



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Finance Committee Meeting
February 25th, 2021-NEP Conference Room 10:30AM**

Meeting Notes

In attendance: Roberta Swann, Tiffany England, Helene Hassell, & Jennifer Densen.

- Initial discussion regarding short new videos to educate the other committees on their recent works.
- Finance discussion began with recognizing Trump RE-Authorized the NEP's and what that entails regarding what action the FC can take to garner new resources. Current EPA funds are mostly operational and requires a 1 to 1 match and external funds (state, local and competitive) are mostly project based.
- Finance Committee Importance:
 - The need to potentially increase our funding to accommodate additional match requirement since the NEP's are now authorized for up to 1 million.
 - The need to diversify non-Federal share.
 - Mobile and Baldwin county recently increased their financial commitments due to current WMP's. How can we keep them at the same level of commitment once those are completed?
 - Goal is to become self-sustaining and obsolete-meaning-institutionalized work at the local level.
 - need a sustainable comprehensive finance plan to build our value.
- Potential FC Members Discussion-Jennifer asked the question weather we want people who can bring money to the table or influential people to help bring in outside funding. Answer-BOTH.
 - Current Member-Chris Lee-State level--valuable and engaged, desire to remain on committee.
 - Current Member-Jimmy Lyons-valuable & engaged, desire to remain on committee.
 - Potential-Beth Thomas-Alabama Power Foundation, consistently wants to fund projects, and works with DISLF as well
 - Potential-Patti McCurdy-State Lands Director-educate her to tap into other state money besides ADCNR
 - Current-Ralph Helmich-Foley Mayor-long time NEP partner
 - Potential State Legislatures-Chip Brown & Donna Givens
 - Potential Mobile County Admin-Glen Hodges or Eddie Ker-Roberta will discuss with Merceria

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- Potential Baldwin County Admin-Billy Joe or Joe? Will ask Ron Cink
 - Potential Academia-Lynn Chronister-South Alabama
 - Potential Banker-John Arendall- assist with revolving loan fund.
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- Discussed the “roles” the Finance committee will take current and in the future
 - Assist with approving budgets.
 - Reviewing quarterly BVA’s
 - Finalize revolving loan and how it will be distributed.
 - Potentially grow to influence project selection and finance influence.
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- Mid-Year Reception Discussion-more celebratory than our annual breakfast. June 3rd, evening reception at the Blue Gill, outside in order to social distance. Potential guest performance by a Nashville Park Ranger who is known for bird calls and being on the Voice.
 - QUESTION POSED: Do we charge a ticket price of \$25.00 per person to attend and allow 2 drink tickets or do we generate sponsors only and have a cash bar. ANSWER-Charge 25.00 AND solicit for sponsors (develop sponsor levels) and give sponsors guest tickets to with their sponsorship.

ADJOURNED at 11:45