

Weeks Bay Stakeholder Work Group

Baldwin County Central Annex 3rd Floor CR

8:30 – 10:00 am February 3, 2016

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Today's objectives – Bob Higgins
3. Weeks Bay Watershed Management Plan Project Overview – Mike Eubanks
4. Stakeholder Work Group: objectives & suggested approach – Bob Higgins
5. Next steps (including future meeting schedule) – Bob Higgins
6. Homework assignment

MEMORANDUM
Weeks Bay Watershed Management Plan

TO: File
FROM: Mike Eubanks
DATE: February 3, 2016
SUBJECT: Stakeholders Working Group Kickoff Meeting
DISTRIBUTION: MBNEP, BCSWCD, Thompson Team, Stakeholders Working Group

1. The meeting was conducted on February 3, 2016, at the Baldwin County Central Annex 3rd Floor Conference Room between 8:30 and 10:00 AM. Copies of the agenda and attendees present are attached.
2. Opening remarks were given by Roberta Swann on the importance of everyone's attendance and need to take action establishing a Management Plan for Weeks Bay Watershed. She noted that Thompson Engineering Team (including subconsultants from Ecology and Environment, Vittor and Associates, Higgins and Associates (Bob Higgins), Latif Kalin, and Hand Arendall (Neil Johnston) had been awarded the contract to develop the Plan. Bob Higgins then gave a brief introduction describing the meetings objectives.
3. Mike Eubanks provided an overview of the eight components that will be addressed in the Weeks Bay Watershed Management Plan along with some notable facts related to the Weeks Bay Watershed. Three poster-size maps of the watershed (general watershed drainage map, land use map, and aerial photograph map) were used to point out key features of the watershed.
4. Bob Higgins then addressed the Stakeholder Work Group (SWG) asking for major concerns, objectives, and suggested approach. He posed the following question to various stakeholder groups represented at the meeting – "What are the major issues that threaten the Weeks Bay Watershed?":
 - a. Dick Sute and Sam Covert/Fish River Homeowners - Flooding and Sedimentation
 - i. Sam has had five feet of water in his house twice in 19 years on lower Fish River
 - ii. Sam reports significant sedimentation and channel marking in Weeks Bay (Arrange presentation to SWG by Marlon Cook, GSA, Sediment Studies)
 - iii. Dick expressed concern about increased size of replacement culverts versus detention structures upstream of culverts to control flood flow timing
 - iv. Studies done by Baldwin County to find ways to reduce flooding through regional detention ponds/lakes, 1-2 years ago (Arrange presentation to SWG)
 - b. Michael Mullek/Farmers - Drainage
 - i. Do not want water backing up onto agricultural lands due to improperly maintained drainage systems



- c. Gerry McManus/Wastewater Utilities – Education, Water Quality, and Land Preservation
 - i. Remind public how to best prepare and better impact the environment
 - ii. Water quality important within the watershed
 - iii. Identify pristine habitats for acquisition
 - d. Joel Coleman/Developers - Flooding, sedimentation, impervious surfaces, regulation constraints
 - i. Detention pond planning is currently flawed, ways to solve stormwater runoff problems should be at low expense for developers
 - ii. Entire watershed affected negatively
 - e. Matthew Brown/Baldwin County - Safety for traveling public
 - i. Zoning
 - ii. Shorelines and business along shorelines that are affected
 - f. Heiko Einfeld/Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce - Smart business development and Tourism
 - i. Evaluate existing regulations and their effectiveness
 - g. Brandon Allen/Loxley Utilities - Regulations
 - h. Jennifer Fidler - Lack of regulations for fill in low non-wetland areas; people build on it and then it washes away during rains
 - i. Fairhope does not require building permit just engineer inspection
 - ii. Aging infrastructure
 - iii. Why is Fish River shallower now than 30-40 years ago?
 - i. Camilla English/Heath Department – Concerned about septic tanks not properly functioning due to lack of maintenance and/or changed soil conditions and Tourism
 - i. Discharge of untreated sewage
 - ii. Trash, e.g., oil cans in water due to flooding
 - iii. NRCS Program for septic tank pump out vouchers
 - j. Mike Shelton/Weeks Bay Reserve - Bacteria and mercury known impairments on Fish River
 - i. Find ways to reduce pathogens
 - ii. Evaluate methods to maintain/improve other water quality parameters, e.g., sediment, nutrients
 - iii. Invite businesses that have point source discharges in watershed (Heiko to follow-up based on ADEM TMDL 2013 study)
 - k. Roberta Swann/MBNEP - Public schools, large facilities, and churches should be encouraged to use Low Impact Development
 - i. Reach out to representatives during Plan development
5. Once all the concerns were stated, Bob Higgins asked the Stakeholders to complete a homework assignment. **Each group is to invite 8 – 10 people associated with their respective constituency to the upcoming workshop.** Bring a list of the invitees to the next meeting with each person's name, affiliation, and contact information.

