



Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Project Implementation Committee
Blakeley Classrooms, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center
Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 10 a. m.

Agenda

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes: February 21, 2013**
3. **Election of new PIC co-chairs.**
4. **Discussion of results of watershed prioritization efforts undertaken at February 21 PIC meeting and development of five-year CCMP Restoration Plan**
5. **New Business**
6. **Adjourn**

**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Project Implementation Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 6, 2013
5 Rivers Delta Resource Center**

Minutes

Attendees:

L. G. Adams, Weeks Bay Reserve
Kevin Anson, ADCNR-MRD
Mark Berte, Alabama Coastal Foundation
Celena Boykin, Baldwin County
Ashley Campbell, City of Daphne
Stefanie Christensen, Mobile Baykeeper
Evan Corneille, ACF
Marl Cummings III, Mobile County Wildlife
& Conservation Association
Mike Dardeau, Dauphin Island Sea Lab
George Davis, City of Mobile
Jeff DeQuattro, The Nature Conservancy
Leslie Gahagan, City of Foley
Kellyn Garrison, TNC

Amy Gohres, ADCNR
Patric Harper, U. S. Fish & Wildlife
Bob Harris, ASPA
Judy Haner, The Nature Conservancy
Phillip Hinesley, ADCNR
Teddy King, AL Dept of Public Health
Kara Lankford, Ocean Conservancy
Joyce Nicholas, USDA-NRCS
Sam St. John, ACF/ Baykeeper
Randy Shaneyfelt, ADEM
Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay NERR
Barbara Shaw, MAWSS
Lee Walters, Goodwyn, Mills & Caewood

Bob Howard (EPA Region IV) – remotely via Webex and conference call
MBNEP Staff: Kelley Barfoot, Roberta Swann, Tom Herder

1. Call to Order

PIC Chairman Jeff DeQuattro called the meeting to order at 10:05a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeQuattro asked for any corrections or a motion to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2013 meeting. Mr. DeQuattro made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Roberta Swann and carried unanimously.

3. Jeff DeQuattro – Election of new PIC co-chairs

- Mr. DeQuattro announced his resignation as PIC committee chair, and with co-chari Teddy King having served continuously since April of 2007, it was agreed that it would be a good time to rotate into new co-chairs. He asked for nominations of new co-chairs.
- Mark Berte moved to nominate Judy Haner and Patric Harper which was seconded by Ms. Swann and carried unanimously
- Ms. Haner and Mr. Harper accepted the roles and responsibilities of PIC co-chairs with the charge at this meeting to begin development of a restoration strategy for the new CCMP.

4. Jeff DeQuattro – Discussion of results of watershed prioritization efforts and development of five-year CCMP Restoration Plan

- Mr. DeQuattro discussed the results of watershed prioritization from the February 21, 2013 meeting the process of prioritization. Twenty one 12-digit HUCs were prioritized by PIC members and meeting guests by individual rankings of one (for least important)

through five (of greatest importance) and briefly described the prioritization criteria that were chosen by the Science Advisory Committee. Mr. DeQuattro stated most of the identified watersheds were identified for restoration and some for restoration and conservation. All of the top-eight-scoring watersheds were identified for restoration. The ninth watershed, Grand Bay Swamp, was identified for conservation.

- Mr. DeQuattro asked the PIC members if the 58 people that voted on February 21st was enough input. If not, who else should be included?
- Mr. Sam St. John expressed the opinion that the 58 people who participated on February 21st represented a broad spectrum across Mobile and Baldwin County.
- Ms. Swann felt that the participants seemed to be very restoration focused and she was not surprised by the outcome of the top nine watersheds.
- Mr. Berte asked if the results should be presented to a larger audience such as the CCMP Development Workshop participants.
- Ms. Swann responded that the whole process would have to be repeated and that the CCMP Workshop participants would not be able to make a recommendation without seeing the underlying data that the February 21st participants saw during the presentation. Ms. Swann briefly described the CCMP Development Workshop process to the new PIC members.
- Mr. DeQuattro then discussed the criteria for refinement of a new restoration strategy for the CCMP. He stated two questions will be asked for each of the top nine watersheds, 1) what resources currently exist in the watershed and 2) what needs does the watershed have.
- The PIC members were shown maps of each of the top nine watersheds and were asked to provide input to the two questions above. The results are below:

#1 Fish River

Resources:

Weeks Bay

Watershed Management Plan/Revision to be completed by 2014

NERR presence in watershed

Pathogen Management Plan being developed for upper Fish River

Weeks Bay Foundation

NRCS-Gulf of Mexico Initiative

Current Watershed Model (Baldwin County)

