

MEMORANDUM
Weeks Bay Watershed Management Plan

TO: File
FROM: Mike Eubanks
DATE: February 17, 2016
SUBJECT: Stakeholders Working Group Meeting #2
DISTRIBUTION: MBNEP, BCSWCD, Thompson Team, Stakeholders Working Group

1. The meeting was conducted on February 17, 2016, at the Baldwin County Central Annex (on Highway 59) 3rd Floor Conference Room between 8:30 and 10:00 AM. Copies of the agenda and attendees present are attached.
2. Bob Higgins kicked off the meeting with the opening remarks. He thanked everyone for being there and stressed the importance of the Weeks Bay Watershed Management Project. Bob Higgins asked if anyone had comments and concerns about the minutes from the previous meeting (February 3, 2016), and if so, to report to Courtney Harkness (charkness@thompsonengineering.com) (edits provided by Jennifer Fidler and Matthew Brown following the meeting). Bob Higgins then gave a brief overview of the meeting's objectives.
3. A review of the invitee lists for the March 2nd Workshop was presented by Bob Higgins. Each group was asked to send the names and contact information of Workshop attendees to Bob Higgins (bob@rjhiggins.com) as soon as possible, no later than February 19th.
 - a. Agricultural/Forestry (Joey Koptis and Michael Mullek), 6-8 invitees
 - i. Mike Eubanks – is there someone to represent Forestry? Joey will contact someone in Timber Industry.
 - b. Homeowners (Sam Covert), 8-10 invitees
 - i. Steve Heath - contacted Aubrey Fuller and says he will attend
 - ii. Teddy King – recruiting homeowners along Magnolia River
 - iii. Dick Sute - provided updated contact information for Ken Underwood
 - c. Developers (Joel Coleman, DR Horton) – Higgins will follow up with Joel.
 - d. Business (Heiko Einfeld) – Higgins will follow up with Heiko.
 - e. Environmental/Science (Mike Shelton) – 15-20 invitees
 - i. Mike Shelton has contacted local governmental/environmental groups
 - ii. Bob Higgins – Neil Johnston is searching for leaders of environmental organizations
 - iii. Neil Johnston listed several different potential environmental organizations
 - Rotary Clubs, Marlow Volunteer Fire Department, Magnolia Springs Volunteer Fire Department, Weeks Bay Foundation, Alabama Coastal Foundation, Pelican Coast Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy-Alabama, Y. Weeks Association, Mobile Baykeeper, Alabama Cooperative Extension System-Auburn University: Marine Extension and Research Center, Partners for Environmental Progress, FEMA Representative

- iv. Rick Wallace – he will get with Neil Johnston about who to contact
- v. Emery Baya stated the importance of the science aspect and pointed out that there are studies available
- vi. John Carlton asked about a group for Resource Managers/Technical people/Regulators (ADEM, FWS, USACE, etc.)
- f. Mayors – Higgins will follow up with Dane.
- g. City/County Staff
 - i. Emery Baya emphasized the importance of also representing engineers and that others can be actively involved. Volkert (Brett Gaar), Jade (Trey Jinwright), Goodwin Mills and Cawood were specifically mentioned.
 - ii. Teddy King suggested Environmental Representatives from Volkert (Brett Gaar)
 - iii. Dick Sute – Mayors are only a small part of the Watershed and there are large portions of Fish River not zoned yet.
 - iv. Bob Higgins will contact City and/or County Planning Commission about including their staff
 - v. Jennifer Fidler has list of people she can provide (Mayor, Lee Turner, Ashley Campbell, and Leslie Gahagan)

- Bob Higgins - suggested dividing into two tables – mayors and staff

Bob Higgins concluded the discussion by asking if there was anyone in the room who did not fit into a group. Camilla English, from the Baldwin County Health Department, stated she will be a part of the Environmental Group. Heiko Einfeld, as a Chamber Executive, will participate as a part of the Business Group. Baldwin County Sewer Services will also serve in the Business group. Bob Higgins then ended by restating the importance of getting a list of names and contact information to him within the next few days. The date for the Workshop has already been determined for March 2, 2016.

