



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Project Implementation Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 1, 2018
5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, Tensaw Theater**



Attendees:

LG Adams (Weeks Bay NERR)	Jaime Miller (ADCNR, Marine Resources Div.)
Sherry Allison (Allen Engineering)	Amy Newbold (EPA GOMP)
Celena Boykin (Baldwin Co. Planning & Zoning)	Larry Parson (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Mary Kate Brown (The Nature Conservancy)	Chris Plymale (EPA Region 4)
Rhonda Bryars (Baldwin Co. SWCD)	Justin Rigdon (ADEM)
Diane Burnett (SARPC)	Tina Sanchez (Mobile Co. Environmental Services)
Ashley Campbell (City of Daphne)	Randy Shaneyfelt (ADEM)
Greg Dunn (Alabama Dept. of Public Health)	Michael Sharp (NFWF)
Benji Elmore (Alabama Forestry Commission)	Mike Shelton (Weeks Bay NERR)
Camilla English (Baldwin Co. Health Dept.)	Landon Smith (City of Orange Beach)
Walter Ernest (Pelican Coast Conservancy)	Brian Spears (U.S. Fish & Wildlife)
Mike Eubanks (Thompson Engineering)	Will Underwood (ADCNR, State Lands Div.)
Paige Felts (Volkert)	Lee Walters (Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood)
Carl Ferraro (ADCNR, Coastal Section)	Chris Warn (Environmental Science Associates)
Rosemary Ginn Sawyer (City of Mobile)	Kelly Warren (Mobile Co. Health Dept.)
Meg Goecker (Moffatt & Nichol)	Marc Wyatt (Anchor QEA)
Judy Haner (The Nature Conservancy)	Heather Reed (Town of Perdido Beach)
Patric Harper (U.S. Fish & Wildlife)	Leah Sharpe (EPA)
Bob Harris (Alabama State Port Authority)	Jeff Helms (Moffatt & Nichol)
Scott Jackson (Thompson Engineering)	Patrick Honan (Pelican Coast Conservancy)
Matthew Jones (Integrated Science & Engineering)	Laura Jackson (Mobile Baykeeper)
Ryan Mains (Alabama Coastal Foundation)	Lindsay Spurrier (Cypress Environmental)
Shannon McGlynn (ADEM)	Kevin Cain (Payne Environmental)
Melissa Mehaffey (Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood)	Veronica Klocinski (Payne Environmental)

MBNEP Staff: Roberta Swann, Christian Miller, Paul Lammers, and Bethany Dickey

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 pm by Patric Harper. Attendees went through a round of self-introductions.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Harper asked for any deletions, additions, changes to the minutes from September 21, 2017. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. Carl Ferraro made the motion, which Larry Parson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Update of Watershed Management Plans (Christian Miller, MBNEP)

Mr. Miller gave a quick update on MBNEP Watershed Management Plans

- **Fowl River WMP:** has been in the implementation phase for a couple of years. Fowl River Marsh Health Study is ongoing; field work is going on now. John Curry is finished with the hydrologic study. The draft report is in for internal review and will be out soon.
- **Bon Secour WMP:** has been wrapped up for over a year
- **Bayou la Batre WMP:** draft WMP is currently undergoing internal review by MBNEP
- **West Fowl River WMP:** ongoing
- **MS Sound:** MBNEP is working with ESA on pathogen source assessment
- **Dog River WMP:** just finished. DRRCR will be taking on the bulk of the implementation. This WMP recommended a watershed coordinator position (check back on the status of the funding for this position).
- **Weeks Bay WMP:** wrapped up. This WMP also recommended a watershed coordinator position.
- **Wolf Bay WMP:** Team selected at the end of the year to lead the development of this plan (same team that developed the Weeks Bay plan).
- **Mobile-Tensaw Delta Complex WMP:** co-funded with West Fowl River from Restore Bucket II money.

Look for more information on the MBNEP website www.MobileBayNEP.com

Agenda Item for next meeting: Do we need to collectively decide on a new priority grouping of watersheds for the next round of funding?

