



## Agenda / Steering Committee 3

FOWL RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN  
MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

January 20, 2015 5:30-7:00 pm

FRACA Community Center, 5401 Fowl River Road, Theodore, AL

*Purpose: To review project status, discuss key issues for the Fowl River watershed, and prepare for the February public workshops.*

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>1. WELCOME AND PROJECT STATUS</b>  | <b>5:30</b> |
| Lee Walters, Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood  |             |
| <b>2. A REVIEW OF WATERSHED PLANNING AND KEY ISSUES FOR THE FOWL RIVER</b>  | <b>5:50</b> |
| Eve Brantley, Alabama Cooperative Extension System  |             |
| <b>3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>  | <b>6:20</b> |
| Sarah Kelly, planning NEXT, Eve Brantley, Alabama Cooperative Extension System  |             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>February workshops (agenda, steering committee involvement)</li><li>Communication and outreach activities (updated communication plan matrix)</li></ul> |             |
| <b>4. OPEN DISCUSSION</b>   | <b>6:45</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Committee member questions/comments</li></ul>   |             |
| <b>5. ADJOURN</b>   | <b>7:00</b> |
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### *Supporting Material*

- Communication plan matrix (updated)
- Glossary of acronyms



## Meeting Notes #3

January 20, 2015

### **FOWL RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA**

- I. Project Status Update - Lee Walters, Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood
  - a. GIS
    - i. Acquired GIS datasets;
    - ii. Acquired population projections;
    - iii. Initiated subwatershed deliniations.
  - b. Watershed Characterization
    - i. Completed first water quality sampling event in the tidal portion of Fowl River;
    - ii. Completed microbial source tracking sampling in Fowl River main stem - found no indicators of human pathogens;
    - iii. Currently setting up the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model for Fowl River. SLAMM uses digital elevation data and analysis to simulate potential impacts of long-term sea level rise on wetlands and shorelines. This will be critical information when we begin looking at potential restoration projects and critical habitat areas.
  - c. Other
    - i. Estimating the length of tidally influenced shoreline in the FRW (~50 miles);
    - ii. Developing a time history of aerial imagery (1930s to present) to evaluate shoreline/island changes;
    - iii. Met with Sam St. John (Dec 2014) and toured Fowl River by boat to discuss critical issues and take photographs;



- iv. Evaluating critical issues and threats including: sea level rise, flow volume and intensity, fluctuations in salinity, boat wakes, and armoring;
    - v. Characterizing the shoreline types into three general zones: Marine (Zone I), Transition (Zone II), and Fresh (Zone III).
- II. Review of Watershed Planning and Key Issues for Fowl River - Eve Brantley, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Eve made a presentation on watershed planning and key issues for Fowl River to be the basis for a presentation that might be given at the February public workshops.
- III. Preparation for February Workshops / Community Engagement - Sarah Kelly, planning NEXT

Sarah made a presentation on the proposed content and outreach efforts needed for the February workshops, which will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm on Tuesday, February 24 at St. Rose of Lima and Thursday, February 26 at Theodore High School. Following the presentation, committee members agreed to take on outreach responsibilities (summarized in the attached Matrix of Steering Committee Outreach Tasks). Committee members also filled out forms to commit to volunteering at one or both of the workshops.
- IV. Steering committee members made the following additional comments regarding the presentations and February workshops.
  - a. The presentation should include cultural aspects of the watershed, including references to its important history and people from the area.
  - b. There needs to be balance in how much information is presented—not too much to turn people off but enough to give them information they need to understand what is going on and feel comfortable commenting on it.
  - c. The workshops need to be put in context; people need to know how their input will feed into the overall plan, and where we are in the timeframe of the plan's production.
  - d. Basic “facts” about the condition of the river and the scientific research being undertaken needs to be presented.
  - e. An introductory video, showcasing why different types of people who live and work in the watershed care about its future could set the stage for the meeting. (MBNEP and members of the consultant team will pursue this.)



- f. The phrase "Fowl River community" could be misleading to some, as it may only connote the lower portion of the watershed, so the word "community" should not be used in this context.
- g. Participants really need to get a sense of "what's in it for them" if they are going to participate; we need to appeal to them about things they care about (recreational opportunities, property values, etc.).

