

Community Action Committee



May 2018

Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan
for Alabama's Estuaries & Coast

2013-2018



Access to Water and Open Spaces



Coastlines
(Beaches and Other Shorelines)



Fish



Heritage and Culture



Environmental Health and Resilience



Water Quality

The People > **How the MBNEP Works: The Management Conference**

A hallmark of the National Estuary Program is the establishment and convening of a "Management Conference," critical to its ability to facilitate collaborative efforts.

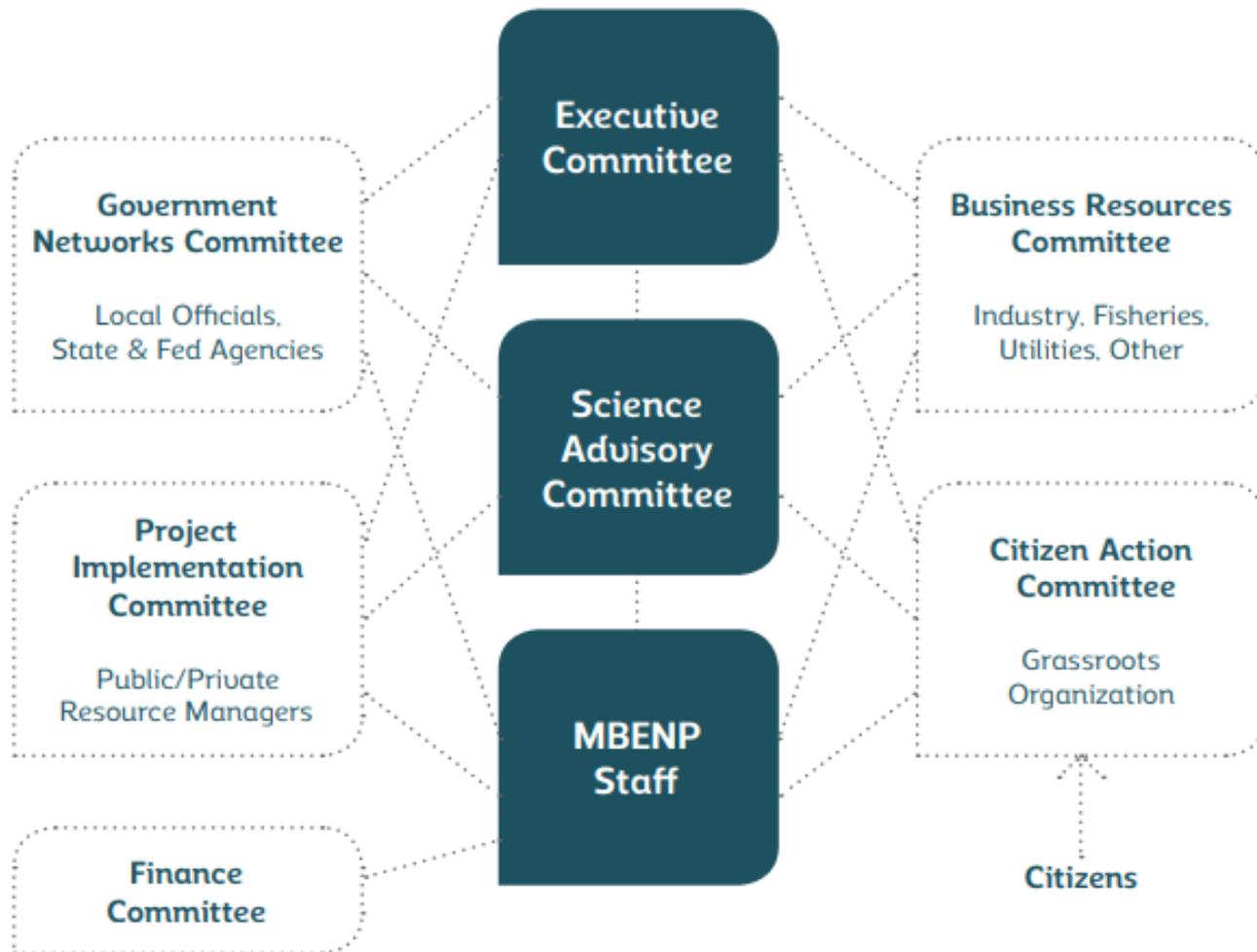
Section 320 of the Clean Water Act outlines how National Estuary Programs are required to establish a Management Conference to develop a comprehensive conservation and management plan (CCMP) and ensure its implementation by stating in part:

