

**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Executive Committee Meeting  
Original Oyster House Banquet Hall, Spanish Fort, AL  
May 18, 2018 10:00 am-12:00 pm**

Attendees – Scott Bannon, ADCNR Marine Resources; Mark Berte, Alabama Coastal Foundation; Chris Blankenship, ADCNR; Ruth Carmichael, Dauphin Island Sea Lab; Jennifer Denson, Partners for Environmental Progress; Darrelyn Dunmore, Strategic Wealth Specialists; Mimi Fearn, Dog River Clearwater Revival; Leslie Gahagan, City of Foley; Charles “Skip” Gruber, Baldwin County Commission; Judy Haner, The Nature Conservancy; Patric Harper, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Amy Hunter, ADCNR; James Lyons, Alabama State Port Authority; Ben Malone, USDA-NRCS; Eliska Morgan, Alabama Gulf Coast Restore Council; Chris Plymale, EPA Region 4; Patti Powell, ADCNR; William Sisson (Bob Chappelle-proxy), Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; LaDon Swann, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant/Auburn; Chris Thomas, EPA Region 4; John Valentine, Dauphin Island Sea Lab

**MBNEP Staff Present:** *Roberta Swann, Tom Herder, Christian Miller, Rick Frederick, Kelley Barfoot, Tiffany England, Jason Kudulis, Paul Lammers, Bethany Dickey, Jackie Wilson, and Katy Hines*

1. **Introductions/Call to Order:** Commissioner Chris Blankenship called meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Blankenship asked for comments or revisions to the minutes from the February 23, 2018 meeting. Eliska Morgan made a motion to approve and Mark Berte seconded the motion.
3. **Director’s Report**
  - a) **Budget vs. Actual:** our EPA grant has followed our 5-year CCMP. Our new 5-year EPA grant will begin October 1, 2018. We are trying to zero out the EPA funded grants (shown on the BVA) to close out the grant. We did ask for a 9-month extension for about \$42,000 because there are some activities funded through the EPA grant that we anticipate going past September 30 (Annual Meeting Video and Citizen Monitoring)

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program						As of:	3.31.2018
Budget vs. Actual- All Grants							
Project/Activities	Fundin	Total Budget	Encumbered	Total Expenses	Cash Balance	Unencumbered Balance	
<b>Ecosystem Restoration and Protection</b>		<b>19,675,057.94</b>	<b>15,813,713.27</b>	<b>13,212,618.25</b>	<b>6,422,439.69</b>	<b>3,861,344.67</b>	
D'Olive, Tawasee, Joes Branch,		11,044,312.92	8,495,248.96	7,844,190.06	3,200,122.86	2,549,063.96	
Fowl River		4,284,498.50	3,574,466.74	3,333,213.36	951,285.14	710,031.76	
Bayou La Batre, West Fowl, DI		499,265.00	490,265.00	404,615.36	94,649.64	9,000.00	
Bon Secour Complex		340,000.00	340,000.00	334,995.17	5,004.83	-	
Weeks Bay (Fish, Magnolia)		424,996.95	424,996.95	424,960.79	36.16	-	
Dog River, Garrows Bend		275,000.00	275,000.00	275,000.00	-	-	
Wolf Bay		40,000.00	40,000.00	-	-	-	
Tensaw Apalachee		36,625.05	30,600.00	30,600.00	6,025.05	6,025.05	
Three Mile Creek		1,173,927.52	641,950.15	426,362.19	747,565.33	531,977.37	
Eight Mile Creek		25,000.00	24,613.47	24,613.47	386.53	386.53	
Bridge Creek Watershed		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	-	

	Cash Balance	Unencumbered Balance
25	6,422,439.69	3,861,344.67
06	3,200,122.86	2,549,063.96
36	951,285.14	710,031.76
36	94,649.64	9,000.00
17	5,004.83	-
19	36.16	-
10	-	-
10	6,025.05	6,025.05
19	747,565.33	531,977.37
47	386.53	386.53
10	-	-

Outreach & Education Videos (Dune Protection)