Attachments:

1/20/15 Steering Committee Meeting Agenda

Matrix of Steering Committee Member Outreach Tasks (updated 2/9/15)

# Fowi River

FOREVER

safeguarding our watershed for future generations

## **Steering Committee Meeting**

January 20, 2015 | 5:30-7 pm

# Welcome

Lee Walters  
Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood

# Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Project Status**
- 3. A Review of Watershed Planning and Key Issues for the Fowl River**
- 4. Community Engagement**
  - February Workshops*
  - Communication and Outreach Activities*
- 5. Open Discussion**
- 6. Adjourn**



# Project Status

**Lee Walters**

Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood

# Watershed Planning and Key Issues for the Fowl River

**Eve Brantley**

Alabama Cooperative Extension System



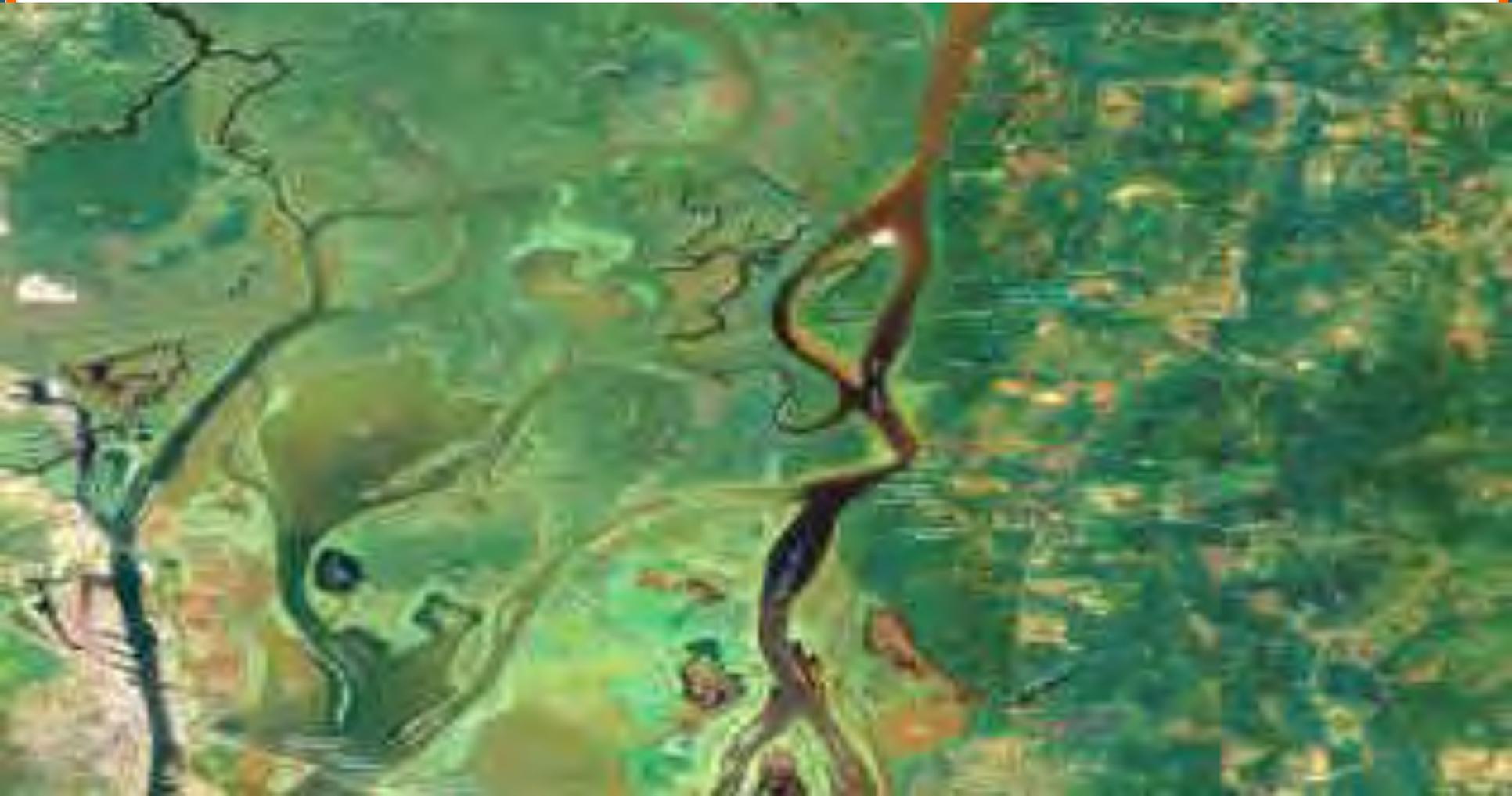
# Working on Our Watershed



For more information:  
[www.fowlriverforever.org](http://www.fowlriverforever.org)

# Start with the Watershed

Watersheds are nature's boundaries





“... area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place.”

