



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Finance Committee Meeting
Zoom
Friday, May 16th, 2024, 1:00 PM -2:30 PM**



Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Lynne Chronister, University of South Alabama

Chris Lee, J.L. Bedsole Foundation

Jimmy Lyons, Mobile Port (RET)

Patti McCurdy, ADCNR State Lands

MBNEP Staff Present

Roberta Swann

Cody Aloï

Bethany Hudson

Key Takeaways:

- *Approve EPA Section 320 and BIL Year 4 workplans*

1. Call to Order

Patti McCurdy initiated the meeting by welcoming everyone and suggesting a run-through of the agenda items.

2. Approval of Minutes

Patti McCurdy moved to approve the minutes from the April 4th, 2024 meeting. Lynne Chronister made a motion to approve the minutes, and Chris Lee seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Directors Report

Roberta Swann asked Cody Aloï to provide an overview of the annual work plans.

- **Estuary Status and Trends-** Discussed the pathogen detection K9 program, which will use trained dogs to detect harmful pathogens in waterways and reduce traditional testing costs.
- **Ecosystem Restoration and Protection-** Funding will support projects like the creation of a passive park in Africatown and ADA access points in Locations to be determined.
- **Technical Assistance and Capacity Building-** Funds will be used in collaboration with the Innovation Portal to initiate a “community resilience challenge” and support volunteer water quality monitoring through Alabama Water Watch.
- **Education and Public Involvement-** Funding will support newsletters, watershed signage, videos, community events, and management conference support.
- **Management and Program Administration-** The Funds will cover operation costs and indirect charges to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, as well as the development of the next CCMP.

Inquiries

- Patti McCurdy and other attendees expressed interest in the pathogen detection K9 program. Cody and Roberta Swann provided additional details about the project's background and implementation.

4. Approval of Work Plans

The committee discussed and approved each section, with Lynne Chronister making a motion to approve and Chris seconding. The work plans were approved unanimously.

5. Old Business

Roberta Swann mentioned the strategic planning and cost avoidance vs. return on investment analysis suggested by Chris Lee would be addressed in the next meeting.

6. New Business

No new business

7. Announcements

Patti McCurdy announced that a Doodle poll would be sent out to schedule the next Finance Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 PM.