Litter Gitters

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program						As of:	3.31.2018
Budget vs. Actual- All Grants							
Project/Activities	Total Budget	Encumbered	Total Expenses	Cash Balance	Unencumbered Balance		
<b>Technical Assistance and Capacity Building</b>	<b>281,726.13</b>	<b>264,130.67</b>	<b>262,005.67</b>	<b>19,720.46</b>	<b>17,595.46</b>		
Coastal Marine Planning (4) Inventory of Resources	80,870.00	80,870.00	80,870.00	-	-		
Coastal Marine Planning (5) Communication	80,870.00	80,870.00	80,870.00	-	-		
Volunteer Monitoring	50,267.19	32,672.64	32,672.64	17,594.55	17,594.55		
Clean Water Partnership (3 Years)	57,718.03	57,718.03	57,718.03	-	-		
Estuary Corps	7,875.00	7,875.00	7,875.00	-	-		
Green Ports Support	-	-	-	-	-		
Oyster Gardening/Trail Sponsorship	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-		
<b>Education and Public Involvement</b>	<b>470,097.91</b>	<b>425,767.66</b>	<b>390,198.65</b>	<b>72,942.76</b>	<b>44,330.25</b>		
Management Conference	8,000.00	5,413.68	5,413.68	2,586.32	2,586.32		
Current Connections Newsletter	32,500.00	29,049.54	29,049.54	3,450.46	3,450.46		
Current Connections Newsletter/Bays and Estuaries	26,913.00	26,913.00	19,956.50	-	-		
Interpretive Signage	14,500.00	6,969.37	969.37	13,530.63	7,530.63		
Video Production	79,000.00	67,320.00	69,237.49	19,762.51	11,680.00		
Special Events	45,935.00	40,665.22	35,665.22	9,269.78	5,269.78		
Promotional Materials	22,386.00	14,948.98	14,948.98	7,437.02	7,437.02		
Create a Clean Water Future Campaign	92,989.82	84,487.87	74,957.87	16,906.04	8,501.95		
Trash Free Waters-Outreach	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00	5,000.00		
DISL Education Program Support	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	-	-		
<b>Program Planning and Administration</b>	<b>5,259,359.18</b>	<b>5,064,482.96</b>	<b>4,254,782.21</b>	<b>949,177.73</b>	<b>194,876.23</b>		
EPA Program Management and General Expenses	2,780,833.77	2,730,608.57	2,434,030.57	346,803.20	50,225.20		
D'Olive General Expenses	560,937.60	538,065.53	492,371.97	68,565.63	22,842.07		
Fowl River General Expenses-PR	84,458.74	84,458.74	84,938.96	(480.21)	(0.04)		
Fowl River Spits General Exp	65,633.00	65,100.00	29,731.23	35,901.77	533.00		
Coastal Restoration General Expenses	162,231.29	159,256.29	100,215.26	62,016.03	2,976.00		
12 Mile Creek General Expenses	21,338.16	21,338.16	1,840.69	19,497.47	-		
DISL Indirect Charge	562,212.00	562,212.00	419,608.90	142,603.10	-		
DISL Indirect Charge- External Grants	1,021,714.63	1,021,714.63	692,044.64	329,669.99	-		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,234,082.17</b>	<b>23,053,128.17</b>	<b>19,229,373.44</b>	<b>7,902,352.99</b>	<b>4,180,954.00</b>		

	Cash Balance	Unencumbered Balance
17	19,720.46	17,595.46
10	-	-
10	-	-
14	17,594.55	17,594.55
13	-	-
10	-	-
15	72,942.76	44,330.25
8	2,586.32	2,586.32
14	3,450.46	3,450.46
10	-	-
37	13,530.63	7,530.63
19	19,762.51	11,680.00
12	9,269.78	5,269.78
17	7,437.02	7,437.02
18	16,906.04	8,501.95
10	5,000.00	5,000.00

Chemicals, replacement kits, etc.

Annual Meeting, Maintaining your Stormwater Retention Facility Videos

- b) **CCMP Update Process:** We will be updating the Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) this year for the next 5 years. We have contracted with Shafer Consulting from Sarasota, FL, who

has worked on CCMP updates with Tampa, Charlotte Harbor and Sarasota NEPs, to assist with our update. Each committee is reviewing accomplishments, assessing current objectives, and modifying each CCMP strategy to encompass the goals for the next five years. We will be working with the State to conform with Alabama Coastal Non-Point Source Control Program requirements. We will be engaging the Management Conference by having a planning meeting with entire conference in September and come up with a final strategy matrix. The updated CCMP will be completed by January.

- c) **Key Accomplishments:** We finally finished the “Flight of the Frigate Bird” film about Dauphin Island. We have already had a premiere on Dauphin Island and soon to have one in Mobile County. MBNEP recently received a grant for \$300,000 from the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities for healthy watershed protection through conservation of headwater habitats in the Mobile Bay Basin. Our goal is to protect 10,000 acres in the first year and 100,000 over 5 years.

Our annual workplan is due to EPA on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Because we are in the process of updating our CCMP, some of the goals will change, but the budget numbers will stay the same. Our EPA grant for the upcoming FY 2018-2019 will be \$600,000, with a projected non-federal match dollar amount of \$354,088, giving us a total of \$954,088 in EPA related funding. Ms. Swann asked for approval of the Annual Workplan Budget. Darrelyn Dunmore made a motion to approve and Eliska Morgan seconded the motion. The submitted budget includes funding from local municipalities. Here are the basics of each committee’s goals:

<b>ECOSYSTEM STATUS AND TRENDS</b>	<b>Science Advisory Committee</b>
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1. Increase data related to how the estuarine ecosystem responds to anthropogenic stressors.
2. Establish process for measuring change in estuarine conditions.
3. Improve understanding of relationship between biological condition and provision of ecosystem services resulting from improvements in resources.