# River Basin



Made up  
of a few

## Subbasin



Made up  
of several

## Watershed



Made up  
of many

## Subwatershed



Made up of  
numerous

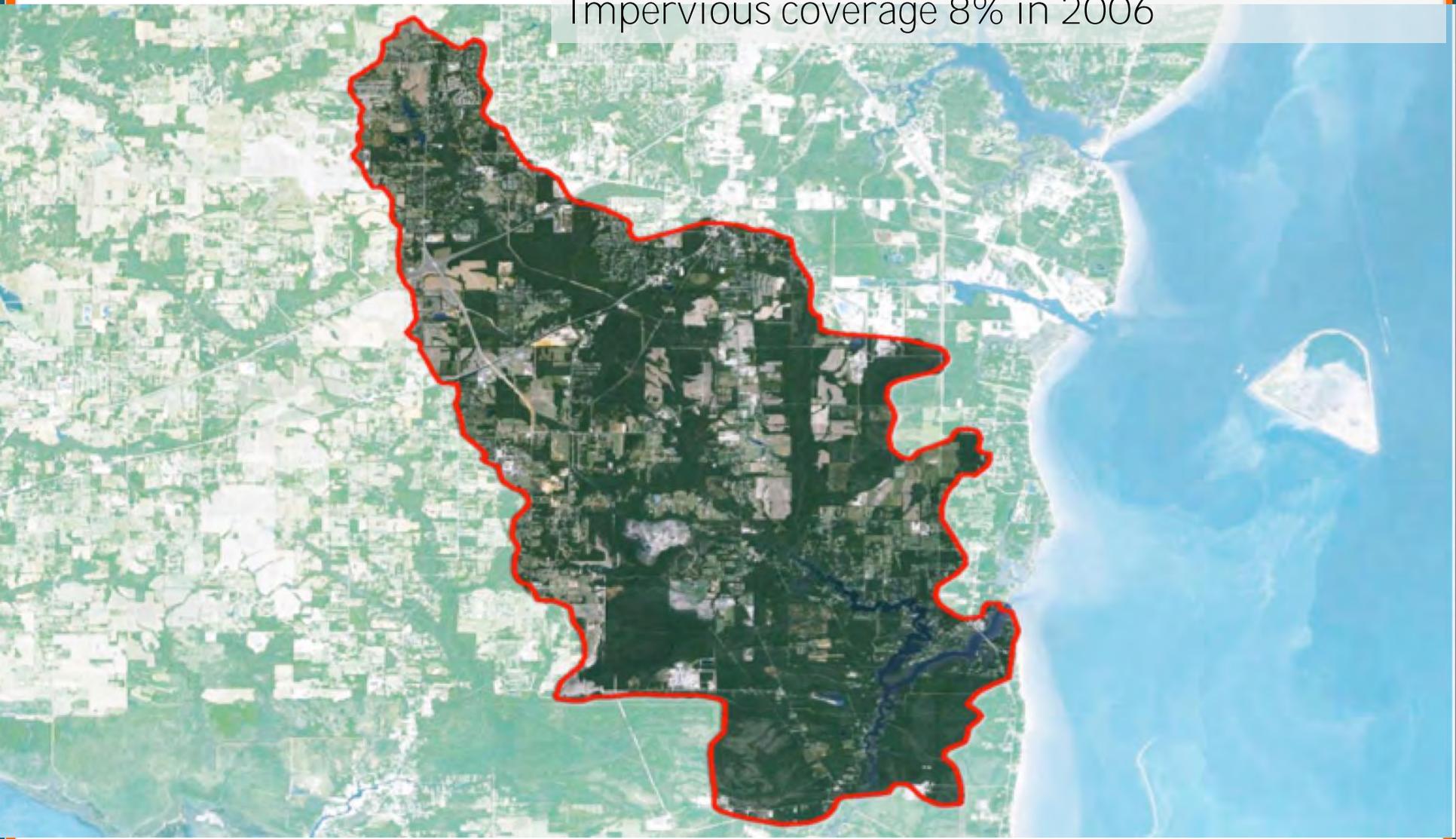
## Catchment

# Fowl River Watershed

Watershed size: 52,782 acres or 82 square miles

63% forested, 21% urban, 15% crop/pasture

Impervious coverage 8% in 2006



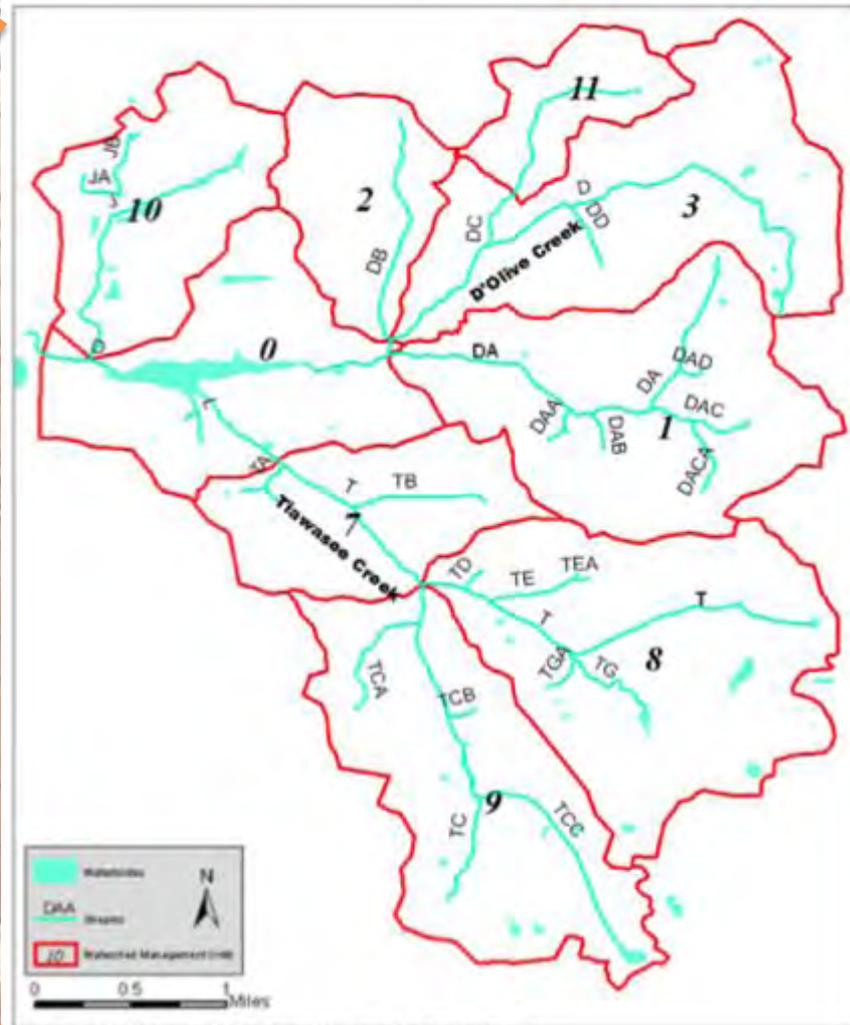


Figure ES-1. Watershed Management Units and Tributary Codes.

Thompson Engineering

Fowl River headwaters are near the city of Theodore

Two main tributaries:  
Muddy Creek & Dykes Creek

Who's in the watershed?

Bellingrath Gardens

Meadowlake Elementary

Pearl Haskew Elementary

Burroughs Elementary

Bryant Career Technical

Theodore High School

You?



# What is a Watershed Management Plan?

Invite **stakeholders** (people who care or are impacted)

Identify **opportunities, concerns, and solutions**

Formulate a **timeline** to implement the plan

Indicate **funding** and technical assistance needed

Suggest **monitoring** strategies to assess success

Education and **outreach** opportunities



# Watershed Planning Cycle

We need **your** thoughts ...

