

Watershed Planning Workshop



Community Action Committee

May 3, 2016

11:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Five Rivers Delta Center

Workshop Goals

1. Improve understanding of watershed planning process
2. Improve understanding of how a watershed plan can provide value to watershed groups
3. Increase watershed groups' ability to turn planning into action
4. Improve understanding of how coastal Alabama watershed plans fit into post BP restoration efforts



Thank you...

Dog River Clearwater Revival

for sponsoring today's lunch

Eight Mile Creek Watershed: The Driver- Septic Systems

Date Complete: 2011

Stakeholders Involved: 1-Federal, 6-State, 5-Local, 0-Private, 1-Community

Summary Recommendations: address failing septic systems, reduction of stormwater runoff, restoration of riparian stream buffers

Activities to date	Who led it	What's next
Pre-planning assessment of watershed	MBNEP, SARPC, Mobile Group	Watershed Plan
Stream restoration	City of Prichard, MBNEP assist	Identification of other stream projects
Graphical characterization of Eight Mile Creek Watershed	City of Prichard, Auburn University	Same as above
Identification of flood generating areas	Auburn University with Sea Grant funding	Developing a drainage improvement plan for the lower watershed
Mapping of failing septic systems throughout the watershed	MBNEP	Education, outreach and pump-outs

Who's missing?

D'Olive Creek Watershed: The Driver- Sediment in D'Olive Bay

Date Complete: 2010

Stakeholders Involved: 4-Federal, 4-Private, 3-Local Government, 5-State, 2-Community Groups

Summary Recommendations: repair immediate problems, strengthen regulatory controls, restore watershed hydrology (stormwater retrofits, green streets concepts, rain water harvesting)

Activity to date	Who led it	What's next
New sub-division regulations with buffers, and voluntary LID	City of Daphne, City of Spanish Fort, MBNEP assist	Sub-division regulations #2
Stream Restoration	MBNEP with Daphne, Spanish Fort assist	Monitoring for success
Rain barrel/cistern workshops	City of Daphne, City of Spanish Fort, Clean Water Partnership assist	Expansion of program

Who's Missing?

Three Mile Creek Watershed: The Driver- Access to the Creek

Date Complete: 2014

Stakeholders Involved: 5-Federal, 9-State, 6-Local, 8-Private, 4-Local NGO's

Summary Recommendations: stormwater & wastewater management, ecological restoration, access, community resiliency

Activity to date	Who led it	What's next
Development of Comprehensive Stormwater Management for USA	USA	Three Mile Creek and wet pond restoration in upper watershed
Community cleanups and apple snail removal	Local NGO's	Expanding outreach efforts in schools
Mobile greenway initiative	City of Mobile, MBNEP assist, Mobile County Health Dept., other	Expand greenway along TMC
Development of kayak launch at Tricentennial Park	Mobile County Health Dept.	In process
Establishment of community festival	Mobile County Health Dept.	2 nd annual will be in May
Intensive drainage study of Toulmins-Spring	MBNEP, Auburn University	Drainage improvements
Community engagement in lower watershed	MLK, MBNEP assist	Possible conservation corps for youth
City resolution passed to endorse the watershed plan	MLK New Community Group	Mayor led steering committee to implement plan
Ecological and financial feasibility of purchasing wetlands in the lower watershed	City of Mobile	Acquisition of critical habitats through NFWF funding

Who's Missing?

Understanding the Watershed Planning Process

How a Watershed Plan can add value

"Ask or Tell?"

Directions:

- Break out into six groups of 2
- One person will be the elected official and one person will be the community leader
- Follow the instructions on your scenario sheets

"Ask or Tell" Follow Up Discussion

Elected Official (1)

1. Did you reallocate the funds? Yes or No
2. If yes, how did the community leader persuade you?
3. If no, why?
4. Did they articulate their needs and did they align with your needs to increase tourism?

Community Leader (1)

1. When asking for funding, what was the most significant challenge you faced from your elected official?
2. Did you use the information from the watershed plan to argue your point
3. How did you characterize the need?
4. Were common goals identified between needs of both community and elected official?

"Ask or Tell" Follow Up Discussion

Elected Official (2)

1. What decision did you make regarding the community leaders concern?
2. How did the community leader persuade you?
3. Did the community leader provide you with different options?
4. Did they articulate their needs based on scientific data and did those needs align with your goals?

Community Leader (2)

1. When talking with your elected officials, what was the most significant challenge you faced?
2. How did you characterize the need reduce stormwater runoff?
3. Was there common goals for both parties?

