

Final Report

NYCT Grant Number P14-000770

Climate Change Capacity Building in Three Estuaries of National Significance.

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Final Report

Objective	Status
1. Engage communities through a minimum of six community meetings (two per estuary)	Held 3 Resiliency Community Meetings Held one Ideas Festival/Workshop Conducted 20 Leadership Academy workshops Led one Leadership Academy field trip on the waters of Three Mile Creek.
Activities	<p>Engaged residents within this sub-watershed of Three Mile Creek (TMC) to assess knowledge and resiliency within communities of the Toulmins Spring Branch (TSB) sub-watershed. To gain the greatest insight into communities within the TSB sub-watershed, the consultant and trained canvassers engaged residents through the use of the Toulmins Spring Survey. More than 60 hours collectively were spent in the field walking door-to-door speaking with residents. A total of 95 surveys (exceeding our targeted goal of 75) were completed over several weeks. In addition to completing the surveys, residents were invited to attend one of three planned community meetings. To promote attendance, the canvassing team put out more than 300 door hangers. Residents who were willing to share their telephone numbers were contacted via phone to remind them of the meetings. The team also returned to the field the week of the meetings to encourage attendance. During each community meeting the consultant explained the purpose of the Toulmins Spring surveys and community meetings. Staff from MBNEP provided a basic watershed 101 overview and introduced residents to the Three Mile Creek Watershed management plan. Maps of the watershed were made available to encourage residents to view the location of their homes within the TSB sub-watershed. Residents were also encouraged to attend the culminating Ideas Festival held on November 15, 2015.</p> <p>Initiated Community Resiliency Leadership Academy.</p>

	<p>Contracted with MLK Avenue Redevelopment Corporation. The Leadership Academy engaged and trained residents on watershed basics, volunteer monitoring, community engagement, working with their local government, and community enhancements and impacting change.</p>
<p>Results accomplished</p>	<p>A total of 95 surveys were completed, exceeding the goal of 75 surveys. Most of the surveys were completed during a three-week period of neighborhood canvassing. The survey results revealed that over half of the residents were women. More than half were also over the age of 55. More than 60% of residents lived in the area over 10 years, with approximately 30% living in their homes their entire lives. As expected 78% of the residents surveyed had no idea they lived within the TSB sub-watershed. Likewise, 65% were unfamiliar with the term watershed. Over half of the residents were familiar with Three Mile Creek with 22% of residents having some idea that Three Mile Creek Watershed affected their areas. It is suspected that the media attention given to the TMC Watershed supported this knowledge. The culminating meeting of the Toulmin Spring Branch Community Engagement Project was the Ideas Festival that was held on November 15, 2015. The meeting was used to help residents identify resources and risks within their general area as their homes were dispersed within the community. A mapping exercise was completed, allowing residents to identify troubled spots, as well as, areas least likely to be affected by a major hurricane. The flood expectancy map allowed them to identify the risk of flooding in their immediate area if a strong hurricane affected their area. The results reveal that the neighbors have the ability and are willing to help their neighbors during a natural disaster, two characteristics that are vital to resiliency.</p> <p>Conducted 20 Leadership Academy workshops to build community capacity and understanding about Three Mile Creek Watershed issues.</p> <p>The Leadership Academy developed and presented a resolution to the City of Mobile for a formal commitment to the implementation of the Three Mile Creek Watershed Plan. The City signed the resolution and the Mayor recognized the Leadership Academy participants</p>