Purposes of Conference

The purposes of any Management Conference convened with respect to an estuary under this subsection shall be to:

- 1 Assess trends in water quality, natural resources, and uses of the estuary.
- 2 Collect, characterize, and assess data on toxics, nutrients, and natural resources within the estuarine zone to identify the causes of environmental problems.
- 3 Develop the relationship between the in-place loads and point and non-point loadings of pollutants to the estuarine zone and the potential uses of the zone, water quality, and natural resources.
- 4 Develop a comprehensive conservation and management plan that recommends priority corrective actions and compliance schedules addressing point and non-point sources of pollution to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the estuary, including restoration and maintenance of water quality, a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish and wildlife, and recreational activities in the estuary, and assure that the designated uses of the estuary are protected.
- 5 Develop plans for the coordinated implementation of the plan by the states as well as federal and local agencies participating in the conference.

MBNEP Management Conference



The purpose of this committee is to bring together grassroots organizations for networking, information sharing, issues development, and cooperative training purposes that support the development of grassroots capacity for undertaking environmental activities on a place based scale. The Community Action Committee is made up of place-based, grassroots organization, and volunteer association representatives and engages in the following:

1. Discuss/educate on the issues and how they relate to environmental sustainability (i.e., stormwater management, public access, environmentally appropriate affordable housing, and habitat protection).
2. Educates others on the committee about individual organizational efforts to address issues (opportunities for agencies to present what they do to the group, opportunities for groups to learn new ways of energizing constituencies).
3. Engages in constructive dialogue on ways to partner with each other to effect positive results.
4. Identifies community resources to effectively aid in addressing issues/challenges.
5. Provides increased opportunities for public participation and project involvement (i.e., citizen monitoring, volunteer opportunities, etc.).
6. Identifies projects and assists with planning for implementation (i.e., water quality monitoring, habitat conservation, restoration and protection, data management, public access, etc.).
7. Cooperatively identifies tasks/roles for MBNEP in addressing issues or galvanizing action.

In 2016, the CAC adopted a strategy to develop a comprehensive volunteer monitoring program to improve knowledge about water quality in our creeks, streams, rivers, and bays. The goals of this strategy are to provide an ongoing quality data source for measuring the health of the waters flowing through our coastal watersheds; to grow the cadre of citizen scientists in coastal Alabama, and build the capacity and contributions of grassroots groups related to informing and implementing watershed management plans. The CAC, in partnership with grassroots groups throughout Mobile and Baldwin counties, does this by educating citizens about water quality issues related to their local area; supporting existing and establishing new volunteer water quality monitors; providing an online platform for reporting and viewing collected data; and providing technical assistance and broad support to anyone interested or actively engaged in water quality monitoring and reporting.

Goals

- Increase citizen involvement in hands-on monitoring
- Increase contributions to watershed planning
- Build capacity of grassroots groups through training and technology transfer

Objectives

- Establish (?) target # for trained volunteers
- Assess equipment needs/chemical supply and demands
- Determine levels of monitoring (types)
- Location accessibility needs for volunteer monitors
- Training priorities: watershed education; stormwater runoff education, including MS4 workings; VWQM, biological monitoring; shoreline monitoring; CCWF implementation

Other considerations

- providing a platform for reporting and viewing data
- providing technical assistance for monitoring and reporting



Project Number	TAC1401
Title	Alabama Water Watch Coastal Program Support & Expansion
Values Supported	 
Purpose	To expand citizen stewardship of the estuary through voluntary water quality monitoring activities
Outputs/Deliverables	Train 50 Water Quality Monitoring volunteer monitors
	Increase knowledge about science, monitoring, habitat management, and restoration of the Mobile Bay estuarine

2016 Accomplishments: Established Comprehensive Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program and manual; 14 community members trained to be volunteer water quality monitors.

Objectives 2017-2018:

1. Train 20 citizens to undertake volunteer water quality monitoring.
2. Support development of "Water Rangers" online data portal for volunteer data entry.

