

Attachment C

PROGRESS REPORT FOR MOBILE BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM PROJECTS

Project: Fowl River Watershed Management Plan

Project Manager: Lee Walters

For the Period: Ending 12/31/14

This report can be as brief as one page as long as you can provide the information. The items listed below should be addressed as appropriate:

1. What work was accomplished for this reporting period? Work accomplished and ongoing efforts include:

GIS

Acquired various GIS data sets:

- Mobile County LiDAR (3m) data set
- Mobile County Orthophotography (1 ft)
- Hydrology Layer
- Transportation Layer

This will be used for detailed land use, land cover and impervious cover analyses

- Acquired population projections by census tract

- Initiated subwatershed delineation

Watershed Characterization

- Delineation of watershed boundary using topographic maps, LIDAR, GIS applications and field reconnaissance
- Delineation of sub-watershed boundaries
- A literature review was performed to collect scientific publications containing specific information about the watershed as well as information for research in similar settings
- Previous water-quality data collected by State and Federal agencies was retrieved and stored in a database
- Completed first water quality sampling event in the tidal portion of Fowl River (DO, temp, salinity, TSS, particulate OM, nitrate, nitrite, phosphorous, etc;
- Completed microbial source tracking sampling in Fowl River main stem - found no indicators of human pathogens;
- 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.
- Estimating the length of tidally influenced shoreline in the FRW (~50 miles)

- Developing a time history of aerial imagery (1930s to Present) to evaluate shoreline/island changes
- Meeting with Sam St. John (Dec 2014) and touring FR by boat to discuss critical issues and take Photographs
- Evaluating critical issues and threats including: sea level rise; flow volume and intensity; fluctuations in salinity; boat wakes, and armoring
- Characterizing the shoreline types into three general zones: marine (Zone I), transition (Zone II), and Fresh (Zone III)

Public Involvement

- Establishment of Steering Committee made up of diverse key stakeholders within the watershed. Conducted Steering Committee meetings on October 14th and December 9th.
- Creation and population of fowlriverforever.com website
- Marketing material and planning efforts for large scale public involvement meetings on February 24th and 26th.

2. What problem (or sources of error) were encountered, if any? The published size of the watershed was found to be inaccurate.
3. If a problem was encountered, what action was taken to correct it? The watershed boundary was refined.
4. What work is projected for the new quarter activity?
 - Water quality sampling will continue throughout the watershed.
 - Land use/land cover statistics will be calculated using GIS applications.
 - A P-LOAD model will be run to estimate nutrient loading from the subwatersheds.
 - A Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM) will be conducted to predict vegetation changes in response to sea level rise, including submergence of the islands/spits of concern in Fowl River.
 - Watershed characterization will continue with a focus on critical areas for both potential restoration and vital preservation.
 - Additional Steering Committee meetings will be held (3rd Tuesday of each month, excluding February due to large format public meeting)
 - Large format public meetings will be held on Feb. 24 and Feb. 26. These meetings will provide an opportunity for the general public to learn about the Fowl River watershed and provide personal thoughts on why it is important and what current/future concerns they may have.
5. Is the project work on schedule?
 - (a) This quarter - Yes
 - (b) For this project - Yes
6. If you will not complete the project as projected, have you submitted your request for a funding amendment? N/A
7. What has been spent to date? \$41,875 has been paid to GMC through 12/31/14.
8. What is your plan for spending the remaining funds? The project will be run on a percent completion basis and based upon the approved scope and fee within the contract. Those 15 tasks will be billed monthly.

9. Have you submitted an invoice for reimbursement? A copy should be attached to the progress report. See attached invoices that have been sent to date.
10. Is there a change in project manager? No