



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)