Year 3 (2015-2016)	\$ 5,625 (Revised)
Year 4 (2016-2017)	
Year 5 (2017-2018)	
Other Funding	\$ 0
Total	\$ 50,625
Past Year Funding	
Match/Leverage	AWW
Lead/Partners	AWW/MBNEP, CAC



Goals/Objectives/Suggested Activities		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Performance Measure	Outcomes	Indicator	Lead
EPI-2: Improve community ability to participate in ecosystem-based management actions.										
EPI-2.1	Engage grassroots groups in assisting with development and implementation of the Project Implementation Committee's (PIC's) selected watershed management plans.									
a	Watershed Planning- Fowl River		x				# Of citizens participating in watershed planning efforts	Increased in community engagement in watershed management planning and implementation activities	Increase # of citizens who are wise stewards	Community Action Committee
b	Watershed Plan - TBD by PIC			x						
c	Watershed Plan - TBD by PIC				x					
d	Watershed Plan - TBD by PIC					x				
e	Watershed Plan - TBD by PIC					x				
EPI-2.2	Engage grassroots groups and citizens in collecting data for the PIC's selected watersheds for monitoring and research purposes									
a	Train 30 volunteer water quality monitors.		x	x	x		# Of volunteer monitors	Increased in community engagement in watershed management planning and implementation activities	Increase # of citizens who are wise stewards	Community Action Committee
b	Train 15 volunteer stream assessors.				x	x				
c	Train 15 volunteer species monitors.				x	x				
EPI-2.3	Educate various non-environmental organizations and the public on programs and volunteer opportunities available.									
a	Create a writable calendar for CAC members and viewable by all community members.			x			% Increase in community participation in volunteer opportunities	Increased in community engagement in watershed management planning and implementation activities	Increase # of citizens who are wise stewards	Community Action Committee
b	Create a central website for all events (or utilize CleanWaterFuture.com).			x						
c	Create a listserve/google group for CAC members.			x						
d	Encourage all groups to share the repository and information gathered via their updates/newsletters.	x	x	x	x	x				



Goals/Objectives/Suggested Activities		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Performance Measure	Outcomes	Indicator	Lead
EPI-3: Increase citizen actions to mitigate impacts of humans on the environment.										
EPI-3.1	Support one social marketing campaign to increase participation in conservation activities.						# Of groups adopting CCWF campaign locally	Improved personal behaviors and respect for water resources	Amount of trash in public parks, parking lots, waterways	
a	Add additional components, including an "Anti Litter" unit, to the Create a Clean Water Future Campaign Tool Kit for use by community groups		x	x						
b	Expand grassroots group adoption of Create a Clean Water Future (CCWF) Campaign.	x	x	x	x	x				
c	Establish a CCWF Day of Service.			x	x	x				
EPI-3.2	Implement at least three programs to increase community stewardship through place-based grassroots groups.						# Of groups participating in stewardship programs	Reduction in amount of pollutants in waterways	Reductions in nutrients, pathogens, and sediment in impaired waterbodies	Community Action Committee
a	Promote Alabama Smart Yards and Healthy Gulf.	x	x	x	x	x				
b	Promote Muddy Water Watch.	x	x	x	x	x				
c	Promote Waterwise Habitats.		x	x	x	x				
EPI-3.3	Support Government Networks Committee (GNC) and Business Resources Committee in developing programs to reduce the amount of trash in coastal waterways by 20%.						# Of laws and regulations improved	Improved ability of government to manage land and water		
a	Support enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.	x	x	x	x	x				
b	Promote the use of reusable bags and containers.	x	x	x	x	x				
c	Conduct a minimum of 25 Community Clean-Ups.	x	x	x	x	x				



Goals/Objectives/Suggested Activities		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Performance Measure	Outcomes	Indicator	Lead
EPI-4: Build Capacity of at least 15 grassroots groups to ensure citizen involvement in creating more resilient and environmentally responsible communities.										
EPI-4.1	Support/Promote three workshops to address organizational development.						# Of operational grassroots organizations	Improved sustainability of grassroots groups	Increase in # of citizens participating in grassroots groups	Community Action Committee
a	Fundraising workshop		x	x	x	x				
b	Volunteer recruitment workshop		x	x	x	x				
c	Non-profit governance workshop to include leadership and non-profit board development		x	x	x	x	# Of laws and regulations improved	Improved ability of government to manage land and water	Reductions in nutrients, pathogens, and sediment in impaired waterbodies	Community Action Committee
EPI-4.2	Support needed changes to federal, state and local regulations to improve management of coastal resources and promote enforcement of existing regulations.									
a	Conduct letter-writing campaign in support of reauthorization of the National Estuary Program.		x							
b	Conduct letter-writing campaign to promote protection of coastal resources as part of the State of Alabama Water Resource Management Plan.		x	x						
c	Promote and support referendum crafted by GNC to improve local management authority of coastal resources.				x	x x				
d	Provide public comment on new and updated regulations, ordinances, bills as they are developed.		x	x	x	x x				

Accomplishments



- ~75 active sites being monitored
- Water Rangers web tool
- Dialogue with ADEM
- New sites (programs) in Bon Secour, Fowl River, and West Fowl River
- Reimbursement for equipment/chemicals
- Outreach documents and monitoring article template
- WMP assistance
- Capacity building (social media)
- Others?

