



D'Olive Monitoring Summit
September 18, 2015
Killian Room, International Trade Center
250 N. Water Street Mobile, AL 36602
1:00 pm

Agenda

Welcome and Review Objectives

Renee Collini, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Planned Monitoring

D'Olive Bay: Dottie Byron, Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Sediment and Flow: Renee Collini for Marlon Cook, Geological Survey of Alabama

Water Quality: Evan Reid & Ashley Campbell, City of Daphne

Stream and Riparian Buffer Habitat: Michele Goodfellow & Johan Liebens, University of West Florida

Wetland Habitat Assessment: Gena Todia, Wetland Resources Environmental Consulting

Discussion

Opportunities for Leveraging

Get into the weeds – access, etc.

Success at Meeting the Goals of the MBNEP SAC Monitoring Framework

Adjourn



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
D'Olive Monitoring Summit
International Trade Center, Mobile AL
September 22, 2015**



In attendance: Tim Thibaut, Amy Newbold, Ashley Campbell, Evan Reid, Mark Ornelas, Steve Ashby, Dottie Byron, Bonnie Colman, Mike Ling, Michele Goodfellow, Chris Metcalf, Gena Todia, Johan Leibans

Phone in: Fred Leslie, Lisa Huff, Bonnie Coleman, and Mike Len

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Renee Collini reviewed the goals and focus areas of the Mobile Bay Subwatershed Restoration Monitoring Framework to provide context to the D'Olive monitoring (Appendix). There are 12 stream reaches originally proposed to be restored in D'Olive watershed and in the next 3 years 7 of those are going to be completed. Sampling frequency (15 min, event based, monthly, and annually) and location types (cumulative, control, site, and reference) were based around the spatial and temporal scales of the restoration sites and determined by local experts.

Dottie Byron then presented the water quality monitoring in D'Olive Bay that is being conducted by herself and Dr. Heck (Appendix). Experts in SAV, they have been sampling water quality parameters that influence SAV habitat in D'Olive Bay, the receiving subbasin for the D'Olive watershed, since early summer 2014. There are currently three sites throughout D'Olive Bay, but there was some discussions about potentially adding additional sites more strategically located in relation to existing SAV beds. It was decided that nothing additional would be learned from that and the continuity from sampling in the same locations since 2014 would be lost.

There was also discussion about event sampling in the bay and the resolution of this hinged on the residence time of D'Olive Bay. Without knowing the residence time of D'Olive Bay it is unclear how close to the rain event sampling would have to occur, and the sampling cannot occur during the rain event because the cloud cover would alter the water clarity sampling metrics. We will look into the residence time of D'Olive Bay.

Renee Collini presented as a proxy for Marlon Cook on his regression model sampling to evaluate sediment loading (Appendix). A regression model was developed in 2008 for sediment loading in D'Olive Watershed. Sampling at the same stations utilized for model development will be conducted for base flow and event flow. Additionally, water volume will be assessed from continuous monitoring sondes.

Ashley Campbell and Evan Reid discussed the water quality parameters that will be sampled throughout the watershed. There will be manual sampling that will occur at the same time as the sediment load sampling as well as continuously sampling monitors that will be sampling at strategic cumulative sites.

Michele Goodfellow presented on stream and riparian buffer habitat assessment sampling and index development (Appendix). The stream metrics were selected from metrics that FWS, ADEM, and the academics are utilizing. From these parameters, as part of her graduate work, Michele is going to develop a

quantitative index from these parameters to assess the health of the habitats. There was also discussion of access which Ashley Campbell was very helpful in clarifying and there was discussion about specific sampling locations in Tiawasse Creek where the restoration ends in an already armored area.

Gena Todia presented on the assessments that will be conducted for the wetlands. Gena will be conducting two assessment protocols: Wetland Rapid Assessment Protocol (WRAP) and the Floristic Quality Index (FQI) (Appendix). The WRAP is straight forward and was selected because many local agencies utilize it. At the presentation Gena did not think that the FQI was currently calibrated for the area, so she was just planning to conduct plant species inventory. Tim Thibaut knew of an FQI calibration that Gena will look into adopting. In addition to discussion of assessment protocols, the group discussed specific sampling locations for the WRAP. It was decided that the majority of the stream reaches to be restored are appropriate for wetland assessment as are the cumulative sites.

After the group discussion about details and monitoring proposals the meeting closed with Renee asking the group if they feel the planned monitoring will achieve goals and objectives outlined in the Monitoring Framework. It was agreed that it did and that no changes were needed moving forward.

Outcome Action Items

- Finalized contact list
- Finalized lat/long list (including stream plans)
- Determine residence time of D'Olive Bay
- Set up a shared google drive to hold reference literature