



## Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Project Implementation Committee

June 27, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Five Rivers Tensaw Theater



### Agenda

#### **Meeting Objectives:**

- a) Present Results of Stressor Evaluation
- b) Initiate CCMP PIC Action Planning
- c) Review Watershed Plan Project Status
- d) Initiate NEPORT Data Collection

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

#### **2. Review and Approval of Minutes**

#### **3. New Business**

- a) SAC Stressor Evaluation Results, Blair Morrison
- b) CCMP Project Implementation Committee Action Plan, 2025-2030
- c) Subcommittee participation

#### **4. Old Business**

- a) Watershed Plan Project Implementation Status, Christian Miller

#### **5. Staff Report/Announcements**

- a) GPRA Reporting, Jason Kudulis
- b) Announcements

#### **6. Adjourn**

## Minutes

### Attendees:

Madison Blanchard, Stantec  
Herbert Bullock, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Ashley Campbell, Baldwin County, Planning & Zoning  
Emma Cochran, City of Mobile  
Mary Collier-Eastburn, City of Mobile  
Annelise Dodd, Volkert, Inc.  
Benji Elmore, Alabama Forestry Commission  
Walter Ernest, Pelican Coast Conservancy  
Caleb Harper, City of Spanish Fort  
Patric Harper, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Tabassum Islam, Moffatt & Nichol  
Webb Jackson, Anchor QEA, LLC  
Lucas Jones, Alabama Forestry Commission  
Riley Kilpatrick, Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood  
Cade Kistler, Mobile Baykeeper  
Jeremiah Kolb, ADCNR State Lands  
Nicole Love, City of Fairhope  
Brian Mabry, Tetra Tech  
Shannon McGlynn, ADEM

Jackie McGonigal, Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism and Sustainability  
Eliska Morgan, Thompson Engineering  
Don Mroczko, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Autumn Nitz, ADEM Coastal Programs  
Steve Parker, Moffatt & Nichol  
Ryan Peek, Alabama Forestry Commission  
Richard Peterson, Mott MacDonald  
Melissa Pringle, Allen Engineering & Science  
Andy Reier, Alabama Forestry Commission  
Tina Sanchez, Mobile County Environmental Services  
Sawyer Shotts, ADCNR  
Zach Taylor, City of Mobile  
Will Underwood, ADCNR State Lands  
Ashtyn Walmsley, Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood  
Cortney Weatherby, Alabama Audubon  
J. Jason White, ALDOT  
Nick Williams, City of Foley

Total: 36

MBNEP Staff Present: Bekah Farmer, Roberta Swann, Christian Miller, Jason Kudulis, Blair Morrison, Vanessa Romero, Cody Aloj, Regan Smart

### **Takeaways**

- The 2025-2030 CCMP will be a compilation of action plans. These action plans will be developed by the committee.
- Attendees were briefed on the general status of projects suggested by Watershed Management Plans. Prioritizing these and future projects will be determined by a Project Implementation subcommittee.
- The PIC will be sent:
  - A survey and materials to gather updates on suggested WMP projects.
  - The Excel spreadsheet to fill out for project reporting for the GPRA.

**Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm. Shannon McGlynn opened the meeting with welcoming attendees followed by attendees introducing themselves.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Nicole Love motioned to approve minutes for the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 meeting. Madison Blanchard seconded the motion.

### **New Business**

#### SAC Stressor Evaluation Results, Blair Morrison

- Identifying Environmental Stresses: The Science Advisory Committee

- Conducted in 2011-2012 and again in 2021-2023
- SAC members were asked to evaluate the effects of stressors on the ecosystem services provided by a wide range of habitats
- 2012 effort prioritized Freshwater Wetlands, Intertidal Marshes and Flats, Streams and Rivers, and Riparian Buffers as the most stressed habitats
- 2012 effort had 26 participants
- 2023 effort had 32 total participants
- Stressor Matrix Evaluation: Top Habitats under Stress
  - Intertidal Marshes and Flats
  - Beaches and Dunes
  - Pine Savannas
  - Streams and Rivers
  - Freshwater Wetlands
  - Longleaf Pine Habitat
- Stressor Matrix Evaluation: Top Ecosystems under Stress
  - Biodiversity
  - Fisheries Habitat
  - Sediment and Nutrient Retention
  - Water Quality Enhancement
  - Wildlife Habitat
- Stressor Matrix Evaluation: Top stressors Across Habitats
  - Land Use Change
  - Fragmentation
  - Climate Variability
  - Sea Level Rise
  - Sedimentation
  - Dredging/Filling
- Two Spheres:
  - Changing Landscapes
    - Land Use Change, Sediments, Nutrients, Pathogens
  - Changing Climates
    - Sea Level Rise, Climate Variability, Resilience