Proposed Changes

Education and Public Involvement



EPI-3 Increase awareness of community about the role of coastal resources in supporting what people value about living in coastal Alabama.

EPI-3.1		Give 50 presentations to community groups about the CCMP or issues impacting our coastal values.								*# of people attending presentations	*Increase community awareness through environmental education and participation	*Increase # of citizens who are wise stewards	Community Action Committee
	a	Presentation	x	x	x	x	x						
	b	Presentation	x	x	x	x	x						
	c	Presentation	x	x	x	x	x						
	d	Presentation	x	x	x	x	x						
	e	Presentation	x	x	x	x	x						
	f	Give presentation to 5 civic groups/community leaders within environmental spheres of influence <u>about</u> the three most stressed habitats and why they are important to coastal ecosystem health.											
	g	Educate key stakeholders and raise community awareness about the connectivity between upstream areas and the estuary/downstream.											
EPI-3.2		Host at least 15 workshops annually to educate citizens and property owners on how to protect and restore what people value most.								*# of people attending workshops	*Increase community's connection to Alabama's coastal resources		
	a	Create a reporting mechanism, perhaps a central database, accessible by Community Action Committee (CAC) members.		x	x	x	x						
	b	Create shareable power points to extend reach.	x	x	x								
	c	Develop a list of potential groups to work with to achieve strategy.	x	x									
	d	Determine how/if Continuing Education Credits can be earned through these workshops.	x	x									
	e	Host one LID workshop or property owners.											
	f	Host one living shorelines workshop for property owners.											
										*# of people earning Continuing Education Credits			

Proposed Changes

Education and Public Involvement



EPI-3.3		Encourage and coordinate 15 multi-partner festivals and events in the watershed to celebrate the cultural/natural connection.																	
	a	Incorporate heritage themes into Alabama <u>Birdfest</u> .		x															*# of people attending events
	b	Incorporate heritage themes into Wolf Bay Watershed Watch Children's Fishing Tournament.		x															
	c	Incorporate environmental themes into the Blessing of the Fleet.		x															
	d	Incorporate environmental themes into community heritage days.				x													
	e	Promote upstream connection to Mobile Bay throughout the greater Mobile Bay watershed.	x	x	x	x	x												
	f	Support local events, including but not limited to: <u>Birdfest</u> , Blessing of the Fleet, <u>Creekfest</u> , Wolf Bay Water Watch Kids Fishing Tournament, and other festivals celebrating coastal heritage/culture.																	
EPI-3.4		Create and support recreational and educational programs that connect more people to local waterways.																	
	a	Target underserved communities/children.		x	x	x	x												
	b	Fundraise to facilitate participation by underserved communities.		x	x														
EPI-4 Improve community awareness of environmental stewardship, volunteer, and educational opportunities.																			
EPI-4.1		Educate various non-environmental organizations and the public on community stewardship programs and volunteer and educational opportunities through publications and social media.																	# reached through publications
	a	Create a writable calendar for CAC/CRC members and viewable by all community members.		x															
	b	Maintain a central website for all events (or utilize CleanWaterFuture.com).		x															
	c	Create a <u>listserve</u> /google group to connect CAC/CRC members.		x															
	d	Encourage all groups to share the repository and information gathered via their updates/newsletters.	x	x	x	x	x												
	e	Distribute electronic newsletter on a monthly basis to raise awareness about environmental programs and volunteer opportunities.																	
																			Community Action Committee
																			Community Resource Committee