Revisit Goals and Projects

Build Partnerships

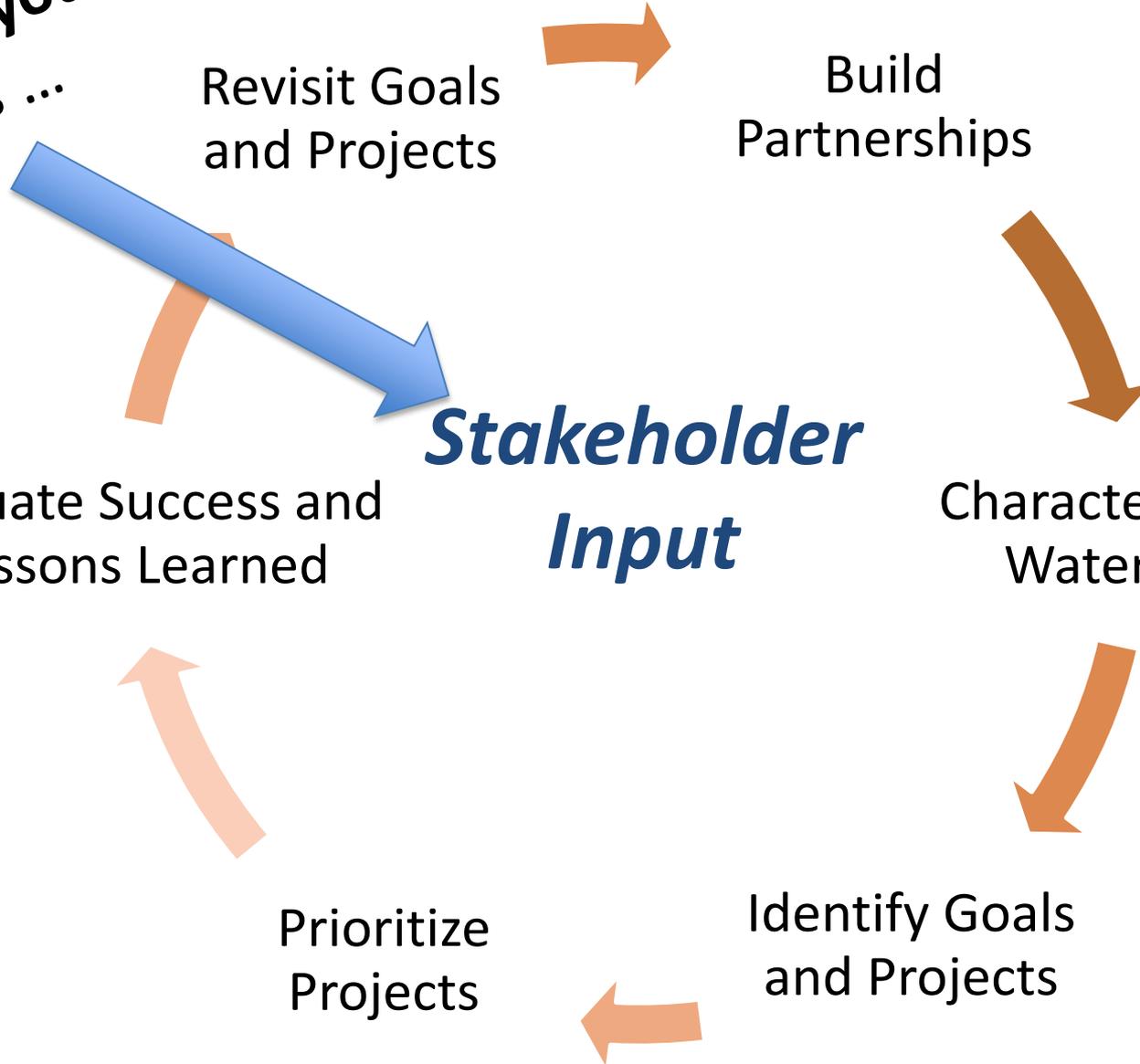
Characterize the Watershed

Identify Goals and Projects

Prioritize Projects

Evaluate Success and Lessons Learned

***Stakeholder Input***



# ***What do you think?***

We want to hear from you!

What do you love about where you live?

What do you want this watershed to look like in **5** years? **50** years?

Do you have **concerns**?

What are some suggestions you have to keep Fowl River **healthy**?

How can we **excite** others to get involved?



# Land Use

Existing and future land use is a **key factor** to current and future water quality and quantity

Different land uses have different impacts on water quality

Land Use examples:

Urban

Suburban

Transitional

Agriculture



Urban – hydrocarbons & metals

Suburban – nutrients & pathogens

Transitional – excessive sediment

Agriculture – nutrients & stream bank erosion



# What are some of our concerns for Fowl River?

Sediment

Nutrients (phosphorus, nitrogen)

Pathogen (disease causing organisms)

Litter

Loss of streamside forests

Mercury



# Sediment Pollution

## Concerns & Consequences:

Sediment smothers a stream

Ruins fish habitat (nesting and eating)

Increases stream water temperature

Often carries other pollutants with it



# Nutrient Pollution

## Concerns & Consequences:

Excess nutrients stimulate plant (algae) growth

Oxygen robbers: decomposing algae use stream oxygen, algae uses stream oxygen at night – can lead to fish kills

Ugly.

Increases stream cloudiness (difficult for sight predators like bass to see)



# Pathogen Pollution

## Concerns & Consequences:

Human health concerns

Livestock health concerns

Wildlife health concerns

Ugly.



# Litter Pollution

## Concerns & Consequences:

Human health concerns

Water quality concerns

Wildlife health concerns

Ugly.



# Loss of Streamside Forests

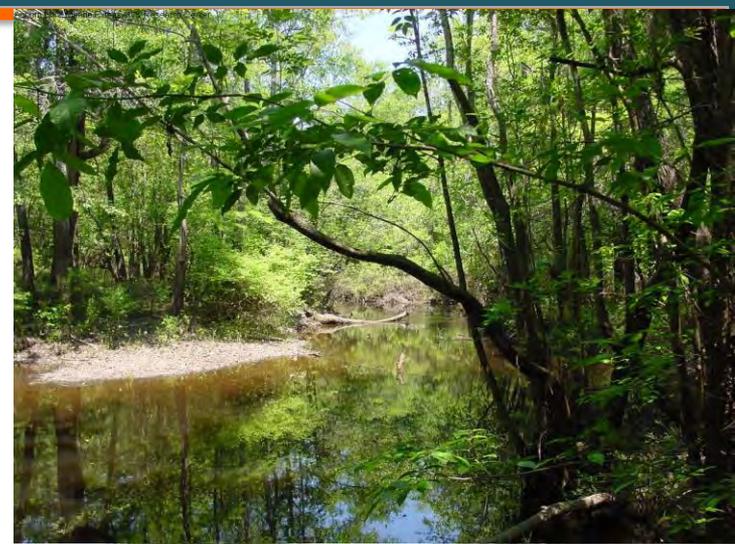
## Concerns & Consequences:

Increase stream temperature  
(decrease stream oxygen)

Loss of natural filter

Loss of stream stabilizer (roots are rebar)

Where would you rather live?