<b>ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND PROTECTION</b>	<b>Project Implementation Committee</b>
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1. Improve trends in Water Quality in priority watersheds with impairments (either 303(d)-listed or those with approved TMDLs) or other intertidal watersheds that discharge into priority fish nursery areas.
2. Improve ecosystem function and resilience through protection, restoration and conservation of beaches, bays, backwaters, and rivers.
3. Restore/Expand human connections.

<b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING</b>	<b>Business Resources Committee</b>
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1. Improve Business community understanding of how coastal natural resources and estuaries contribute to economic, cultural, and community wellbeing.
2. Increase business support for protecting the estuary/coast.
3. Conserve and improve working waterfronts and preserve fishing communities.

<b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING</b>	<b>Government Networks Committee</b>
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1. Establish long-term capability of local governments to manage and maintain coastal environmental resources.
2. Minimize impacts and amount of contaminated stormwater runoff entering coastal waterways.
3. Promote the protection and restoration of Gulf-fronting beaches, dunes, and shorelines as a first line of defense.

<b>EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</b>	<b>Community Action Committee</b>
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1. Increase awareness of coastal resources that support what people value about living in coastal Alabama.
2. Improve community ability to participate in ecosystem-based management actions
3. Increase citizen actions to mitigate impacts of humans on the environment.
4. Build capacity of grassroots groups.

<b>EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</b>	<b>Community Resources Committee</b>
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1. Increase awareness of coastal resources that support what people value about living in coastal Alabama.
2. Improve community ability to participate in ecosystem-based management actions
3. Increase citizen actions to mitigate impacts of humans on the environment.
4. Build capacity of grassroots groups.
5. Advocate for environmental issues addressed in the CCMP.

4. Committee Reports (MBNEP Management Conference Co-Chairs)

**Science Advisory Committee**

Dr. Ruth Carmichael gave an update on the SAC meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The meeting focused on the Fowl River Marsh Health Study. The team provided a project update based on the work being done with each component - vegetation, hydrology, and sediments. Dr. Carmichael made a request to the Executive Committee to add a hydrodynamic modeling component to the study. Mark Berte made a motion of approval and Dr. Mimi Fearn seconded the motion. Motion carries with no opposition. Dr. John Lehrter and Dr. Amy Hunter have agreed to be the next SAC co-chairs. State of the Bay content creation continues. Tom Herder asked all members of the SAC to write vignettes of their own research for State of the Bay, which gives them the chance to advertise their own work.

#### **Project Implementation Committee**

Judy Haner gave an update on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> PIC meeting. The PIC went through a voting process to re-prioritize the remaining watersheds from RESTORE funding. The top three watersheds are the MTA Delta, Fly Creek, and Bayou Sara. Roberta pointed out that all the other committees will be doing this ranking process and that the priorities are different among the other committees.

#### **Government Networks Committee**

Commissioner Skip Gruber gave an update on the May 18<sup>th</sup> GNC meeting. Justin McDonald with USACE presented an overview of their Coastal Vulnerability Assessment. The members did the watershed prioritization exercise. A Survey Monkey is being conducted to assess current strengths and weaknesses to determine ways the GNC can better serve its members.

#### **Community Action Committee**

Leslie Gahagan reported for the CAC. The next meeting is scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>. The committee will undergo the CCMP review and set committee goals for 2018-2019. A conference call was organized with ADEM and AWW to work on getting a better relationship between agency and volunteer monitoring groups. 15 new monitors have been trained since February. The Alabama Water Watch annual meeting will be held in coastal Alabama in 2019.

#### **Business Resources Committee**

Darrellyn Dunmore and Rick Frederick reported for the BRC. The next meeting is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>. Litter Gitters are being deployed in both counties. MBNEP has two grants (EPA Trash Free Waters, Gulf of Mexico Program) for the construction, installation, and maintenance of a total of 14 Litter Gitters, 10 of which will be in Three Mile Creek. MBNEP and PEP are sponsoring another 3 Litter Gitters in Dog River. The Gulf of Mexico Grant is also funding the implementation of a volunteer monitoring program (SWAMP) and the implementation of a plan targeting 5 businesses in the watershed to encourage alternative packaging. The BRC is re-launching the Create a Clean Water Future Campaign. Since there aren't any parameters to who can join CCWF, there will soon be membership levels, brand requirements and other requirements like company recycling, company cleanups, and clean parking lot programs.

#### **Community Resources Committee**

Mark Berte reported on the May 9<sup>th</sup> CRC meeting. The committee completed an evaluation of the 5-year CCMP EPI goals, objectives, and activities. "The Diverse Delta" was the top choice for the CRC social marketing campaign. The committee is in the process of conducting an inventory of completed activities from year 4 of the CCMP.

#### 5. Other / Announcements

- Alabama Mississippi Bays & Bayous will be held in Mobile this year- November 28-29, 2018
- The Twelve Mile Creek stream restoration project is underway and the community meeting will be held June 7<sup>th</sup>
- The Exploreum water exhibit opens June 13<sup>th</sup>
- Governor Ivey is hosting a restoration summit October 11<sup>th</sup> for coastal Alabama.
- **Each committee will hold nominations for new co-chairs after their 5-year tenure.**

Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.