- a. Farmers (include cattle producers) – Michael Mullek and Joel Sirmon*
 - b. Developers - Joel Coleman and Tom Poulas*
 - c. Homeowners - Sam Covert*, Dick Sute, Steve Heath, Teddy King
 - d. Business Community – Heiko Einfeld* (include TMDL report dischargers)
 - e. Municipal Government
 - i. Mayors - Dane Haygood* and Ken Underwood
 - ii. County– Matthew Brown*
 - f. Health– Camilla English
 - g. Environmental – Mike Shelton*, Rick Wallace, Bruce Porter, Shannon McGlynn
 - h. Environmental Organization Leaders – Neil Johnston*
 - i. Architects/civil engineers – Thompson*
(* = lead person)
6. Bob Higgins concluded the meeting with the next steps to take. There will be one more SWG meeting prior to the Workshop on **February 17** from 8:30 to 10:00 AM in the same place (*confirmed after the meeting*). A list of topics and questions will be determined for the Workshop. The Workshop is scheduled to take place **March 2nd** from 8:30 to noon, at the Baldwin County Central Annex II Building, 22251 Palmer Street, Robertsedale, AL 36567 (*confirmed after the meeting*) followed by a third SWG meeting **March 9th** (*time/location to be set at the February 17th meeting*).
7. As Watershed Management Plan information is compiled, e.g., studies, notes, maps, minutes, and all other related documents will be available at the Mobile Bay NEP website: www.mobilebaynep.com under the Watersheds Tab -- Fish River (will also include Magnolia River, hence all of Weeks Bay Watershed).

Prepared by
Mike Eubanks

Attachments:

- a. Agenda
- b. List of Attendees



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Stakeholders Working Group: Meeting February 3, 2016, 8:30-10:00 AM

1. Roberta Swann, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
2. Christian Miller, Auburn University Extension Service
3. Larry Morris, Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District
4. Ronnie Northcutt, Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District
5. Joey Koptis, USDA-NRCS, District Conservationist
6. Shannon McGlynn, Alabama Department of Environmental Management
7. Kevin Jones (sub for Vince Calametti), Alabama Department of Transportation
8. Matthew Brown, Baldwin County
9. Jennifer Fidler, Fairhope Department of Public Works
10. Brandon Allen, Loxley Public Utilities Department
11. Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
12. Heiko Einfeld, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce
13. Gerry McManus, Baldwin County Sewer Service
14. Michael Mullek, Agriculture
15. Joel Sirmon, Agriculture
16. Joel Coleman (sub for Tom Poulas), DR Horton
17. Sam Covert, Homeowner Interest, Fish River
18. Dick Sute, Homeowner Interest, Fish River
19. Teddy King, Homeowner Interest, Magnolia River
20. Camilla English, Baldwin County Health Department
21. Mike Eubanks, Thompson Engineering
22. Emery Baya, Thompson Engineering
23. John Carlton, Thompson Engineering
24. Courtney Harkness, Thompson Engineering
25. Bob Higgins, Higgins and Associates
26. Scott Jackson, Ecology and Environment
27. Barry Vittor, Vittor and Associates
28. Tim Thibaut, Vittor and Associates
29. Neil Johnston, Hand Arendall
30. Eliska Morgan, Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council

Absent

1. Vince Calametti (substitute provided), Alabama Department of Environmental Management
2. Dane Haygood, Baldwin County Mayors Association
3. Bruce Porter, US Fish and Wildlife Service
4. Rick Wallace, Weeks Bay Foundation
5. Tom Poulas (substitute provided), DR Horton
6. Steve Heath, Homeowner Interest, Fish River
7. Ken Underwood, Homeowner Interest, Magnolia River