**

Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Activity	Year U1: 2018-2019	Past Year EPA Funding Available	External Funding Available	Total
Estuary Status and Trends	45,000	-	378,844	423,844
Coastal Monitoring	45,000			45,000
Watershed Restoration Monitoring			\$ 55,844	55,844
Sediment Studies (Federal RESTORE)			\$ 323,000	323,000
Ecosystem Restoration and Protection	20,000	-	5,723,131	5,743,131
General Watershed Implementation Reserve	20,000		\$ 20,000	40,000
D'Olive Watershed Restoration			\$ 2,182,569	2,182,569
Fowl River Watershed Restoration			\$ 710,032	710,032
Watershed Restoration Planning (Federal RESTORE)			\$ 2,542,667	2,542,667
Tensaw Applache Watershed Restoration- Planning			\$ 6,025	6,025
Mobile Bay Watershed Conservation (HWC)			\$ 261,838	261,838
Three Mile Creek Watershed Restoration (Federal RESTORE)			\$ 17,430	17,430
Technical Assistance and Capacity Building	7,500	17,595	-	25,095
Citizen Science/Volunteer Monitoring	2,500	\$ 17,595		20,095
Conservation Corps	2,500			2,500
Municipal Staff Support/Training	2,500			2,500
Education and Public Involvement	74,541	21,627	-	96,168
Management Conference Support/Cultivation	4,000			4,000
Newsletter	8,000			8,000
Signage	5,000			5,000
Public Outreach: Clean Water Future Campaign	15,041	\$ 13,502		28,543
Public Outreach: Social Media, Website, Video	30,000	\$ 8,125		38,125
Special Events	7,500			7,500
Promotional SWAG	5,000			5,000
Management and Program Administration	832,047	-	-	832,047
Program Delivery/Operation	707,601			707,601
Indirect Charges	124,446			124,446
Grand Total EPA Budget	979,088	39,222	6,101,975	7,120,285

EPA Annual Appropriation	625,000
Match (Projected)	354,088
Total Available Budget	979,088