# Mercury

## Concerns & Consequences:

Human health

Wildlife health



# What are the Solutions?

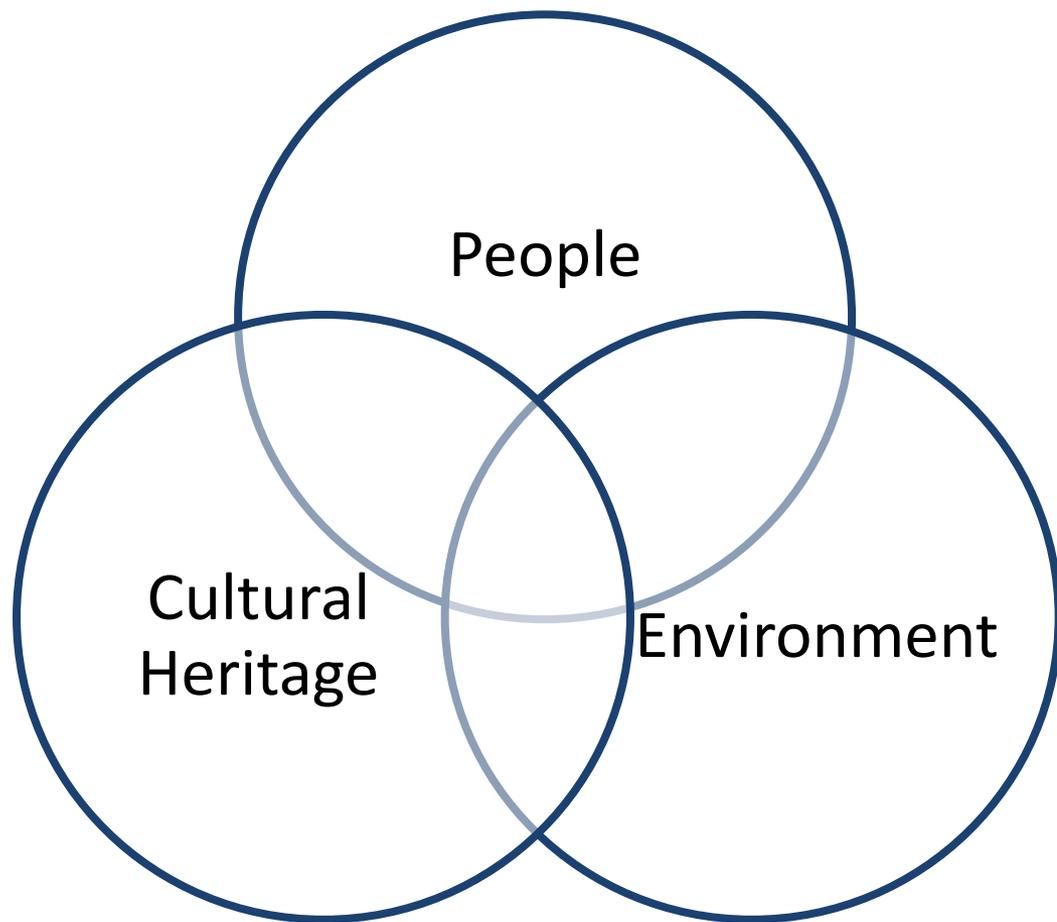
Improve the quality of stormwater runoff

Decrease the quantity of stormwater runoff

Decide how to work together to improve our watersheds – get involved in plans and projects



# Characterize the Watershed



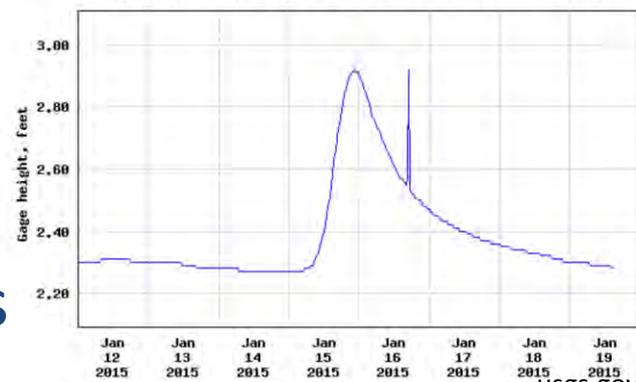
Water, Soils, Animals, Land Use,  
Historical Impacts, Future Opportunities



usgs.gov



USGS 02-471078 FOWL RIVER AT HALF-MILE RD NEAR LAURENDINE, AL.



usgs.gov

# Build Partnerships

What is happening to our resource?

What is bringing us together?

