

Mobile Bay NEP CAC Meeting

International Trade Center, Killian Room
February 17, 2016 10:00 a.m.



In attendance:

Mark Berte, Alabama Coastal Foundation
Jamie Bullock, Mobile Baykeeper
Casi Callaway, Mobile Baykeeper
Tuan Do (Dave), Boat People SOS
Debi Foster, the Peninsula of Mobile, Dog River Clearwater Revival
Leslie Gahagan, Wolf Bay Watershed
Dennis Hatfield, Little Lagoon Preservation Society
Cade Kistler, Mobile Baykeeper
Ray Mayhall, Fowl River Area Civic Association
Sam St. John, Fowl River Area Civic Association
Harold White, Fowl River Area Civic Association

Staff: Kelley Barfoot, Amy Newbold, Roberta Swann

Takeaways

- Establish a working group to define the functionality of a coastal database system based on the needs of the grassroots groups and other monitors.
- The CAC will conduct monitoring efforts based on the AWW protocol and will continue to submit data to AWW until a better coastal data management system is established.
- The CAC members voted to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee to split the CAC into two separate committees, and to establish a non-profit committee named the Education & Advocacy Committee.
- Purpose, goals and objectives for 2016 will be discussed and voted on at next meeting.
- A survey will be sent out to prioritize workshops/trainings, set meeting dates/times, request grassroots groups mission statements and needs.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 10:10 a.m.

2. Review of 2015

The CAC was shown the MBNEP's 2015 Annual Meeting video. The video can be viewed by [clicking here](#). Casi Callaway gave a brief overview of the CAC's 2015 accomplishments.

3. Chair Reports

a. CAC then & now

The group was shown the purpose, goals and objectives of the Water Quality Monitoring Program established in 2007 by the Community Action Committee. Leslie Gahagan stated that, considering the decline in attendance and focus of the

current CAC group, it was discussed at a separate meeting with just the grassroots groups that it might be best to return to the CAC's roots and focus on water quality monitoring in 2016. She showed a table of reported active water quality monitors according to the CAC's CCMP Year 1 report and an AWW map of active and not-active sites. The not-active sites far outweighed the active ones. She then compared the table and map to current (2014-15) active monitors that were reporting to AWW on behalf of a specific group. The map included 20 active monitoring sites on AWW website for the Mobile River Basin of which 4 were Mobile County. There were 31 active monitoring sites on AWW for the Coastal Plain Region which include Wolf Bay, Perdido Bay and the coastline. There was discussion of several concerns: the decline of active monitors due to age, the feeling that their data is not being used, the accessibility of monitoring sites, and the complexity of the AWW website along with the site being inactive until very recent. The group had a discussion regarding the best way to capture and use their data. The group said they wanted to be able to more easily enter data and to include data entry from YSI monitors. The group did not like the way AWW's website displayed the data and they felt it was not very user-friendly for anyone looking for water quality information. Sam St. John stated he would like to have a local repository specific for coastal data that could easily be entered, extracted and used to show trends and the group agreed. It was decided that the groups would continue to collect water quality data and enter the information into the current AWW website until a coastal data repository could be developed and to also continue using the AWW protocols to train monitors and to keep monitors active. Roberta Swann suggested establishing a working group to define the functionality of the database system based on the needs of the grassroots groups and other monitors.

4. New Business

a. Separation of Non-Profits

Amy Newbold gave an overview of the results of a meeting with non-profit groups. It was decided that the non-profits would benefit from separating from the CAC and forming a new Management Conference committee. The separation will be proposed to the Executive Committee on March 4th for approval. During that meeting the non-profits' recommendation to the Executive Committee will be:

Purpose: To provide a space for larger capacity and regional non-profits to advocate for and educate on the implementation of the CCMP.

Suggested Name: Education & Advocacy Committee

Activities/Engagement: Advocating for specific projects within the CCMP (habitat conservation & protection, clean water future campaign, low impact development, connecting environmental justice communities). The two groups will meet together periodically to give a report of each groups progress.

Purpose, Goals and Objectives for 2016

The 2016 Water Quality Monitoring Program's draft purpose, goals and objectives will be sent out via survey for review and comment. They will be discussed and approved at next meeting.

b. Needs Assessment

A survey will be emailed out requesting the group to rank upcoming training opportunities by importance and a schedule will be made and sent out

5. Announcements

a. Upcoming Events

GreenED Drinks

Location: Stewartfield House, Spring Hill College

Date: February 25, 2016 from 5-7 p.m.

Connect To Your Coast

Location: Jubilee Seafood, Montgomery

Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Contact ACF for more information

Mobile Bay Estuary Corps Middle School Program

Application deadline: February 29, 2016

Contact ACF for more information

b. Next Meeting(s) Schedule

The next meeting will be assessed via Doodle poll. Leslie Gahagan volunteered to host the August meeting at the Graham Creek Nature Preserve. It was decided that the quarterly meetings would rotate between Mobile and Baldwin County. The next meeting will be held (tentatively) at Daphne City Hall.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