- 4. After concluding the discussion on Workshop invitees, Bob Higgins transitioned the conversation to Workshop objectives and approach. He began by asking if the members of Stakeholder Working Group were comfortable with what was going on and the process so far.
 - a. Dick Sute first asked about the documentation for the Workshop
 - i. Flip charts will be provided and the information on them will be transcribed.
 - b. Each table at the Workshop will have a Facilitator, time keeper, and a scribe
 - i. Jennifer Fidler expressed concern with Facilitators being too much a part of the discussion and not documenting proper notes. She suggested Thompson Engineering Team members facilitate and/or scribe.
 - ii. Rick Wallace suggested the leaders appointed to each group from the last meeting
 - iii. Bob Higgins – Thompson Team members will be scribes and/or facilitators for the flip charts.
 - c. Coffee, water, and snacks will be provided.
 - d. Dick Sute asked what the ultimate objectives of the Workshop and Watershed Management Planning process are; Bob Higgins responded with two main objectives, (1) what is everyone worried about, and (2) what can be done to address each issue.
 - i. The Final Watershed Management Plans will be a published document with the goals to raise awareness, bring more money, and guide politicians. Following the Workshop, the SWG to continue to meet every few months to discuss the progress on the Watershed Management Plan.

- ii. Emery Baya confirmed the process by comparing it to the D'Olive Watershed Management Plan and the spinoff watershed restoration projects currently in the implementation phase.
- e. Jennifer Fidler asked if larger landowners, school, and/or churches may be a large portion of the stakeholders group.
 - i. Bob Higgins suggested the Board of Education be added to the Civil Engineering group.

Bob Higgins gave a brief review of the Workshop agenda and Constituent Group Assignment (both attached to this document). There will be an hour and a half discussion with peers to decide on an action plan for their list of concerns. Groups will rotate to other tables and present their action plans at the end. The intent is to provide a reason for each group to meet again. Following the Workshop, there will be a SWG meeting March 16th to discuss what everyone learned.

5. Once the Workshop discussion ended, Matthew Brown gave a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2011 Fish River and Magnolia River Flood Study by Hydro Engineering Solutions for Baldwin County Highway Department.
 - a. The study will be posted on NEP's website (<http://www.mobilebaynep.com/>)
 - b. The model has been re-run with the April 2014 flood, powerpoint also to be posted on website
6. The conclusions of the meeting were summarized by Bob Higgins. He reviewed the meetings objectives and discussed the next steps to take.
7. The Weeks Bay Stakeholder Focus Group Workshop is scheduled to take place **March 2, 2016** at the Baldwin County Central Annex II on Palmer Street in Robertsdale between 8:30 to noon (Workshop agenda attached). Each working group is to continue to gather names and contact information as soon as possible and send to Bob Higgins (bob@jrhiggins.com).
8. Following the Workshop, the next meeting of the SWG is scheduled for **March 16, 2016** in the Baldwin County Central, on Highway 59, Annex 3rd Floor CR from 8:30 to 10:00 AM. The frequency of meetings after that will be determined at that meeting.
9. Mike Eubanks thanked all attendees for taking the time to be at the meeting and appreciates all the feedback.

