

**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program  
Project Implementation Committee Meeting  
Thursday, June 6, 2013  
5 Rivers Delta Resource Center**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

L. G. Adams, Weeks Bay Reserve  
Kevin Anson, ADCNR-MRD  
Mark Berte, Alabama Coastal Foundation  
Celena Boykin, Baldwin County  
Ashley Campbell, City of Daphne  
Stefanie Christensen, Mobile Baykeeper  
Evan Corneille, ACF  
Marl Cummings III, Mobile County Wildlife  
& Conservation Association  
Mike Dardeau, Dauphin Island Sea Lab  
George Davis, City of Mobile  
Jeff DeQuattro, The Nature Conservancy  
Leslie Gahagan, City of Foley  
Kellyn Garrison, TNC

Amy Gohres, ADCNR  
Patric Harper, U. S. Fish & Wildlife  
Bob Harris, ASPA  
Judy Haner, The Nature Conservancy  
Phillip Hinesley, ADCNR  
Teddy King, AL Dept of Public Health  
Kara Lankford, Ocean Conservancy  
Joyce Nicholas, USDA-NRCS  
Sam St. John, ACF/ Baykeeper  
Randy Shaneyfelt, ADEM  
Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay NERR  
Barbara Shaw, MAWSS  
Lee Walters, Goodwyn, Mills & Caewood

Bob Howard (EPA Region IV) – remotely via Webex and conference call  
MBNEP Staff: Kelley Barfoot, Roberta Swann, Tom Herder

**1. Call to Order**

PIC Chairman Jeff DeQuattro called the meeting to order at 10:05a.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. DeQuattro asked for any corrections or a motion to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2013 meeting. Mr. DeQuattro made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Roberta Swann and carried unanimously.

**3. Jeff DeQuattro – Election of new PIC co-chairs**

- Mr. DeQuattro announced his resignation as PIC committee chair, and with co-chari Teddy King having served continuously since April of 2007, it was agreed that it would be a good time to rotate into new co-chairs. He asked for nominations of new co-chairs.
- Mark Berte moved to nominate Judy Haner and Patric Harper which was seconded by Ms. Swann and carried unanimously
- Ms. Haner and Mr. Harper accepted the roles and responsibilities of PIC co-chairs with the charge at this meeting to begin development of a restoration strategy for the new CCMP.

**4. Jeff DeQuattro – Discussion of results of watershed prioritization efforts and development of five-year CCMP Restoration Plan**

- Mr. DeQuattro discussed the results of watershed prioritization from the February 21, 2013 meeting the process of prioritization. Twenty one 12-digit HUCs were prioritized by PIC members and meeting guests by individual rankings of one (for least important)

through five (of greatest importance) and briefly described the prioritization criteria that were chosen by the Science Advisory Committee. Mr. DeQuattro stated most of the identified watersheds were identified for restoration and some for restoration and conservation. All of the top-eight-scoring watersheds were identified for restoration. The ninth watershed, Grand Bay Swamp, was identified for conservation.

- Mr. DeQuattro asked the PIC members if the 58 people that voted on February 21<sup>st</sup> was enough input. If not, who else should be included?
- Mr. Sam St. John expressed the opinion that the 58 people who participated on February 21<sup>st</sup> represented a broad spectrum across Mobile and Baldwin County.
- Ms. Swann felt that the participants seemed to be very restoration focused and she was not surprised by the outcome of the top nine watersheds.
- Mr. Berte asked if the results should be presented to a larger audience such as the CCMP Development Workshop participants.
- Ms. Swann responded that the whole process would have to be repeated and that the CCMP Workshop participants would not be able to make a recommendation without seeing the underlying data that the February 21<sup>st</sup> participants saw during the presentation. Ms. Swann briefly described the CCMP Development Workshop process to the new PIC members.
- Mr. DeQuattro then discussed the criteria for refinement of a new restoration strategy for the CCMP. He stated two questions will be asked for each of the top nine watersheds, 1) what resources currently exist in the watershed and 2) what needs does the watershed have.
- The PIC members were shown maps of each of the top nine watersheds and were asked to provide input to the two questions above. The results are below:

## **#1 Fish River**

### **Resources:**

Weeks Bay

Watershed Management Plan/Revision to be completed by 2014

NERR presence in watershed

Pathogen Management Plan being developed for upper Fish River

Weeks Bay Foundation

NRCS-Gulf of Mexico Initiative

Current Watershed Model (Baldwin County)

System Wide Monitoring Program

ADEM long-term monitoring

Sub-tidal reef enhancement (planned)

Baldwin County Soil & Water Conservation District

### **Needs:**

Shoreline restoration

Funding and support for implementation

Additional data: wildlife component and septic systems

Restoration of riparian buffers

Conservation easements

Volunteer water quality monitoring

Advisory committee for upper Fish River pathogens

Better understanding of the hydrology – natural and changed on the whole watershed scale

Climate change-related changes in rainfall patterns of greater concern than SLR (groundwater, overland flow, retention time, and impervious surfaces).

