



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Community Action Committee Meeting**
Wednesday, August 16, 2017 - 10:00 am at Five Rivers Delta Center
Agenda

Welcome

Approval of Minutes

Chair Report

Updates and Presentations

Prioritizing Habitat Restoration Goals for the Future
Roberta Swann, Director, MBNEP

Monitoring Issues – Question and Answer Session
Mimi Fearn, Co-Chair, Community Action Committee

Other

- Announcements

Adjourn

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Community Action Committee Meeting
August 16, 2017
Five Rivers Delta Center

In attendance: Mikel Corporaal, Sally DeMott, Mimi Fearn, Debbie Foster, Leslie Gahagan, Judy Haner, Dennis Hatfield, Eric Holladay, Barry Nowlin, Ronald Phelps, Mitch Reid, Homer Singleton, Harold White

MBNEP Staff: Jason Kudulis and Bethany Dickey

Takeaways:

- Management Conference Committees are participating in a survey to prioritize habitat restoration goals for the future using CCMP community values – the CAC was the final committee to participate.
- CAC members discussed monitoring program frustrations and what we can collectively do to address and help solve them.

Jason Kudulis called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Judy Haner from The Nature Conservancy (presenting for Roberta Swann) discussed a Coastal Habitat Restoration Plan for Alabama. Funding was received from NFWF. The first plan was completed in 2005 and evaluated projects to identify priority habitats and what value they provide in terms of ecosystem services. The Habitats Tool (MS-AL Habitats Database) created in 2009 displayed all restoration projects that are completed, underway, or planned. The habitat conservation goals classified 10 coastal priority habitats, identified in the MBNEP Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (freshwater wetlands, beaches & dunes, intertidal marshes & flats, longleaf pine habitats, submerged aquatic vegetation, oyster reefs, streams & rivers, riparian forests, pine savanna forests, and maritime forests). She had attendees participate in a clicker survey to prioritize habitat restoration goals for the future using CCMP community values (access, shorelines, fish & wildlife, heritage & culture, environmental resilience, and water quality).

Jason gave an update on new volunteer monitoring activities, noting that the Alabama Water Watch map of sites for coastal Alabama is now live on the [NEP website](#), as well as the “how-to” monitoring guide. The results from the recent CAC survey showed that most people preferred 10:00-12:00 meetings at Five Rivers. In person meetings are preferred and most helpful but opportunities to participate using video conferencing will be incorporated.

Next, we broke into small groups to address monitoring concerns and frustrations and brainstorm possible ways to solve these issues.

Frustrations: **(Possible solutions)**

- Monitor isolation and lack of communication even when in the same watershed/group
 - **member email chain, facebook groups, messaging component added to Water Rangers**

- Inability to solicit young monitors, how to communicate their value and need to participate.
 - Potential solutions -**
 - **Produce NEP rack card and/or video to promote?**
 - **Young professional groups, attend business monthly meetings, social media, family groups, college clubs, boy scouts.**
- Using the data
 - **Grassroots group analysis and getting it to decision makers and stakeholders when issue is noted.**
 - **Bring ADEM to the table.**
- Enterococci method for volunteer monitoring
- Volunteer fatigue or getting new monitors active and committed (retention and recruitment).
 - **Partner monitors in pairs**
 - **Incentive**
- Consistent nutrient data or easier method with quality results when nutrient issues are suspected or known
 - **Would waste water treatment plants be willing to aid analysis or test samples? Industry partners?**
 - **Have monitors take a tour of waste water treatment plants to be better informed.**
- Chemical expiration LaMotte alternatives for purchase, use.
 - **Talk to AWW and other distributors to find alternative manufactures.**

11:29 adjourn