Agenda / Steering Committee 3

FOWL RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN
MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

January 20, 2015 5:30-7:00 pm
FRACA Community Center, 5401 Fowl River Road, Theodore, AL

Purpose: To review project status, discuss key issues for the Fowl River watershed, and prepare for the February public workshops.

1. WELCOME AND PROJECT STATUS 5:30
   Lee Walters, Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood

2. A REVIEW OF WATERSHED PLANNING AND KEY ISSUES FOR THE FOWL RIVER 5:50
   Eve Brantley, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 6:20
   Sarah Kelly, planning NEXT, Eve Brantley, Alabama Cooperative Extension System
   • February workshops (agenda, steering committee involvement)
   • Communication and outreach activities (updated communication plan matrix)

4. OPEN DISCUSSION 6:45
   • Committee member questions/comments

5. ADJOURN 7:00

Supporting Material
• Communication plan matrix (updated)
• Glossary of acronyms
Meeting Notes #3
January 20, 2015

FOWL RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN
MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

I. Project Status Update - Lee Walters, Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood

   a. GIS

      i. Acquired GIS datasets;

      ii. Acquired population projections;

      iii. Initiated subwatershed deliniations.

   b. Watershed Characterization

      i. Completed first water quality sampling event in the tidal portion of Fowl River;

      ii. Completed microbial source tracking sampling in Fowl River main stem - found no indicators of human pathogens;

      iii. Currently setting up the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model for Fowl River. SLAMM uses digital elevation data and analysis to simulate potential impacts of long-term sea level rise on wetlands and shorelines. This will be critical information when we begin looking at potential restoration projects and critical habitat areas.

   c. Other

      i. Estimating the length of tidally influenced shoreline in the FRW (~50 miles);

      ii. Developing a time history of aerial imagery (1930s to present) to evaluate shoreline/island changes;

      iii. Met with Sam St. John (Dec 2014) and toured Fowl River by boat to discuss critical issues and take photographs;
iv. Evaluating critical issues and threats including: sea level rise, flow volume and intensity, fluctuations in salinity, boat wakes, and armoring;

v. Characterizing the shoreline types into three general zones: Marine (Zone I), Transition (Zone II), and Fresh (Zone III).

II. Review of Watershed Planning and Key Issues for Fowl River - Eve Brantley, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Eve made a presentation on watershed planning and key issues for Fowl River to be the basis for a presentation that might be given at the February public workshops.

III. Preparation for February Workshops / Community Engagement - Sarah Kelly, planning NEXT

Sarah made a presentation on the proposed content and outreach efforts needed for the February workshops, which will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm on Tuesday, February 24 at St. Rose of Lima and Thursday, February 26 at Theodore High School. Following the presentation, committee members agreed to take on outreach responsibilities (summarized in the attached Matrix of Steering Committee Outreach Tasks). Committee members also filled out forms to commit to volunteering at one or both of the workshops.

IV. Steering committee members made the following additional comments regarding the presentations and February workshops.

a. The presentation should include cultural aspects of the watershed, including references to its important history and people from the area.

b. There needs to be balance in how much information is presented—not too much to turn people off but enough to give them information they need to understand what is going on and feel comfortable commenting on it.

c. The workshops need to be put in context; people need to know how their input will feed into the overall plan, and where we are in the timeframe of the plan’s production.

d. Basic “facts” about the condition of the river and the scientific research being undertaken needs to be presented.

e. An introductory video, showcasing why different types of people who live and work in the watershed care about its future could set the stage for the meeting. (MBNEP and members of the consultant team will pursue this.)
f. The phrase “Fowl River community” could be misleading to some, as it may only connote the lower portion of the watershed, so the word “community” should not be used in this context.

g. Participants really need to get a sense of “what’s in it for them” if they are going to participate; we need to appeal to them about things they care about (recreational opportunities, property values, etc.).

Attachments:

1/20/15 Steering Committee Meeting Agenda
Matrix of Steering Committee Member Outreach Tasks (updated 2/9/15)
Steering Committee Meeting
January 20, 2015 | 5:30-7 pm
Welcome

Lee Walters
Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood
Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Project Status
3. A Review of Watershed Planning and Key Issues for the Fowl River
4. Community Engagement
   • February Workshops
   • Communication and Outreach Activities
5. Open Discussion
6. Adjourn
Project Status

Lee Walters
Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood
Watershed Planning and Key Issues for the Fowl River

Eve Brantley
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Working on Our Watershed

For more information:
www.fowlriverforever.org
Start with the Watershed

Watersheds are nature's boundaries
“... area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place.”
River Basin

Subbasin made up of a few

Watershed made up of several

Subwatershed made up of many

Catchment made up of numerous
Fowl River Watershed

Watershed size: 52,782 acres or 82 square miles
63% forested, 21% urban, 15% crop/pasture
Impervious coverage 8% in 2006
Figure ES-1: Watershed Management Units and Tributary Codes.

Mobile Bay NEP

Gulf of Mexico

Thompson Engineering
Fowl River headwaters are near the city of Theodore.