## **#2 Tensaw Apalachee**

### **Resources:**

State now has RFP for Causeway study  
Completed USACOE Sediment Budget  
SLAMM model for sea-level rise  
Beneficial use of dredged materials  
Beneficial use of dredged material  
Acquired, State-owned land  
Coastal land trust owned property  
Mobile Cty Wildlife & Conservation Assoc  
Grassroots Organizations and NGO  
involvement  
Friends of the Tensaw  
Daphne acquisition  
ADEM Monitoring

### **Needs:**

Future plans for deeper/wider dredging  
How sea-level rise will affect area  
Habitat migration/climate change study  
More land acquisition  
Restoration of marsh and SAV  
Invasive species control and removal  
Acquisition of property along Daphne marsh  
areas and Delta

## **#3 Big Creek**

### **Resources:**

MAWSS  
Monitoring stations-ADEM  
Watershed Management Plan (ongoing)  
Model developed by USGS (2009)  
Stream restoration  
Acquisition of large riparian buffers  
Land acquisition  
NRCS programs

### **Needs:**

Implementation of recommendations from  
WMP  
Acquisition of buffers (riparian and lake)  
Buy in from residents around the creek that  
do not receive their drinking water from  
MAWSS  
More education efforts and established trash  
laws  
Land acquisition  
Understanding of sediment studies  
Invasive species control and removal  
Stream restoration  
Increased outreach to nursery and farmland  
owners

## **#4 Bon Secour**

### **Resources:**

Completed sediment study (2013)  
Friends of Bon Secour  
ADEM monitoring  
Working waterfronts  
Chris Nelson  
City of Gulf Shores/Foley & Baldwin County  
Planned watershed modeling program  
South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce

### **Needs:**

Watershed management plan  
Restoration of headwaters  
Restoration of historic oyster beds in Bon Secour  
Bay

### **Needs (cont.):**

Shoreline restoration and assessment  
Zoning/land use control  
Septic system mapping and tracking  
Hydrologic study  
Watershed model plan  
Acquisition/conservation easements

## **#5 Fowl River**

### **Resources:**

ADEM monitoring  
Water quality data  
Active/concerned citizens  
Documentation/data (aerial photography)  
Shoreline/Riparian buffers (conserved land)  
NRCS interest  
Working waterfronts  
County Commission/Mobile County interest  
NGO/ACF water quality data (Bill Melton)

### **Needs:**

Conservation of land  
Watershed management plan  
Sediment study  
Shoreline/Habitat restoration  
Mon Louis Island shoreline stabilization  
Land Use change assessment  
Zoning/land use controls  
Marine/vessel debris removal  
Education/Outreach

## **#6 West Fowl River**

### **Resources:**

Shell Yellowhammer (new owners)  
Forever Wild land  
Buffer land (private owners)  
Oyster resources  
Enhancement work of mouth of Fowl River  
Auburn aquaculture program  
Sea Grant support  
Active restoration  
Historical restoration  
Rare habitats  
SLAMM model/climate change  
Working waterfronts  
AL organized seafood  
Fishing community support  
Terrapin research project  
Bellingrath Gardens  
Active conservation community  
Cat and Marsh Islands

### **Needs:**

Engage property owners (residential & commercial)  
Hydrologic studies  
Shoreline/oyster restoration  
Sea-level rise studies (additional)  
Land acquisition  
Watershed management plan  
Sediment budget  
Cat and Marsh Island acquisition for restoration and conservation

## **5. New Business**

Tom Herder asked Marl Cummings III to elaborate on the Causeway parcel to be auctioned. Mr. Cummings shared an announcement and elaborated on two parcels (#s 5 & 6) on wetlands that will be auctioned.

Jeff DeQuattro asked whether PIC meetings should be publically announced and available for public participation. He asked whether we should consider meeting on a monthly (rather than quarterly) basis through the development of the CCMP restoration strategy.

It was agreed that the new co-chairs would work with Roberta Swann and Tom Herder towards scheduling the next meeting date.

Randy Shaneyfelt expressed his gratitude to Jeff DeQuattro and Teddy King

**6. Adjourn** Ms. Swann made the motion for the meeting to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeQuattro and the meeting was adjourned at noon.