Proposed Changes

Education and Public Involvement



EPI-5 Increase citizen actions to mitigate impacts of humans on the environment.										
EPI-5.1		Support <u>social</u> marketing campaigns to increase participation in conservation activities.								*# of groups adopting CCWF and other campaigns locally *Improved personal behaviors and respect for water resources *Amount of trash in public parks, parking lots, waterways Community Action Committee Community Resource Committee Business Resource Committee
	a	Add additional components, including an " <u>Anti Litter</u> " unit, to the Create a Clean Water Future Campaign (CCWF) Tool Kit for use by community groups.		x	x					
	b	Expand and continue grassroot group and NGO adoption CCWF Campaign.	x	x	x	x	x			
	c	Establish a CCWF Day of Service.				x	x	x		
	d	Continue implementation of the Create a Clean Water Future Campaign within local NGO community.								
	d	Develop or adopt one additional social marketing campaign annually.								
EPI-5.2		Implement programs through local <u>governments</u> , NGOs, and place-based grassroots groups to minimize impacts from stormwater runoff and trash.								*# of groups participating in stewardship programs *Reduction in amount of pollutants in waterways *Increase community desire to improve water entering local waterways # of community clean-ups # of communities involved in pollution prevention *Reductions in nutrients, pathogens, and sediment in impaired waterbodies Community Resource Committee Community Action Committee Government Networks Committee
	a	Promote Alabama Smart Yards and Healthy Gulf.	x	x	x	x	x			
	b	Promote Muddy Water Watch.	x	x	x	x	x			
	c	Promote Waterwise Habitats.		x	x	x	x			
	d	Promote community clean-ups with at least four hosted in communities currently implementing watershed plans (Fowl River, Fish River, Three Mile Creek, Bayou La Batre).								
	e	Promote storm drain marking.								
	f	Promote the use of reusable bags and containers.								
	g	Promote participation in CCWF Campaign								

Proposed Changes

Education and Public Involvement



EPI-6 Build Capacity of at least 15 grassroots groups to ensure citizen involvement in creating more resilient and environmentally responsible communities.										
EPI-6.1		Support/Promote three workshops to address organizational development.								*# of operational grassroots organizations *Improve sustainability of grassroots groups *Increase in # of citizens participating in grassroots groups Community Action Committee
	a	Fundraising workshop		x	x	x	x			
	b	Volunteer recruitment workshop		x	x	x	x			
	c	Non-profit governance workshop to include leadership and non-profit board development		x	x	x	x			
EPI-7 Publicly support environmental issues addressed in the CCMP										
EPI-7.1		Publicly support the development of Watershed Management Plans and their implementation in guiding coastal restoration and community resilience.								*# of laws and regulations improved *Improve ability of government to manage land and water *Reductions in nutrients, pathogens, and sediment in impaired waterbodies Community Resources Committee
	a	Promote community input in watershed planning - Wolf Bay, Mississippi Sound Complex, Fly Creek.								
	b	Develop a short video to educate communities about the value of getting involved in watershed management planning and implementation.								
EPI-7.2		Publicly support best management practices for installing living shorelines.								
EPI-7.3		Publicly support federal, state, and local regulatory changes to improve overall management and enforcement and to provide local government with authority needed to protect natural resources.								
	a	Conduct letter-writing campaign in support of reauthorization of the National Estuary Program.								
	b	Conduct letter-writing campaign to promote protection of coastal resources as part of the State of Alabama Water Resource Management Plan.								

Proposed Changes Estuary Status and Trends



Goals/Objectives/Suggested Activities		Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Performance Measure	Outcomes	Indicator	Lead
EST-1: Improve understanding of the condition of the estuarine ecosystem.										
EST-1.1	Maintain/improve existing level of coastal monitoring and data analysis.						*# of datasets with metadata	*Improved continuous monitoring of environmental conditions	*Consistent data on habitat change trends *Consistent data accessible for coastal resource study and management	Science Advisory Committee (Lead) Community Action Committee
a	Facilitate access to data by encouraging registration of metadata with an agreed-upon data management portal.		x	x	x	x				
b	Support the role of the Center of Excellence in curating, archiving, and managing estuarine data produced by various agencies.		x							
c	Identify data gaps and needs for monitoring.			x	x					
d	Facilitate increased monitoring by appropriate groups, including grassroots groups and citizens.						# of volunteer monitors			
e	Conduct high resolution mapping of habitats within the estuary to continue monitoring distribution and coverage.	x	x				*Establishment of baselines of water quality and habitat conditions			
f	Develop remote sensing strategy to inform coastal monitoring efforts.			x						
g	Monitor acres and species of SAV and wetlands.		x		x					

Proposed Changes

Ecosystem Restoration and Protection



ERP 1.2	Engage grassroots groups in assisting with development and implementation of the Project Implementation Committee's (PIC's) selected watershed management plans.		*# of citizens participating in watershed planning efforts	*Increase in community engagement in watershed management planning and implementation activities	*Increase # of citizens who are wise stewards	Community Action Committee
a	Watershed Planning- Fowl River	x				

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Environmental Health and Resilience



Water Quality