The purpose of the Game:

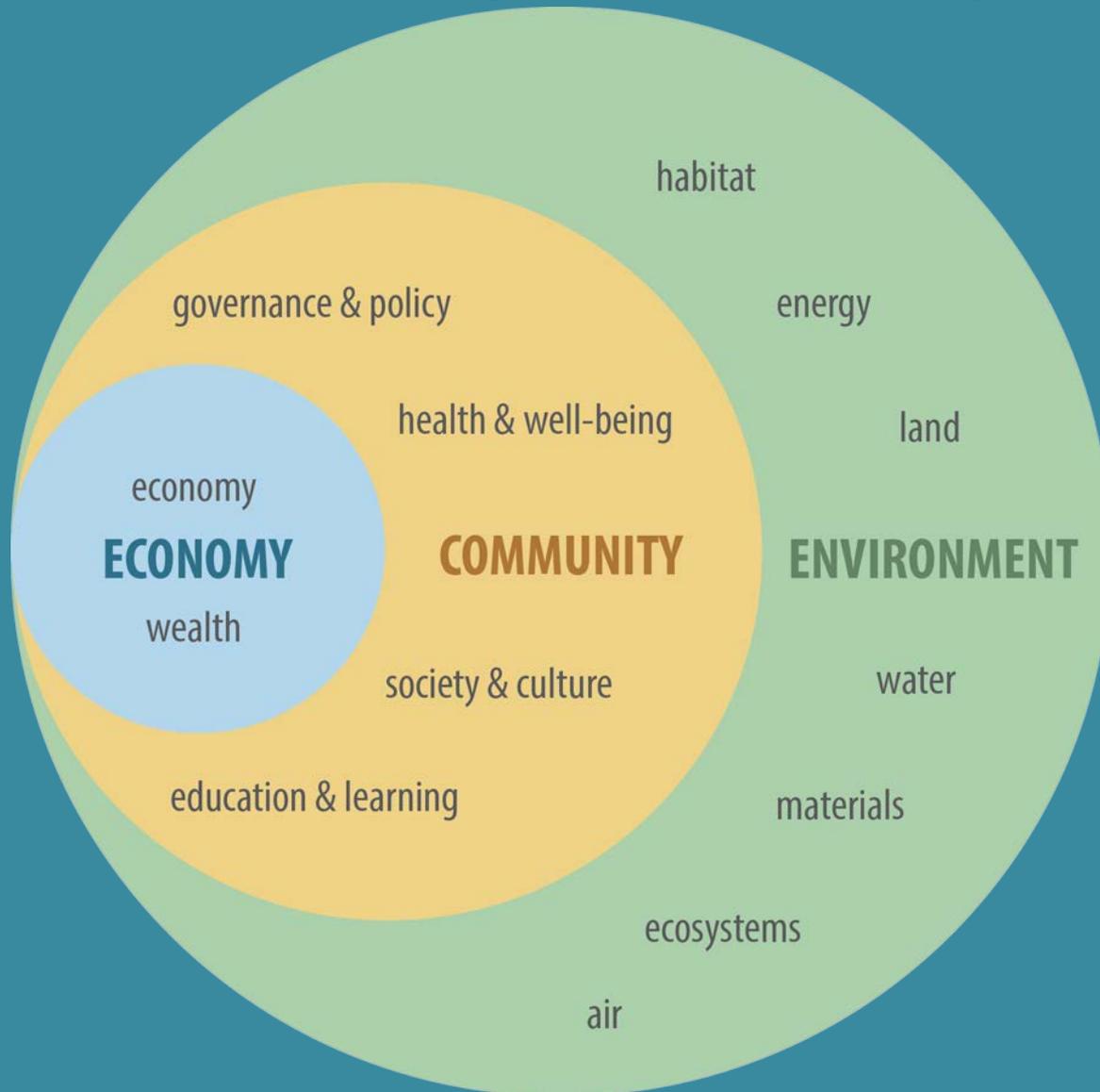
To recognize the difference between what you need and what a funder/elected official wants and **tailoring your need to meet their want.**

The Value of a Watershed Plan

Return on Investment



The Value of a Watershed Plan: Community Sustainability



Understanding the Watershed Planning Process

How a Watershed Plan can add value

Turning Watershed Planning into Action

The Plan is done...Now What?

1. **Read it** and make sure others in the group are knowledgeable about what is recommended in the plan
2. Give presentations to local garden clubs, rotary, other to educate those within the watershed about what is recommended in the plan- **seek endorsements/partnerships/collaborators**
3. Ask **local governing entities to pass resolution** recognizing and endorsing plan
4. **Establish a workgroup or task force** to digest recommended actions and develop list of “**doable projects**” for watershed group to undertake in the Short term, Long term
5. Ensure all identified **restoration projects are included in Watershed Comparison** efforts being undertaken by PIC

Doable Projects should include but not be limited to.....

1. **Citizen involvement activities-** Tree planting, Clean ups, etc.
2. **Changing regulations-** Letter writing campaigns, presentations to planning and other boards, provide support for local governmental efforts to improve subdivision and other regulations related to managing land uses
3. **Recruiting land owners related to restoration projects** to support watershed recommendations/sign access agreements

Getting to the pots of gold...

