



Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Community Action Committee
January 26, 2021, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Google Meet Virtual Meeting



Minutes

Attendance:

Mimi Fearn, Dog River ClearWater Revival
Debi Foster, Dog River Clearwater Revival & the Peninsula of Mobile
Leslie Gahagan, Wolf Bay Watershed Watch
Ted Henken, Fowl River Area Civic Association
Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Dennis Hatfield, Little Lagoon Preservation Society
Eric Holladay, Dog River ClearWater Revival
Vaughn Millner, Citizen
Harold White, Fowl River Area Civic Association
Ron Phelps, Little Lagoon Preservation Society
Jackie McGonigal, Wolf Bay Watershed Watch
Angie Eckman, City Of Foley Environmental Department
Bob Howard, Master Gardener

MBNEP Staff:

Kelley Barfoot
Madison Blanchard

Meeting Recap:

- Rain gardens on the Gulf Coast; how to identify an area for a rain garden in your yard; size and depth calculation; appropriate native plants to use and other considerations.
- The Southern Gardeners Book of Lists can provide guidance on achieving desired soil conditions.
- 101,000 pounds of litter was retrieved out of the Dog River Watershed in 2020.
- Little Lagoon Preservation Society's Oyster Gardening Program is making a comeback after 70% of gardens were lost during Hurricane Sally.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Madison Blanchard opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and requesting each participant to sign-in through the chat box on the Google Meet platform. She reviewed the agenda for the meeting and introduced the co-chairs. Ms. Blanchard's CAC presentation can be viewed here:

http://mobilebaynep.com/assets/CAC_Meeting_1-26-21.pdf

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Blanchard requested a motion to approve the minutes from the CAC's November 11, 2020 virtual meeting. Ms. Fearn requested that the spelling of Ms. Judy Stouts name be corrected. The

Meeting Minutes will be corrected and presented at the April 2021 CAC meeting for approval.

3. Guest Speaker

Ms. Blanchard introduced guest speaker, Master Gardener, Mr. Bob Howard, who presented on rain gardens, including steps to identify an area for a rain garden in your yard; size and depth calculations; and appropriate native plants to use. Mr. Howard began his presentation by explaining that a rain garden is an area in the landscape where rain water from a roof, driveway or street can be captured and allowed to soak into the ground rather than runoff. An in-depth explanation was provided on the design and 'construction' process, and the ecological services and benefits provided by rain gardens. Prior to the meeting, CAC members were asked to prepare questions regarding hydrologic issues they may be experiencing on their property. Ms. Blanchard encouraged attendees to reach out if questions regarding rain gardens arose after the meeting. Mr. Howard's presentation can be viewed here: http://mobilebaynep.com/assets/Rain_Garden_Bob_final.pdf

Mr. Dennis Hatfield inquired if there are recommendations for building rain gardens in pure quartz-sand environments where the aquifer sits close to the ground surface. Mr. Howard makes the recommendation of building container gardens. Ms. Debi Foster recommends the Southern Gardeners Book of Lists as a resource for guidance on achieving desired soil conditions. The book is not an online resource; a paperback copy can be purchased online (link below). Mr. Mike Shelton suggested the [Low Impact Development Handbook for the State of Alabama](#) developed by ADEM as an additional resource when planning to build a rain garden.

Link to purchase Southern Gardeners Book of Lists by Lois Trigg Chaplin (ISBN 0-87833-844-6):
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/southern-gardeners-book-of-lists-lois-trigg-chaplin/1122996316>

4. Announcements and Updates

The next Community Action Committee Meeting will be conducted virtually using Google Meets on April 13, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The topic for the next meeting will be Who and Where Citizens should Report Environmental Issues to. Ms. Blanchard requested that attendees email in any environmental issues they're interested in learning how to report. Ms. Blanchard reminded attendees to inform her of any other topics they're interested in learning about through the CAC.

Ms. Debi Foster announced that 101,000 pounds of litter was retrieved out of the Dog River Watershed in 2020 via Litter Gitters, litter boat, private cleanup events, and by the City of Mobile's litter cleanup crew.

Mr. Dennis Hatfield announced that Little Lagoons Preservation Society's (LLPS) Oyster Gardening Program was affected by Hurricane Sally with 80% of piers damaged or destroyed and 70% of oyster gardens lost. LLPS oyster gardens are making a comeback with the most recent count being 40 gardens. LLPS's Water Quality Monitoring Program will be back up and running in upcoming weeks.

5. Adjourn

Meeting attendees thanked Mr. Howard for his time and the meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m. A motion was made by Ms. Leslie Gahagan to adjourn.