



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Business Resources Committee
February 8, 2022, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting**



Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- a) CAFF update
- b) Re-establish New Sub-Committees
- c) Set goals for the year

1. Welcome and Introductions

BRC Co-Chairs:

Eliska Morgan, Thompson Engineering

Frank Smith, Wilkins Miller Wealth Management

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

3. Old Business

- a) CAFF Update
- b) DI Oyster Park

4. New Business

- a) Infrastructure bill funding
- b) Establish new subcommittees/projects and schedule meetings

5. Adjourn

Minutes

In Attendance

Eliska Morgan, Thompson Engineering
Frank Smith, Wilkins Miller Wealth Management
Bernard Moseby, 22nd State Bank
Beth Thomas, Alabama Power
Colette Boehm, Orange Beach Gulf Shores Tourism
Rusty Grice, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant, Auburn University
Jeanette Kelson, Wood
Don Bates, Osprey Initiative
Renie Kennemer, Thompson Engineering
Wiley Blankenship, Coastal Alabama Partnership
Jennifer Denson, Partners for Environmental Progress
Helene Hassell, Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation

Staff

Roberta Swann
Henry Perkins

Takeaways

- The BRC has been updated on the status of various projects, including the Dauphin Island Oyster Park and the Coastal Alabama Fisheries Fund.
- The BRC has been briefed on the additional funds MBNEP will be receiving from the Infrastructure Bill.
- The alternative packaging subcommittee was reestablished.

Henry Perkins called the meeting to order at 2:06. Frank Smith made a motion to approve the previous meetings minutes. The minutes were approved.

Old Business

Coastal Alabama Fisheries Fund update

- Frank Smith updated the BRC on CAFF
- Fund is up and running, ready to receive applications
- Community meeting covering CAFF, monitoring, and restoration efforts is being planned for the Coden area

Dauphin Island Oyster Park update

- Eliska Morgan updated the BRC on the Dauphin Island oyster park
- Continues to be a long-term initiative
- Need to coordinate more with the Island
- Possibility to tie this park into the loan fund in the future to help with early success

Infrastructure Bill

- Roberta Swann presented on the Infrastructure Bill
- MBNEP will have approximately \$795,000 to invest annually for the next 5 years
- EPA wants to see a focus on “Transformational Projects”
- Funding can be carried forward and must be project related
- Priorities for the funding include environmental justice and community resilience
- We are in the process of determining what the best use of the money is and working with the Finance Committee to develop recommendations
- One possibility: a living shorelines fund, possibly develop a match program with coastal property owners, investing in the shorelines ecosystem as a whole
- Another possibility: dirt road paving, the County is doing work on this but may not have enough money to fund it all, and dirt roads contribute significantly to sediment runoff into waterways
- A third option: green infrastructure improvements in public housing campuses as they begin redevelopment from deferred maintenance. There is a lot of opportunity for this and EPA thinks it could be a national model if pulled off correctly. Would bring EPA and HUD together in a unique way as there is generally little overlap between the agencies.

New Subcommittee Establishment

- Henry Perkins called for a re-establishment of the Alternative Packaging subcommittee
- Frank Smith, Colette Boehm, Jeanette Kelson and indicated interest in being involved

Other Discussion

- Henry Perkins discussed goals for 2022
 - Grow the BRC
 - Speak less at meetings

- Develop an Alternative Packaging project
- Eliska indicated a desire to meet in person, to trigger good conversation and be more productive
- Rusty Grice mentioned Oyster South's symposium coming up, with sessions on alternative packaging, workforce development, ecotourism

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and the meeting ended at 2:44.