*Maintain recreation opportunities*

*Water quality problems*

*Watershed rapidly urbanizing*

*Loss of habitat*

*Personal values (I have always loved the river)*



adcnr.gov

## *Fowl River*

### *An Estuarine Watershed*

Fowl River is part of a drowned river valley estuary 31 miles long and 23 miles wide, encompassing over 250,000 square acres, or 413 square miles.

tworvgypsies.us



# Set Plan Goals & Define Objectives

What is causing the problem?

What needs to be done?



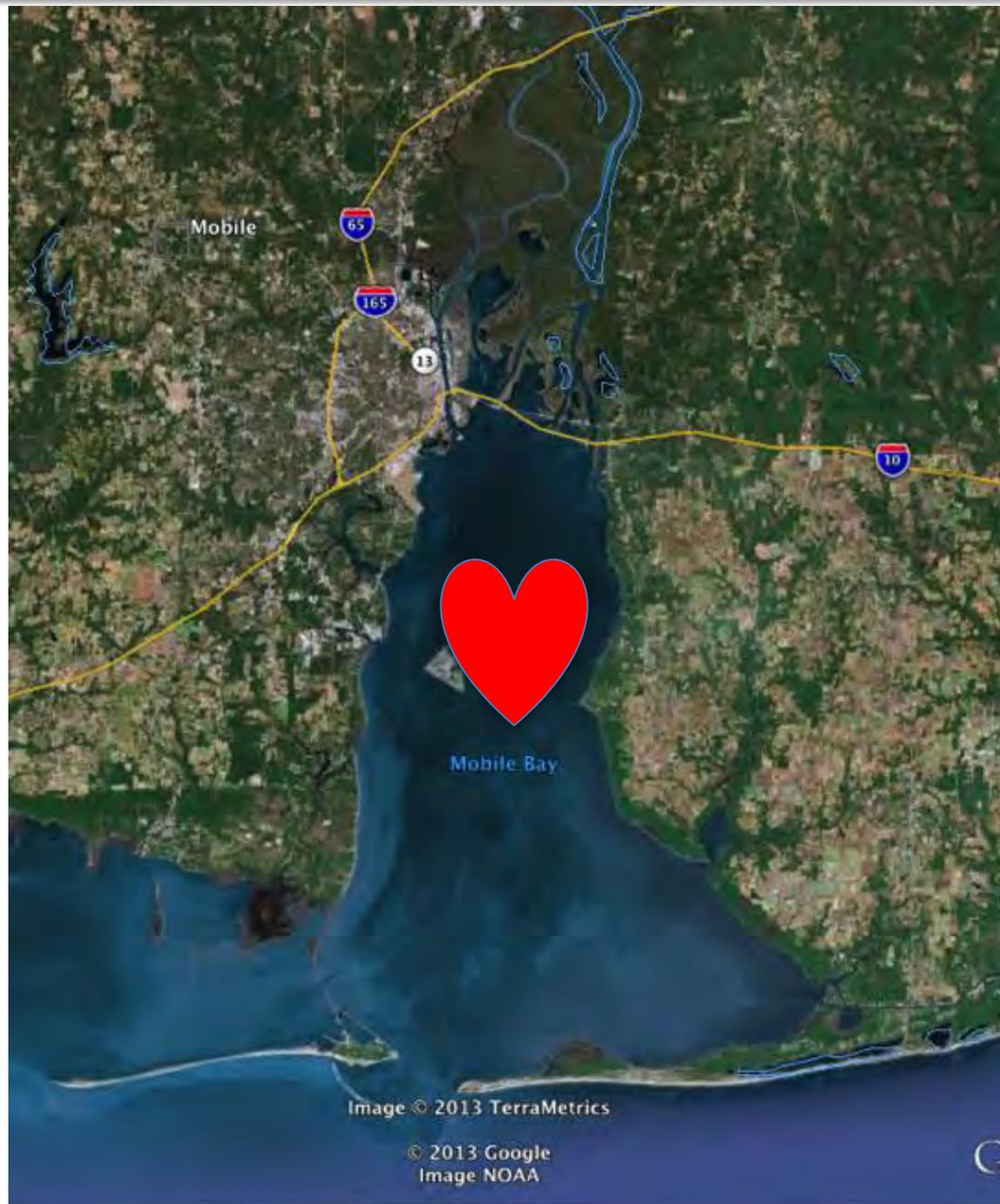
# Example Overall Goals

Protect water resources

Prevent further degradation of streams, rivers, and bays

Restore resources that that have been degraded





# Community Engagement

**Sarah Kelly**  
Planning NEXT

# February Workshops

## We need to focus on...

1. What can we do to get the word out?
2. What will happen at the meetings?



# What can we do to get the word out?

**Word of mouth is critical.**

**Key Logistics: Two meetings:**

Tuesday, February 24  
St. Rose of Lima  
6:30-8:30 pm

Thursday, February 26  
Theodore High School  
6:30-8:30 pm

# Communications Plan

## Actions completed or underway

- ✓ Website
- ✓ Business cards
- ✓ Rack cards
- ✓ Water bills
- ✓ Billboard
- ✓ Banner

