

**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Executive Committee Meeting
Original Oyster House Banquet Hall, Spanish Fort, AL
February 17, 2017, 10am-12pm.**

Attendees – Dr. John Valentine, Dauphin Island Sea Lab; Dr. Ruth Carmichael, Dauphin Island Sea Lab; Dr. Mimi Fearn, Dog River Clearwater Revival; Mark Berte, Alabama Coastal Foundation; Dr. Susan Rees, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Tammy Herrington, Conservation Alabama; Darrelyn Dunmore, Strategic Wealth Specialists; Jimmy Lyons, Alabama State Port Authority; Jennifer Denson, Partners for Environmental Progress; Patric Harper, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Dr. William Puckett, Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee; Troy Ephriam, City of Prichard; Eliska Morgan, Alabama Gulf Coast Restore Council; Chris Plymale, US EPA Region 4; Patty Powell, ADCNR; Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; Dr. LaDon Swann; Gunter Guy, Jr., ADCNR; Randy Davis, Alabama House of Representatives

MBNEP Staff Present: Roberta Swann, Rick Frederick, Christian Miller, Jason Kudulis, Tom Herder, Paul Lammers and Bethany Dickey

1. Mr. Gunter Guy calls meeting to order at 10:13 am
2. Approval of Minutes
 - o Mr. Guy asked for comments or revisions to the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Denson made motion to approve, Ms. Morgan seconded.
3. Committee Reports (MBNEP Management Conference Co-Chairs)

Science Advisory Committee

- o Dr. Carmichael reported.
- o During the last SAC meeting a Marsh Restoration Project in Fowl River was discussed.
- o **State of the Bay** – there will be a meeting soon

Project Implementation Committee

- o Mr. Harper reported
- o 2 priority habitat acquisition projects in Oyster Bay. Approved for NFWF funding in November (City of Gulf Shores is managing)
- o **Mississippi Sound Complex:** Bayou la Batre – working on draft sections on plan for editing. 1 priority habitat acquisition project approved for NFWF funding in November (TNC is managing- they are forming a Technical Advisory group to examine pathogen issues) West Fowl River- identified stakeholders to form a committee – did field visits and interviews. Working on water quality monitoring plan with Marlon Cook (who is working on a sediment survey). Dauphin Island – working on the draft scope for Outreach and Engagement. Development of a plan will occur when RESTORE funds are available.
- o **Dog River:** all sections of WMP have been provided to the editor and NEP for review.
- o **Fish River/Magnolia River Complex:** still working on GIS database and analyzing the data. Marlon Cook completed sediment study for Fish River. Steering committee has been meeting monthly and WMP should be completed in June.

- **Tensaw/Apalachee:** developing a scope for the WMP and expected to be completed in June. Plan will commence once RESTORE funds are made available.
- **Wolf Bay:** Development will commence when RESTORE funds are available.
- **Bon Secour/Oyster Bay/Skunk Bayou** draft plan was finalized in January.
- **PIC Meeting (February 15, 2017):** discussed restoration projects.
 - **D'Olive:** Joe's Brach – substantially complete. Tiawasee Creek – substantially complete. D'Olive Creek – D4-D6 substantially complete (planting is almost done). DA3 (Malbis Plantation property) – started last month and is substantially complete. DAE – out for bid. DAF & DAF1 – in design. North Mon Louis Island – phase 1 and 2 of rock break and marsh creation. The navigation channel dredge is complete. A tidal creek will be evaluated and bids will begin.
 - **Conservation Corps** is done with training and will begin invasive species control on Monday, February 20.

Government Networks Committee

- Mr. Gruber reported on the meeting from February 17, 2017.
- NFWF-GEBF funding is now in its 5th phase.
- There is a large need for updated floodplain maps.
- Most communities have had problems with illegal dumping.
- There is a Solid Waste & Recyclable Material Management Act that has a funding mechanism to help clean up illegal dumping.

Community Action Committee

- Dr. Fearn reported.
- Last meeting – discussed the watersheds and which ones are well monitored (Dog River, Fowl River. Weeks Bay needs better monitoring).
- Volunteer monitors are wanting to tell stories about their watersheds. The CAC is looking for places to publish these stories. GNC, BRC, and CRC are open to helping with outreach efforts and sharing the stories.

Business Resources Committee

- Ms. Denson, Ms. Dunmore, and Mr. Frederick provided the report from the meeting on February 14, 2017.
- Committee was updated on WMPs and the restoration project on Mon Louis Island.
- Along with Ben Brenner (Cobia Digital), Mr. Frederick has worked out some of the kinks on the Create a Clean Water Future website.
- A rack card layout was introduced for committee members to distribute to businesses to promote Create a Clean Water Future and encourage them to join.
- Mr. Frederick gave an overview of the cleanup on Maple Street from November 2016. There will be a second cleanup there on March 24.
- 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 from Thompson has created an LLC (Osprey Initiatives, LLC) to set up a pilot project to create and distribute these “Litter Gitters”. Partners for Environmental Progress and MBNEP are sponsoring 3 of these litter traps for 90 days. There has been

interest shown by some organizations, so the goal is to turn it into a program for businesses to sponsor a litter trap.

Community Resources Committee

- Ms. Herrington and Mr. Berte provided a report.
- CRC supports the other committees and their activities.
- Next meeting will be March 8.
- As State of the Bay is released the CRC will share through its channels.
- Ms. Herrington comments that the CRC is still working on its work plan for 2017-2018.

4. Director's Report

- Mr. Plymale explained why the Work Plan was needed by March: Region 4 of the EPA has some money and would like to get it out before it gets taken back for any reason.
- Ms. Swann led a discussion on the Annual Work Plan (2017-2018, Year 5) that was available to the committee during the meeting.
- Mr. Guy motioned, Commissioner Gruber and Dr. Rees seconded and the motion carries to approve the Work Plan.

5. Old Business

- By-Laws
 - Ms. Dunmore motioned to approve by-laws and Ms. Morgan seconded. Adds from previous draft: NRCS and US AL District 1 as representatives. Motion carries.
- Federal RESTORE Projects Update
 - Ms. Powell gave an update on Federal Restore Council funding. She met with the acting director this week to speak about foreseeable problems. Ms. Morgan gave an update on the status of RESTORE & NFWF-GEBF funding. Funding is in its 5th phase. The deadline for entering projects is February 24, 2017. Projects should be in the project portal. The deadline for Alabama RESTORE projects was in January and projects are going through the RFE (request for evaluations) process. It takes four RFEs to move a project into the next phase. Please go to www.alabamacoastalrestoration.org to sign up for e-mail updates. Deadlines, release of a plan, meetings, and information on funding are all on the website.

6. Other / Announcements

- Derelict Crab Trap Recovery on March 25 from 8am-1pm at Meaher State Park. Funding allows there to be one a year for the next three years.
- Alabama Oyster Shell Recycling Program: restaurants in the area that give shells to ACF to cure and get back into the water

Adjourned at 11:30 am.