#### CCMP Project Implementation Committee Action Plan, 2025-2030

- Action plan framework to include:
  - Objectives
  - Measures
  - Projects
  - Training/knowledge
  - Communication of status and results
- Things to consider:
  - CCMP Overarching goals
    - Improve management of changing Landscapes
    - Improve resilience to impacts of changing climates
  - Methods for prioritizing issues to address over the next 5-10 years, such as:
    - Changes in urbanization
    - SLR
    - Sediment impairment
    - Litter impairment

- Invasive species
  - Pathogen impairment
  - Shoreline erosion
  - Nutrient impairment
- Process to establish a plan
  - Subcommittees, workshops, other...
  - What do we need from MBNEP?
  - What do we need from other committees?
  - What could we suggest for other committees?
  - Who is missing from the PIC table?
    - To know this, members must know who is present. A list of attendees was requested to be sent to PIC members.
- The New CCMP: A Compilation of Action Plans
  - Committee Action Plan Framework
    - Estuary Status/Trends → Measures
      - What are you planning to improve and how will progress be measured? (objectives)
    - Restoration/Protection → Actions/Projects
      - What actions or initiatives will the committee take to achieve it? Who will lead/participate?
    - TA/Capacity Building → Advancing
      - How will you advance the knowledge of your committee or sector through your work?
    - Ed/Public Involvement → Communicating
      - How will you communicate your committee's work to the public and conference?

#### Subcommittee participation

- Potential subcommittees:
  - Watershed Planning
    - Purpose: Develop protocol or process
  - Project Implementation
    - Purpose: Determine focal points
  - Technology Transfer/Communication
- Co-chairs and NEP will put together an idea of what the committees could look like, what commitment they would come with, their goals and expectations, and more.
- \*\*\*UPDATE: Please note that this is no longer the plan.

#### **Old Business**

##### Watershed Plan Project Implementation Status, Christian Miller

- Christian Miller reviewed the general status of projects suggested in Watershed Management Plans, broken down by project type and watershed. He included representative projects from each project type.
- Project Types
  - Acquisition
  - Habitat Restoration
  - Infrastructure

- Monitoring
- Planning
- Regulatory
- See Slides for more detailed information and maps.

## **Staff Report/Announcements**

### GPR Reporting, Jason Kudulis

- Establish goal setting for all government agencies.
- Aid Congressional Committees in their ability to amend, suspend, or establish programs based on performance for each fiscal year.
- Improve the performance of all federal agencies and measure their effectiveness.
- Compare current results to previous years as a measure of effectiveness.
- Each NEP is required to prepare annual summaries on habitats protected or restored within their study area
- The MBNEP reports on project progress that aligns with CCMP values and actions
- Shows EPA the distribution of projects across the two coastal counties.
  - Allows gaps to be identified
  - Measure progress
  - Annual summaries are reported through the National Estuary Program On-Line Reporting Tool (NEPORT)
- From 2006 – 2023
  - 220 projects reported
  - 28,869 acres protected or restored
  - 16 miles of channel/edge habitat
  - \$199M invested
- 10 projects were submitted for 2023
  - Six Artificial Reef construction; One oyster reef enhancement; One marsh restoration; One shoreline enhancement; One acquisition
  - 158 acres; 1,100 feet; \$2.1M

### Announcements: Ongoing or completed projects

- TNC
  - Lower Perdido Islands Restoration Project is soon to initiate the bid process.
- MBNEP Project Statuses
  - Mobile County Watershed Plan In Progress.
  - Pine Run has begun construction
  - Montclair is In Progress
  - Deer River is nearing is in progress and readying to receive beneficial use material from USACE.
  - Fowl River construction has nearly begun.
  - An RFP for Invasive Species Management in TMC will go out soon.
- City of Mobile
  - The latest segment of the Greenway Trail along Three Mile Creek has been completed. Another section along the Japanese Gardens will soon begin improvement.
- Mobile County
  - The Harrison Tract acquisition is nearly complete.
  - The Causeway project is in progress and readying to receive beneficial use material from USACE.
  - Bayou La Batre outfall extension is nearing construction initiation.
  - The stormwater inventory is nearing completion to be distributed.

- Planning a comprehensive safety action plan.
- The Alabama Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program is nearing approval.

**Adjourn**