	for completing the program.
Any problems encountered and how they were resolved.	During the neighborhood canvassing the consultant, Kimberly Pettway, and several University of South Alabama students witnessed first-hand the presence and impact of crime within the community. While canvassing to encourage the residents to attend the Ideas Festival, a young man was fatally shot one street over from where the team was working. The shooting occurred mid-day, a time we expected the area to be relatively safe. As a result of the shooting, plans for the Ideas Festival had to be delayed and relocated to a different community within the TSB sub-watershed. Residents were very distraught following the shooting and were simply unwilling to devote time to a community meeting. A main take-away from this project for our team, was that while the residents were interested in learning more about Toulmins Spring and planning for natural disasters, their initial concern was the blight and crime. This sentiment reigned true for literally all of the residents who spoke with us, even more so within the Prichard communities.
2. Support these communities in a minimum of three community activities in each estuary;	3 – Community meetings focused on engaging residents on the issues within their communities related to flooding and resiliency. 20 Leadership Academy workshops 1 Leadership Academy field trip on the waters of Three Mile Creek.
Activities	Leadership Academy participants provided volunteer support to the first Annual Creekfest, held at Tricentennial Park.
Results accomplished	One festival to celebrate Three Mile Creek and educate community residents about watershed plan and issues related to sea level rise and storm surges. MLK Leadership Academy participants developed and presented a resolution for the Mobile City Council to formally support the implementation of the Three Mile Creek Watershed Plan. The City signed the resolution and the Mayor recognized the Leadership Academy participants for completing the program.

Any problems encountered and how they were resolved.	No problems encountered.
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3. Adapt by using climate change risk analysis tools to identify, prioritize and help implement at least one project in each estuary;	Continued data collection by Auburn University to support storm water modeling of Toulmins Spring Branch for the purpose of mapping drainage areas of outfalls and recommend Low Impact Development best management practices most effective for improved runoff management. Held an Ideas Festival with residents and the City of Prichard to discuss issues and what the City is currently doing to address the flooding issues, and identify any additional potential solutions.
Activities	Data collected from Toulmins Spring area to input into SWMM model;
Results accomplished	SWMM model developed, ran and calibrated; imperviousness calculated; identification of sub-basins with greatest imperviousness.
Any problems encountered and how they were resolved.	Lack of sufficient sampling events- only one discharge measurement at 4 sites taken. Because of extremely low flow, discharge could not be measured at a sufficient rate. Cables to monitors were mowed over causing broken cables and lost data. Equipment was replaced and data collection resumed. City does not have drainage systems mapped. Therefore, the monitoring team conducted extensive field surveys to ensure they did not miss any contribution area. During one of these field trips, the monitoring team discovered a small ditch not previously modeled that also contributes to TSB. The model was recalibrated.
4. Share lessons learned from citizen engagement and citizen/local government acceptance of new practices.	The Leadership Academy's role in working with the City of Mobile to formally adopt the Three Mile Creek Watershed Management Plan was a great way for these newly trained citizens to practice their new skills of engaging their local government in a meaningful way to accomplish their collective goal.
Activities	Community visioning session with the City of Mobile staff focusing on quality of life components to include better parks, retail establishments and sports venues within the community. Councilman Levon Manzie met with the Leadership Academy to

	thank them for efforts to improve the community and to answer questions concerning the vision for the Councilman’s District. The Leadership Academy developed and presented a resolution to the City of Mobile for a formal commitment to the implementation of the Three Mile Creek Watershed Plan. The City signed the resolution and the Mayor recognized the Leadership Academy participants for completing the program.
5. Activities carried out to secure funding to continue this project once the grant expires	Reached out to Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant to discuss utilizing the Community Resilience Index Self-Assessment (http://masgc.org/assets/uploads/publications/662/coastal_community_resilience_index.pdf) with the City of Prichard and the City of Mobile and other resource managers within this watershed. Grant application under development with MLK Avenue Redevelopment to create a conservation corps with young adults (post high school, non-college bound) to respond to need identified by Leadership Academy. Partners include MBNEP and the Student Conservation Association.

Fiscal Accounting

Activities	Anticipated Cost	Actual Expenditures
Salaries/Fringe		2,609.39
Equipment		
Supplies/Printing/Media		2,391.86
Contractual		31,098.75
Administration		5,400.00
TOTAL		41,500.00