4. 2018 Projects Update

- **Mike Sharp, NFWF**
 - Mike discussed the process of funding NFWF projects- a yearly cycle, which is on its 5th year. \$145 million has been obligated for projects in the state of Alabama. More than 50% of that money has been disbursed. Phase I is engineering and design; Phase II is funding.
 - March board meeting will bring people up to speed on what's happening. November board meeting brings the board a list of projects for consideration.
- **Eliska Morgan, ADCNR**
 - The Alabama Restore Council has posted projects on their website that are up for consideration for Buckets I and III funding. The Council will vote on projects in a public setting hopefully by July.
- **Carl Ferraro, ADCNR Coastal Section**
 - Ciba-Geigy NRDA is finally in the implementation phase. There is a pending trustee resolution to transfer \$1.25 million to ADCNR for work in the Upper Delta. They will be targeting acquisitions, doing hardwood bottomlands restoration, supporting stewardship (invasive species control, bridging, etc.)
 - The Alabama Trustee Implementation Group (AL TIG) is working on Plan II, which is an eco plan. It includes restoration projects that address most of the injury types listed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It's still in the internal draft stage.
 - **Marsh Island:** complete and in the monitoring phase.
 - **Osprey Project:** complete and in the monitoring phase.
 - **Point aux Pins:** Tetra Tech is moving into the next step of design and will hopefully be going into construction by summer.
- **Shannon McGlynn, ADEM**
 - The updated 303(d) list of impaired waterways will be coming out shortly

- March 15 will start the non-point source conference
- ADEM is partnering with NFWF on projects in D'Olive, Tiawasee, and Three Mile Creek
- **Judy Haner, The Nature Conservancy (Meg Goecker, Moffatt & Nichol)**
 - Engineering design for Lightning Point (*see attached*)
 - The project will include marsh restoration, opening of a historic tidal creek, LID parking, access points, and look out point. (*see attached*)
- **Ashley Campbell, City of Daphne**
 - 3 projects in D'Olive are about to be out for bid and 1 on Tiawasee Creek
 - Daphne has 5 water quality sondes measured once a month that take a water sample every 15 minutes. There will be a meeting in February to analyze all the data (2 years out of 3).
 - Daphne put in an application with Forever Wild to sell 95 acres of marsh area above I-10 (112 acres were donated to the City of Daphne). Daphne purchased 112 acres on the south side of the interstate that will be preserved.
 - 15 acres donated in Tiawasee
 - ADEM 319 Grant: \$1 million worth of work. Implementing of the last 3 BMPs will start March 5.
 - Daphne is partnering with EPA for Education & Outreach at Daphne High School (stabilization of erosion in Tiawasee)
- **Paul Lammers, MBNEP**
 - **Three Mile Creek:** grant from Federal Restore for stream restoration project on Twelve Mile Creek. Selection Committee is working on a decision from the 9 RFQs MBNEP received.
 - **D'Olive:** DAF and Melanie Loop projects will be going to bid for construction soon

5. Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) Update in 2018

- **Ecosystem Restoration and Protection (ERP) Strategy Review**

Next, Judy Haner led the discussion on the update we will be doing for the CCMP by going over what was accomplished since the last CCMP (*see attached presentation with updated numbers*). If we are missing anything, please let Judy, Patric, Paul, or Roberta know.

Lastly, we discussed some Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of the Project Implementation Committee. Members took turns around the room and here are the top answers:

- **Strengths-** networking and partnerships; synergy of working together; helps with prioritizing projects; real on-the-ground results; active participation; WMPs are doing exactly what we wanted them to do
- **Weaknesses-** overachieving
- **Opportunities-** funding; build on successes; healthy competition; more interaction; cross meetings with other committees; get community involved
- **Threats-** don't bite off more than you can chew; keep it doable; loss of funding

6. Announcements

MBNEP is hosting the next Restoration Workshop March 7-8th starting at Daphne City Hall then taking a bus to tour watershed restorations. The Three Mile Creek kayak/canoe launch will hopefully be installed by Creek Fest, which is May 12th.

7. Schedule Next Meeting: The next PIC meeting will be held in early May.

8. Adjourn

Mr. Harper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 pm. Larry Parson made the motion, which was seconded by Carl Ferraro.