

Mobile Bay NEP CAC Meeting

Daphne City Hall, Executive Chambers
May 20, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.



In attendance:

Ashley Campbell, City of Daphne
Mimi Fearn, Dog River Clearwater Revival
Leslie Gahagan, Wolf Bay Watershed
Dennis Hatfield, Little Lagoon Preservation Society
Cade Kistler, Mobile Baykeeper
Jason Kudulis, Mobile Baykeeper
Ray Mayhall, Fowl River Area Civic Association
Ron Phelps, Little Lagoon Preservation Society
Harold White, Fowl River Area Civic Association

Staff: Kelley Barfoot, Ben Brenner

Takeaways

- Dr. Mimi Fearn was appointed as Co-Chair for the CAC
- Purpose, goals and objectives for 2016 were approved.
- Water Rangers Tool was demonstrated and highly accepted among the CAC members to use for entering in water monitoring data.
- Mobile Baykeeper will negotiate adding the requested functions and data entry with the Water Rangers Tool developers.
- Political/Legislative Skills Training will be scheduled for CAC members
- Water Watch training will be scheduled for CAC members

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 10:45 a.m.

2. Chair Reports: Committee Reports

a. SAC:

- i. D'Olive monitoring framework developed & data collected
- ii. Brief update on harmful algal blooms from previous year
- iii. New surface Water Monitoring Plan from ADEM-involves more sampling over a larger area
- iv. Working group developed to identify what is missing from stressors & ecosystem
- v. Data to be housed at DISL

b. PIC:

- i. Watershed Management process planning – possibility of grouping 12 digit HUCs for management plans based on the following factors:

economy of scale, geographical proximity, similarity & common receiving waters

- ii. USACE presented on Interagency Working Group initiatives & AL Barrier Island Restoration Study
- iii. Watershed Comparison Tool in development by partners at Nature Conservancy (SAC & PIC work together on tool needs)
- iv. Fowl River – plan complete with projects underway
- v. Bayou La Batre – plan $\frac{3}{4}$ complete and now on hold to include Dauphin Island and West Fowl River
- vi. Bon Secour – plan in development & now includes Bon Secour River, Oyster Bay and Skunk Bayou
- vii. Dog River – Watershed characterization underway
- viii. Fish River – Stakeholder Workshop held & well attended
- ix. D'Olive – Tiawasse project near completion; Joe's Branch – under construction

c. GNC:

- i. Goal to increase participation among state, federal, municipal officials, & counties
- ii. Efforts to engage Mobile & Baldwin Co. Mayor's Association
- iii. State legislation pending to reform coastal windstorm insurance

d. BRC:

- i. Recommended increased usage of Rick Fredrick (MBNEP staff) for presentations & tours
- ii. Expand outreach efforts in Baldwin County
- iii. New Clean Water Future website to be launched
- iv. 12 – Leaders Don't Litter/CWF signs in Fowl River & Bayou La Batre
- v. American Outdoor – Join the Movement/It's Picking Up Billboards - 3 in Mobile & 1 in Baldwin
- vi. Mobile County spent \$29,000 to run 30-second PSAs at the Hollywood and Carmike Wynnsong Theaters in Mobile

3. Old Business

- a. Purpose, goals and objectives for 2016 were approved by motion. The purpose goals and objective are as follows:
 - i. Purpose: to re-establish the CAC Water Quality Program by engaging grassroots groups and educating citizens about the water quality issues related to their local watersheds.
 - ii. Goals: to increase citizen involvement in hands-on monitoring and its contribution to watershed planning; build capacity among grassroots groups through trainings and technology transfer
 - iii. Objectives:
 - 1. Establish target number for trained volunteers
 - 2. Assess equipment needs / chemical supply and demand

3. Location accessibility needs for volunteer monitors
4. Level of monitoring (types)
5. Training needs

4. New Business

a. Dr. Mimi Fearn was appointed as Co-Chair. Dr. Fearn's professional background and water quality monitoring expertise will be a huge asset for the CAC moving forward in accomplishing its set goals and expanding the monitoring program.

b. Water Rangers Tool

Cade Kistler and Jason Kudulis presented the Water Rangers Tool as an option for entering in water monitoring data. The website for the tool is <http://app.waterrangers.ca/>. The tool offers a more user friendly approach to entering in monitoring data. The group agreed that the appearance of the tool along with the phone app option will help in attracting and retaining a younger audience for collecting and entering in data. Mobile Baykeeper has helped to fund the tool for our local area along with manipulating the development to include data specific to our coastal areas. Members of the CAC group requested that additional perimeters be added for input. Mobile Baykeeper will work with the developers to add the additional requested perimeters and has offered to help any group to get started using the tool.

c. Clean Water Future Website

Ben Brenner presented the updated Clean Water Future website. This new upgrade to the website offers numerous solutions to problems that exist with water quality for kids, adults, business, retail and restaurants. The website is still under development and will later include resources for teachers and government officials. The website can be found at www.CleanWaterFuture.com

5. Announcements

a. Reimbursement Request Form

The Mobile Bay NEP has funding available to reimburse grassroots groups with their purchase of water quality monitoring testing supplies and kits. The form for reimbursement request can be found here,

http://www.mobilebaynep.com/who_we_are/management_conference/community_action_committee. All reimbursement requests must be pre-approved.

b. Upcoming Events

June 4: Grandman Triathlon

June 8: Kid's Gulf Discovery Day

June 14-16: AWW Living Steams Workshop

June 25: AWW Annual Meeting

c. Next CAC Meeting

Friday August 12, 2016 at Fowl River Community House from 10:30 – 12:30. The group agreed to rotate the meetings with each grassroots groups hosting at least one meeting. Each host will provide lunch for that meeting.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