# Communications Plan

## Action needed for other communications outlets

- Print media (Lagniappe)
- Online media (Next Door, AL.com)
- Social media (need to identify groups)
- TV/Radio
- Electronic media board

# Outreach Plan

## Actions needed

- Outreach to schools
- Outreach to churches
- Outreach through other organizations (FRACA)
- Outreach at community events

# What can *you* do?

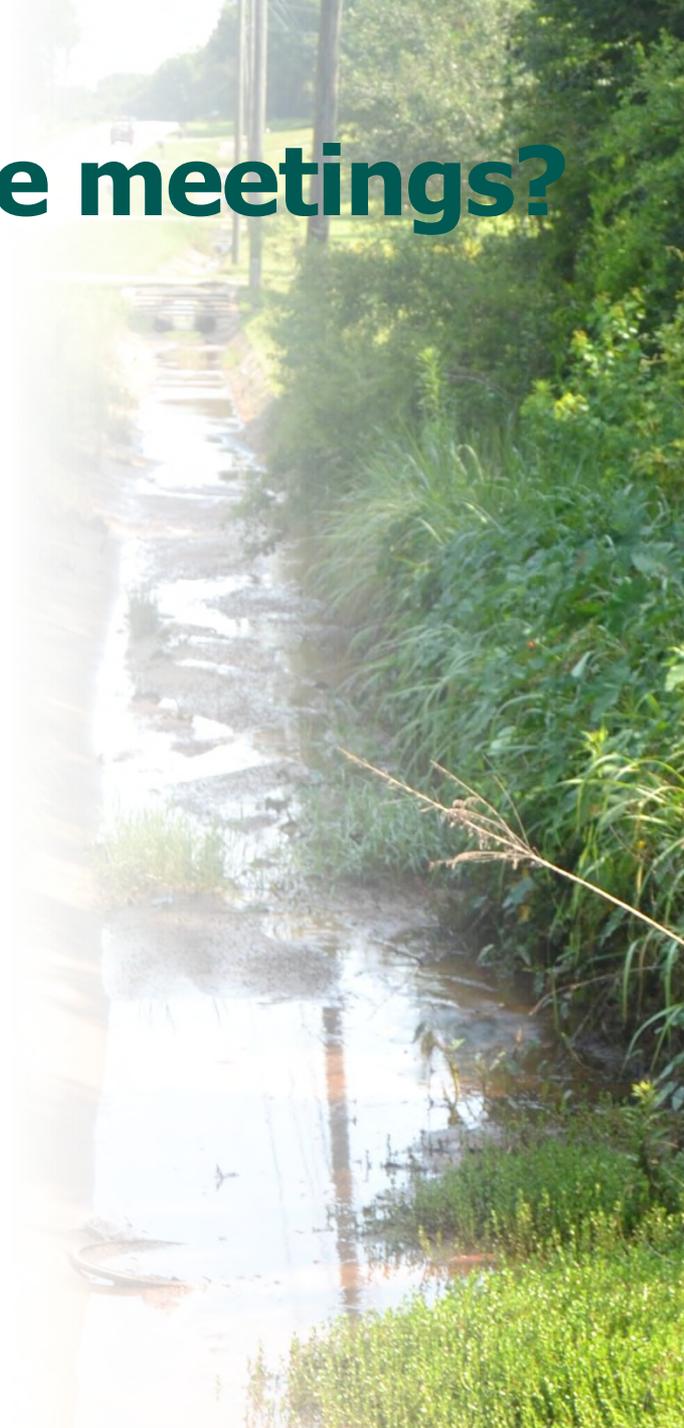
- *Talk* to people
- Distribute rack cards
- Send emails to mailing lists
- Make/arrange announcements (churches, community events, etc.)
- Post on social media

# What will happen at the meetings?

**Format: 2 hours, 6:30-8:30 pm**

## **Agenda**

1. Welcome – Co-chairs
2. Overview
  1. *Tonight's Meeting*
  2. *Watershed Management Plan*
3. Fowl River Facts
4. Small Groups
5. Adjourn



# Small Group Activity

## Ask three key questions

1. What are strong places?
2. What are weak places?
3. Why?



# What can *you* do?

**Arrive at 5:30 pm (all steering committee)**

## **Sign up for tasks**

1. Welcome (4 people)
2. Registration (4 people)
3. Table leaders

# What next?

**Fill out two sheets on outreach and meeting roles**

**Start getting the word out! The meetings are just over one month away so the time is *now!***