Two main tributaries: Muddy Creek & Dykes Creek.

Who’s in the watershed? Bellingrath Gardens Meadowlake Elementary Pearl Haskew Elementary Burroughs Elementary Bryant Career Technical Theodore High School You?
What is a Watershed Management Plan?

Invite **stakeholders** (people who care or are impacted)

Identify **opportunities, concerns, and solutions**

Formulate a **timeline** to implement the plan

Indicate **funding** and technical assistance needed

Suggest **monitoring** strategies to assess success

Education and **outreach** opportunities
Watershed Planning Cycle

We need your thoughts ...

Revisit Goals and Projects

Build Partnerships

Characterize the Watershed

Identify Goals and Projects

Prioritize Projects

Evaluate Success and Lessons Learned

Stakeholder Input
What do you think?

We want to hear from you!

What do you love about where you live?

What do you want this watershed to look like in 5 years? 50 years?

Do you have concerns?

What are some suggestions you have to keep Fowl River healthy?

How can we excite others to get involved?
Land Use

Existing and future land use is a **key factor** to current and future water quality and quantity.

Different land uses have different impacts on water quality.

**Land Use examples:**

Urban

Suburban

Transitional

Agriculture
Urban – hydrocarbons & metals
Suburban – nutrients & pathogens
Transitional – excessive sediment
Agriculture – nutrients & stream bank erosion
What are some of our concerns for Fowl River?

- Sediment
- Nutrients (phosphorus, nitrogen)
- Pathogen (disease causing organisms)
- Litter
- Loss of streamside forests
- Mercury
Sediment Pollution

Concerns & Consequences:

Sediment smothers a stream

Ruins fish habitat (nesting and eating)

Increases stream water temperature

Often carries other pollutants with it
Nutrient Pollution

Concerns & Consequences:

Excess nutrients stimulate plant (algae) growth

Oxygen robbers: decomposing algae use stream oxygen, algae uses stream oxygen at night – can lead to fish kills

Ugly.

Increases stream cloudiness (difficult for sight predators like bass to see)
Pathogen Pollution

Concerns & Consequences:

Human health concerns

Livestock health concerns

Wildlife health concerns

Ugly.
Litter Pollution

Concerns & Consequences:

Human health concerns

Water quality concerns

Wildlife health concerns

Ugly.
Loss of Streamside Forests

Concerns & Consequences:

Increase stream temperature
(decrease stream oxygen)

Loss of natural filter

Loss of stream stabilizer (roots are rebar)

Where would you rather live?
Mercury

Concerns & Consequences:

Human health

Wildlife health
What are the Solutions?

Improve the quality of stormwater runoff
Decrease the quantity of stormwater runoff
Decide how to work together to improve our watersheds – get involved in plans and projects
Characterize the Watershed

People

Cultural Heritage

Environment

Water, Soils, Animals, Land Use, Historical Impacts, Future Opportunities
Build Partnerships

What is happening to our resource?
What is bringing us together?

Maintain recreation opportunities
Water quality problems
Watershed rapidly urbanizing
Loss of habitat

Personal values (I have always loved the river)
Set Plan Goals & Define Objectives

What is causing the problem?
What needs to be done?
Example Overall Goals

Protect water resources

Prevent further degradation of streams, rivers, and bays

Restore resources that have been degraded
Community Engagement

Sarah Kelly
Planning NEXT
February Workshops

We need to focus on...

1. What can we do to get the word out?
2. What will happen at the meetings?
What can we do to get the word out?

Word of mouth is **critical**.

**Key Logistics: Two meetings:**

- **Tuesday, February 24**
  - St. Rose of Lima
  - 6:30-8:30 pm
- **Thursday, February 26**
  - Theodore High School
  - 6:30-8:30 pm
Communications Plan

Actions completed or underway

- Website
- Business cards
- Rack cards
- Water bills
- Billboard
- Banner
Communications Plan

Action needed for other communications outlets

- Print media (Lagniappe)
- Online media (Next Door, AL.com)
- Social media (need to identify groups)
- TV/Radio
- Electronic media board
Outreach Plan

Actions needed

• Outreach to schools
• Outreach to churches
• Outreach through other organizations (FRACA)
• Outreach at community events
What can you do?

- Talk to people
- Distribute rack cards
- Send emails to mailing lists
- Make/arrange announcements (churches, community events, etc.)
- Post on social media
What will happen at the meetings?

Format: 2 hours, 6:30-8:30 pm

Agenda

1. Welcome – Co-chairs
2. Overview
   1. Tonight’s Meeting
   2. Watershed Management Plan
3. Fowl River Facts
4. Small Groups
5. Adjourn
Small Group Activity

Ask three key questions

1. What are strong places?
2. What are weak places?
3. Why?
What can you do?

Arrive at 5:30 pm (all steering committee)

Sign up for tasks

1. Welcome (4 people)
2. Registration (4 people)
3. Table leaders
What next?

Fill out two sheets on outreach and meeting roles

Start getting the word out! The meetings are just over one month away so the time is *now!*