

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Executive Committee Meeting
Original Oyster House Banquet Hall, Spanish Fort, AL
Friday, September 28, 2018 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Attendees – Scott Bannon, ADCNR Marine Resources; Chris Blankenship, ADCNR; Casi Callaway, Mobile Baykeeper; Jennifer Denson, Partners for Environmental Progress; 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; Merceria Ludgood, Mobile County Commission; Fred Leslie, ADEM; Chris Plymale, EPA Region 4; William Puckett, Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee; LaDon Swann, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant/Auburn

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

1. **Introductions/Call to Order:** Commissioner Chris Blankenship called meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** asked for comments or revisions to the minutes from the May 5, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Merceria Ludgood made a motion to approve and Jennifer Denson 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:** PIC first committee to approve CCMP strategy. Goal for the future: All committee strategies should be approved by October 26th. Document assembled by November 30th. Vote of approval by MBNEP annual meeting, and document produced by January 31st.
 - c) **Key Accomplishments:** #TrashBlows campaign launch at the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo. 178 people attended the CCMP meeting August 30th, with 80 surveys completed afterward. The City of Mobile has requested we be the Three Mile Creek watershed restoration coordinator. Tackling trash in the Three Mile Creek watershed with the Mitchel College of Business students. Each group of students assigned an issue including: #TrashBlows, Ditch the Disposals, Truck bed Trashcan, and Mitchel Ambassadors will do trash monitoring. Introduce Samantha Kumin, from PNG, and her involvement in Ditch the Disposals. Bays and Bayous- 220 abstracts, intergenerational panel.
4. Committee Reports (MBNEP Management Conference Co-Chairs)

Science Advisory Committee

Amy Hunter gave an update on the September 12th meeting. Fowl River marsh study wrapping up for the but will increase number of spits and possibly in cooperating social scientists.

Project Implementation Committee

Judy Haner gave an update on the September 27th meeting. The PIC has approved the goals and objectives for the year. ERP- Two habitat plans underway. Hopeful to have a habitat plan draft by December to handle invasive plants. ERP- Public Access. Inaudible. Discussion of a deep dive into resolving issues common across all involved. Inaudible.

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.