



Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Business Resources Committee Meeting

International Trade Center

February 14, 2017

The Business Resources Committee of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) met on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at the International Trade Center in Mobile, AL. The meeting was attended by: Co-chairs Jennifer Denson, Partners for Environmental Progress and Darrelyn Dunmore, Strategic Wealth Specialists; Ashley Jones Davis, No. Baldwin Chamber; Don Bates, Thompson Engineering; Steve McClure, Hargrove Engineers; John Croom, AUC Group; John T. Bender, McFadden, Lyons, Rouse Atty.; Graham Green, Smart Home America; Brooks Conkle, Cartridge World; Ben Stimpson, Canfor Lumber; MBNEP staff- Rick Frederick and Bethany Dickey.

Mission of the BRC: To advocate for streamlined regulations and balanced business practices that are in the best interest of the region's economic and environmental resources.

Meeting Summary:

- *Committee updated on watershed management plans (WMP), Restoration project on Mon Louis Island in the Fowl River Watershed, and Create a Clean Water Future campaign.*
- *A rack card for Create a Clean Water Future was introduced.*
- *An overview of the Maple Street Cleanup from November was given.*
- *Opportunities for BRC members to sponsor and support were presented- Small Stream Litter Trap, Maple Street Amphibious Assault Cleanup, and Field Trips.*

Rick Frederick opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions, including first-time attendee, Brooks Conkle. After introductions, Rick Frederick gave an overview and status of the watershed management plans either completed (Fowl River, D'Olive, Three Mile Creek, Bon Secour) or in various planning stages (Dog River, Tensaw-Apalachee, Ms. Sound Complex, Weeks Bay, Wolf Bay) around the Bay.

Highlighted projects taking place in the watersheds:

- The City of Mobile is overseeing the greenway in the Three Mile Creek Watershed- The first mile long segment of the walking-biking path from Stanton Road to Strickland Youth Center is scheduled to be completed in 2017. The City received an ADECA/National Parks grant to fund this stretch of the trail and was assisted in writing the grant by the MBNEP.
- A Student Conservation and Resiliency Corps has been established and received training to eradicate invasive species in lower Three Mile Creek. 10 young adults from the area are being funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that was secured in partnership between MBNEP, MLKjr Area Redevelopment Corp., and Student Conservation Assoc. 2 team leaders from SCA will oversee this 6-month pilot project.
- The northern tip of Mon Louis Island restoration project (funded by oil spill money through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation) is near completion. The tip restoration should be completed by May 2017 once final grading/excavating and plantings occur. Thompson Engineering designed and overseeing the project.

Rick Frederick updated the committee on the *Create a Clean Water Future* website updates and new Rack Card for members to distribute to business along with stickers to place in their windows. The committee was encouraged to visit the website, join the campaign, and provide suggested tips and companies that can be referenced on the site.

<http://www.cleanwaterfuture.com/>

Rick Frederick discussed several opportunities for BRC members to get involved directly (or recruit others) and participate and/or sponsor upcoming events and projects:

1). Rick Frederick gave the committee an overview of the cleanup on Maple Street in November 2016, one of the most litter-impacted streamways in Mobile County. After a very successful amphibious cleanup, Don Bates with Thompson Engineering installed a “Litter Gitter” at this location and has since monitored the site and collected the trash. At the time of the meeting, 73 pounds of litter had been collected and removed between November 18, 2016 – January 23, 2017. See attached for the before and after photos. There will be a second phase cleanup of this area on March 24, 2017 with additional information to follow. This site is proving to be a showcase for small stream litter collection.

2). Small Stream Litter Trap- A solution, created and championed by the Thompson Engineering team, for small stream litter collection to enhance water quality in all local watersheds. The trap is a basket style device moored to the bank via floating booms. Don Bates shared the latest developments in regards to the “Litter Gitter”. As a result of the pilot site on Maple St., the City of Mobile has approved and identified 3 locations to install the Litter Gitter in the Three Mile Creek

watershed. Partners for Environmental Progress (PEP) and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program have collaborated to sponsor these first 3 “Litter Gitters” for 90 days. Don Bates formed Osprey Initiative, LLC to oversee and maintain the traps. Additional interest shown in other watersheds could soon lead to deployment of the litter traps in other small streams on both sides of the bay. As the program is developed and fine-tuned, sponsorships for additional sites will be sought.

3). Finally, Rick Frederick offered and encouraged members to take part in field trips offered by the Mobile Bay NEP in various watersheds. Getting in the field helps raise awareness and allows community members to become familiar fist hand with the projects and efforts currently taking place on both sides of the bay. Members asked to express interest where they might like to “plug in”.

Jennifer Denson and Darrelyn Dunmore encouraged members to become a partner in Create a Clean Water Future.