



Mobile Bay NEP

Financial Committee Meeting Minutes

virtually via Zoom Meetings

Tuesday, November 15th, 2022 at 10:00AM



In attendance

Elizabeth Thomas
Ed Sherwood
Jimmy Lyons
Helene Hassel
Jennifer Denson
Patti McCurdy
Roberta Swann
Tiffany England
Henry Perkins
Shemika Brown
Michael Roberts

Minutes

Helene Hassel called the meeting to order at 10:12.

Ed Sherwood from the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program presented on the different funding mechanisms and strategies the TBEP uses.

TBEP's average annual revenue is \$2,840,454, with EPA dollars making more than half of it and the rest coming from local governments, SWFWMD, and Tampa Bay Water.

TBEP operates as a Special District of the State of Florida, which gives them Collective Buy-In for a Comprehensive Plan, defines Accountability Benchmarks, and provides 50:50 Federal-Local Cost Share for Action. They operate with an interlocal agreement with counties and cities in the district, renewed every 5 years. Funding from counties and cities within the district is based just on population numbers, and the annual contribution is prorated based on contributions to restoration.

They manage over 200 projects at a time with around \$14m in total grant funding.

Tampa Bay Water is a small amount of total funding, with public utilities paying in to ensure quality drinking water.

They work to secure funds from a variety of sources to support partner-directed research & restoration through the Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund (TBERF).

They also award grants through a mini-grant program, providing community leaders for funding toward environmental projects (such as rain gardens). These are funded by the Tarpon Tag, a Specialty License Plate – this has so far raised \$230k.

Operating costs have increased over time. Research, outreach and partner support costs increase 26% year over year, whereas programmatic operation costs increase just 5% a year.

Their management structure is set up with a policy board on the top made of funders, then a management board made of partner organizations, then the TBEP itself which is over the technical advisory committee, community advisory committee, and the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51.