Although nothing is guaranteed...here
are a few tips



A couple of places to look

- **Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection.** Call (800) 490-9198 or (513) 489-8695 or visit www.epa.gov/OWOW/watershed/wacademy/.
- **The Chronicle of Philanthropy.** Visit www.philanthropy.com.
- **Environmental Finance Center.** Visit sspa.boisestate.edu/efc/Tools&Services/Plan2Fund/plan2fund.htm or call (866) 627-9847.
- **The Foundation Center.** Visit www.fdncenter.org or call (800) 424-9836.
- **Grants.gov.** Visit www.grants.gov.
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** Visit www.nfwf.org.
- **River Network.** Visit www.rivernetwork.org or call (800) 423-6747.

A couple of things to consider...

RESTORE Act Related Funding Possibilities

- **Bucket One-** Infrastructure and Economic Development focus—highly competitive, limited resources
- **Bucket Two-** Environmental focus based on Federal Council priorities- strong potential for funding watershed related projects in the higher reaches, environmental justice possibilities, leveraging with other federal funding sources, significant resources through Federal agencies/State
- **Bucket Three-** Environmental and Economic focus based on impact- limited infrastructure- Federal approval before AL can act
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund-** Environmental only; must show connection to potential impacted resources; State makes recommendations to funder

EPA/ADEM Related Funding Possibilities

- **ADEM Section 319- Non Point Source Related-**
Yearly grant, must have watershed plan meeting EPA 9 key elements, 60/40 non-federal match requirement- must address a State identified impairment
- **State Revolving Loan Fund-** Low interest loan program (% of fund set aside for underserved areas forgiveness), Green Infrastructure priorities; open to non-governmental entities
- **EPA Education Grants-** Yearly requests for proposals

Refer to EPA website (www.epa.gov)

- 1. Cultivate relationships with funders**
- 2. Look for funding that aligns with your project goals**
- 3. Present your goals in terms of what funder wants**
- 4. Be upbeat in your presentations- How are you proposing to solve a need?**
- 5. Put lots of eyes on any written material- Fresh eyes matter!**
- 6. Seek partners in uncommon places**
- 7. Know what your goals (priorities) and objectives (measurable) are.**

A few more things to consider...

Then...

DO SOMETHING!

TRACK PROGRESS!

**COMMUNICATE YOUR
GREAT WORK!**

*...TO GENERATE AND
SUSTAIN DIALOGUE
ABOUT THE VALUE OF A
HEALTHY WATERSHED*

At the same time keep involved in
habitat restoration planning....

Understanding the Watershed Planning Process

How a Watershed Plan can add value

Turning Watershed Planning into Action

**Coastal Alabama Watershed Plans and post
BP restoration efforts**

The Coastal Alabama Habitat Restoration Plan

- **Led by the Project Implementation Committee** through the Nature Conservancy
- Development of an **online Decision Support Tool** based on a similar tool developed for Louisiana (<http://maps.freshwaternetwork.org/louisiana/>)
- Development of a **Watershed Comparison “App”** to guide Habitat Restoration Planning
- **Projects from Watershed Management Plans** will be entered into “Tool”
- **Evaluation/Project Selection Criteria guided by input** from MBNEP Management Conference Committees
- **Data related to freshwater wetlands, streams, rivers and riparian buffers, and intertidal marshes and flats** as well as a multitude of EPA data sets will be included in the “Tool”
- Estimated Completion Date: 12/31/2016

In the Interim...

An Overview of Activities ongoing

- **D'Olive Watershed-** 13 stream segments under restoration/Stormwater facilities being installed, acquisition and installation of detention areas Spanish Fort
- **Three Mile Creek-** Investigation of ecological and financial feasibility of wetlands purchase and restoration; Approx. 1500 feet of Twelve Mile Creek planned restoration (EPA); comprehensive invasive species management plan (EPA) funded; Drainage Improvement Planning
- **Fowl River-** Restoration of the Tip of Mon Louis Island; stabilization of the tips of four intertidal spits; study of wetland deterioration
- **Bayou La Batre-** Acquisition and marsh restoration at mouth of River pending
- **Bon Secour/Oyster Bay-** Acquisition of marsh and wetland areas along intercoastal waterway and in Oyster bay
- **Dog River-** Investigation of ecological and financial feasibility of wetlands purchase Perch Creek; acquisition of critical habitats near Brookley Field planned

Last Thoughts

1. Look for **multiple benefits** of actions and dollars spent.
2. Work with local government and **offer support** for implementation measures.
3. **Be creative** in spending to meet watershed health goals- **Seek opportunities to leverage resources.**
4. **Build trust**, or **use trusted entities** to engage stakeholders. Understand that you may need to make difficult choices in order to achieve watershed health.
5. **Protect the best** — it's cheaper than restoration.
6. Manage stormwater to **mimic nature.**
7. Carrots work better than sticks; **make it attractive to be green.**
8. Changes in **demographics open opportunities** with new staff and new kinds of customers.
9. **Academic centers** are valuable resources.
10. **Be patient and think long term.**



Q & A Wrap Up



Next CAC Meeting: Friday May 20th from 10:30 – 12:30 p.m. at Daphne City Hall