System Wide Monitoring Program

ADEM long-term monitoring

Sub-tidal reef enhancement (planned)

Baldwin County Soil & Water Conservation District

Needs:

Shoreline restoration

Funding and support for implementation

Additional data: wildlife component and septic systems

Restoration of riparian buffers

Conservation easements

Volunteer water quality monitoring

Advisory committee for upper Fish River pathogens

Better understanding of the hydrology – natural and changed on the whole watershed scale

Climate change-related changes in rainfall patterns of greater concern than SLR (groundwater, overland flow, retention time, and impervious surfaces).

#2 Tensaw Apalachee

Resources:

State now has RFP for Causeway study
Completed USACOE Sediment Budget
SLAMM model for sea-level rise
Beneficial use of dredged materials
Beneficial use of dredged material
Acquired, State-owned land
Coastal land trust owned property
Mobile Cty Wildlife & Conservation Assoc
Grassroots Organizations and NGO
involvement
Friends of the Tensaw
Daphne acquisition
ADEM Monitoring

Needs:

Future plans for deeper/wider dredging
How sea-level rise will affect area
Habitat migration/climate change study
More land acquisition
Restoration of marsh and SAV
Invasive species control and removal
Acquisition of property along Daphne marsh
areas and Delta

#3 Big Creek

Resources:

MAWSS
Monitoring stations-ADEM
Watershed Management Plan (ongoing)
Model developed by USGS (2009)
Stream restoration
Acquisition of large riparian buffers
Land acquisition
NRCS programs

Needs:

Implementation of recommendations from
WMP
Acquisition of buffers (riparian and lake)
Buy in from residents around the creek that
do not receive their drinking water from
MAWSS
More education efforts and established trash
laws
Land acquisition
Understanding of sediment studies
Invasive species control and removal
Stream restoration
Increased outreach to nursery and farmland
owners

#4 Bon Secour

Resources:

Completed sediment study (2013)
Friends of Bon Secour
ADEM monitoring
Working waterfronts
Chris Nelson
City of Gulf Shores/Foley & Baldwin County
Planned watershed modeling program
South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce

Needs:

Watershed management plan
Restoration of headwaters
Restoration of historic oyster beds in Bon Secour
Bay

Needs (cont.):

Shoreline restoration and assessment
Zoning/land use control
Septic system mapping and tracking
Hydrologic study
Watershed model plan
Acquisition/conservation easements

#5 Fowl River

Resources:

ADEM monitoring
Water quality data
Active/concerned citizens
Documentation/data (aerial photography)
Shoreline/Riparian buffers (conserved land)
NRCS interest
Working waterfronts
County Commission/Mobile County interest
NGO/ACF water quality data (Bill Melton)

Needs:

Conservation of land
Watershed management plan
Sediment study
Shoreline/Habitat restoration
Mon Louis Island shoreline stabilization
Land Use change assessment
Zoning/land use controls
Marine/vessel debris removal
Education/Outreach

#6 West Fowl River

Resources:

Shell Yellowhammer (new owners)
Forever Wild land
Buffer land (private owners)
Oyster resources
Enhancement work of mouth of Fowl River
Auburn aquaculture program
Sea Grant support
Active restoration
Historical restoration
Rare habitats
SLAMM model/climate change
Working waterfronts
AL organized seafood
Fishing community support
Terrapin research project
Bellingrath Gardens
Active conservation community
Cat and Marsh Islands

Needs:

Engage property owners (residential & commercial)
Hydrologic studies
Shoreline/oyster restoration
Sea-level rise studies (additional)
Land acquisition
Watershed management plan
Sediment budget
Cat and Marsh Island acquisition for restoration and conservation

5. New Business

Tom Herder asked Marl Cummings III to elaborate on the Causeway parcel to be auctioned. Mr. Cummings shared an announcement and elaborated on two parcels (#s 5 & 6) on wetlands that will be auctioned.

Jeff DeQuattro asked whether PIC meetings should be publically announced and available for public participation. He asked whether we should consider meeting on a monthly (rather than quarterly) basis through the development of the CCMP restoration strategy.

It was agreed that the new co-chairs would work with Roberta Swann and Tom Herder towards scheduling the next meeting date.

Randy Shaneyfelt expressed his gratitude to Jeff DeQuattro and Teddy King

6. Adjourn Ms. Swann made the motion for the meeting to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeQuattro and the meeting was adjourned at noon.