Prepared by
Mike Eubanks

Attachments:

- a. Meeting Agenda
- b. Workshop Agenda
- c. List of Attendees



Weeks Bay Stakeholder Work Group

Baldwin County Central Annex 3rd Floor CR

8:30 – 10:00 am February 17, 2016

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Review invitee lists for the March 2nd Workshop
3. Agree on Workshop objectives & approach
4. Presentation: County Fish and Magnolia Rivers Flooding Study
5. Next steps (including future meeting schedule)

Weeks Bay Stakeholder Work Group

Tentative meeting schedule

Meeting #1: February 3, 2016

- Weeks Bay Watershed Management Plan Project Overview
- Stakeholder Work Group: objectives & suggested approach
- Roundtable: Current issues and concerns
- Next steps (including future meeting schedule)

Meeting #2: February 17, 2016

- Finalize workshop agenda & participant list
- Presentation on flooding

Stakeholder Workshop #1: March 2, 2016

- a. Overview and background data: Short presentation
- b. Break into small groups with similar goals: farmers, environmentalists, developers, businesses, elected officials/planners, homeowners
- c. Each group identifies issues + opportunities + next steps (what, when, who)
- d. All members except table facilitators change to random assigned tables to critique the work done at that table
- e. Entire group agrees on key issues and action plans

Meeting #3: March 9, 2016 (date to be confirmed)

- Discussion: What did we learn
- Action plans by constituent groups

Meetings #4 - #9 (every other month)

- Updates from constituent groups and science team

Stakeholder Workshop #2

- Presentations and/or storyboards on the draft Watershed Management Plan

March 2017: Plan development is complete. Implementation team begins work.

Weeks Bay Stakeholder Workshop

Baldwin County Central Annex II

8:30 – noon March 2, 2016

AGENDA

- 8:30 Welcome & Introductions
- 8:45 Overview & background data
- 9:00 Small Group Discussions: Constituent Groups
- 10:30 Small Group Discussions: Mixed Groups
- 11:00 Entire Group: Key issues & action plans
- 12:00 End

Constituent Group Assignment

Strengths: What's right and should be preserved/strengthened?

- List all, highlight your top 3

Weaknesses & Threats: What's not right? What negative trends do you see?

- List all, highlight your top 3

Opportunities: Look at your top 3 lists – what could be done to address them?

- List all, highlight your top 3
- Pick one to develop an action plan

Action Plan:

- What: Describe the initiative
- Who: Who needs to be involved to make this happen
- How: List the steps to make this happen
- Roadblocks: What would prevent it from happening
- What help do you need from the Thompson team?

Stakeholders Working Group: Meeting February 17, 2016, 8:30-10:00 AM

1. Larry Morris, Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District
2. Ronnie Northcutt, Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District
3. Joey Koptis, USDA-NRCS, District Conservationist
4. Matthew Brown, Baldwin County
5. Jennifer Fidler, Fairhope Department of Public Works
6. Brandon Allen, Loxley Public Utilities Department
7. Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
8. Michael Mullek, Agriculture
9. Dick Sute, Homeowner Interest, Fish River
10. Teddy King, Homeowner Interest, Magnolia River
11. Camilla English, Baldwin County Health Department
12. Bruce Porter, US Fish and Wildlife Service
13. Rick Wallace, Weeks Bay Foundation
14. Steve Heath, Homeowner Interest, Fish River
15. Randy Shaneyfelt (sub for Shannon McGlynn, Alabama Department of Environmental Management)
16. Mike Eubanks, Thompson Engineering
17. Emery Baya, Thompson Engineering
18. John Carlton, Thompson Engineering
19. Courtney Harkness, Thompson Engineering
20. Bob Higgins, Higgins and Associates
21. Scott Jackson, Ecology and Environment
22. Tim Thibaut, Vittor and Associates
23. Neil Johnston, Hand Arendall

Absent

1. Vince Calametti, Alabama Department of Environmental Management
2. Dane Haygood, Baldwin County Mayors Association
3. Tom Poulas, DR Horton
4. Ken Underwood, Homeowner Interest, Magnolia River
5. Roberta Swann, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
6. Christian Miller, Auburn University Extension Service
7. Shannon McGlynn (substitute provided), Alabama Department of Environmental Management
8. Heiko Einfeld, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce
9. Gerry McManus, Baldwin County Sewer Service
10. Joel Sirmon, Agriculture
11. Sam Covert, Homeowner Interest, Fish River