



Steering Committee Meeting #4 Agenda
Western Perdido Bay
Watershed Management Plan

Lillian Volunteer Fire Department
11331 Co Rd 91, Lillian, AL
6:00- 8:00 PM
March 21, 2022

- I. Old Business:
 - a. Community Survey
 - i. Check on the status of community survey responses
 - ii. Link to Survey: <https://bit.ly/Perdido1>
 - iii. QR code with link to the left.
 - iv. The survey will close on April 30th
 - v. Challenge: Get back 200-300 responses
- II. New Business (MBNEP)
 - a. Watershed Planning Process- Christian Miller, MBNEP
 - b. Growth of a Successful Grassroots Watershed Group – Leslie Gahagan, Wolf Bay Watershed Watch
 - c. How could a similar organization work here?
- III. Next month: Ashley – Regulatory (Zoning Efforts)
 - a. What is regulated
 - b. What is not regulated
 - c. What is permitting landscape for shoreline work.
 - d. Wake zones?
- IV. Open Discussion
- V. Close





Minutes

In attendance: Cindy Rae Jones, Michael Cleveland, Leslie Gahagan, Ashley Campbell, Lani Cameron, Nathan Bartl, Gerry McManus, Wade Burcham, Randy Miller, Mary Kate Brown, Pete Garafola,

- Meeting started at 6:05 with a round of introductions.
- Reviewed the status of polling results. To date, there have been 90 respondents. Development and Sewer/SSOs are the primary concerns indicated so far.
- Steering Committee members will continue to push the poll out for responses. Baldwin County Sewer Service included the poll information in bill mailings that will go out starting this week.
- Next Christian reviewed the NEP's watershed planning process, the purpose and goals of watershed planning, and the importance of community engagement throughout the development of the plan to ensure successful plan implementation.
- The group discussed the need to engage stakeholders throughout the watershed and the roles of the steering committee. Going forward the watershed planning team and MBNEP will rotate facilitation of monthly steering committee meetings and handle all logistics associated with development and distribution of supporting materials.
- Next, Leslie Gahagan discussed the formation of the Wolf Bay Watershed Watch, lessons learned, and advice for those considering forming a grassroots watershed group.
- WBWW was formed in 1998 due to a desire to preserve the local waterways and natural areas from impacts related to growth/development and related impacts on water quality. Initial activities centered around AL Water Watch monitoring.
- In addition to AWW monitoring, the group developed By Laws, filed for 501(c)3 status, selected a Board of Directors, and established a Mission and Goals for the organization.



- The primary purpose of WBWW is to promote the conservation, protection, and improvement of the natural resources within the Wolf Bay Watershed. Members serve as advocates for the Watershed, maintain a water monitoring program, provide stakeholders with trend data, and secure funding through membership, donations, fund raisers, and grants.
- A significant goal was achieved in 2007 by attaining Outstanding Alabama Water designation for the Bay and several tributaries. This gained additional protection for the Watershed and gained recognition and helped grow the organization.
- A significant need for the organization is money/funding. Initially this was to fund chemicals for water monitoring but has expanded to include other efforts, including a scholarship program. Membership fees are nominal and corporate sponsorships have become a big revenue generator for the organization over time.
- Educational programming has included water festivals for 4th graders, grants for environmental programs in schools, funding for Title 1 School field trips to Graham Creek, and Coastal Kids Quiz
- Stan Mahoney Memorial Scholarship is awarded to local graduating seniors pursuing degrees in environmental sciences. Since 2010 WBWW has awarded ~\$40,000 in scholarships. Several of these students have graduated and returned to the area and are working in environmental fields.
- Leslie said the key to success is to find the champions to lead the group. They have lawyers and financial advisors who have been instrumental in helping with issues like development of the By-Laws, filing for non-profit status, and managing the organizations finances. Also good to find young, energetic professionals for the board who want to work.
- Leslie encouraged W. Perdido to utilize WBWW as a resource and extended an open invitation to attend board meetings or contact her with questions.
- Leslie Gahagan, President WBWW 251-923-4267
wolfbaywatershedwatch@gmail.com www.wolfbaywatershedwatch.org
- April's meeting will be led by Ashley Campbell, Baldwin County and focus on rules and regs related to stormwater management and environmental protection.
- Meeting concluded at 7:20 P.M.