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Little Lagoon / Perdido Pass- Gulf Frontal Watershed Management Planning

PRESENTED TO
WMP Steering Committee

Wade Burcham
Mollie Taylor
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October 9, 2019



Agenda

- I. Agenda
 - II. Roll Call
 - III. Approval of Minutes
 - IV. Team Update
 - V. Steering Committee Member Highlight
 - VI. Action Item #1: Steering Committee Gaps
 - VII. Action Item #2: Steering Committee Organization
 - VIII. Action Item #3: Mission Statement
 - IX. Action Item #4: Web Survey
 - X. Action Item #5: Public Engagement Meetings
 - XI. Upcoming Events
- (Remaining time – survey questions)

Team Update

- Starting to create a “buzz” – ideas for Citizen Scientist
- Promotional videos have been taken
- Steering committee established
- Leveraging Partner’s meeting held Sept. 9th
- Sign Up link created for MBNEP website
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment coordination
- Coordinating with EPA on work being done in Perdido Bay
- Literature Review in Progress
- Watershed Characterization Chapter in Progress (Due mid December)
- Watershed Conditions Chapter in Progress (Due in April)



Top 10 Watershed Characterization Facts

1. The Alabama Gulf Coast is one of the wettest areas in the United States; only the Pacific Northwest is considered to be wetter. It receives an average rainfall of **67** inches and experiences approximately **60** rain days per year.
2. The Gulf Frontal Complex Watershed lies within two distinct physiographic districts: the Coastal Lowlands and the Southern Pine Hills.
3. The Gulf Frontal Complex Watershed overlies two geologic formations: the alluvial, coastal, and low terrace deposits and the Citronelle Formation.

Top 10 Watershed Characterization Facts

4. Five distinct FEMA flood zones are present in the Gulf Frontal Complex Watershed: AE, AO, VE, BX, and CX.
5. Approximately 95% of the Gulf Frontal Complex Watershed is located in the Southern Coastal Plains Level III ecoregion. The remaining 5% is located in the Southeastern Plains Level III ecoregion.
6. The Little Lagoon Watershed spans an area approximately 18 miles from east to west and 1.3 miles from north to south.

Top 10 Watershed Characterization Facts

8. The Perdido Pass Watershed spans an area approximately 23 miles from east to west and 6.5 miles from north to south.
9. The estimated return frequency for a hurricane passing within 50 miles of Baldwin County is **10** years.
10. The estimated return frequency for a major hurricane (Category 3 or higher) passing within 50 miles of Baldwin County is **28** years.
11. Approximately 80% of the Gulf Frontal Complex Watershed is located within Baldwin County, Alabama and approximately 20% is located within Escambia County, Florida.

Steering Committee Gaps

Stakeholders

- Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Foley Cities
- Baldwin and Escambia Counties
- Little Lagoon Preservation Society
- Islands of Perdido Foundation
- FWS
- TNC
- Dolphin Cruise/Water Sport Vendors
- ACF
- Fort Pickens Aquatic Preserve
- ALDOT
- Alabama Charter Fishing Association
- CCA
- Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism
- Local Businesses
- Marinas
- Jack Edwards Airport
- Naval Air Station Pensacola
- Escambia County
- State Parks
- Churches
- Schools
- Developers
- Industries
- Utilities
- Residents
- Other Stakeholders

ADEM

Perdido Key Association

Steering Committee Organization

- Subcommittees
 - NGO
 - Community Engagement
 - Public Officials
- Need Vs. Other Options to address gaps
 - NGO Representative
 - Community Engagement Support Team
 - Quarterly Public Official Updates

Mission/Vision Statement

No vision	= total failure
A vision without a plan	= just a dream
A vision with a plan, but no action	= wasted time
A vision with a plan AND action	= SUCCESS

Mission/Vision Statement

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Mission: To promote the wise stewardship of the water quality and living resources of the Alabama's estuaries and coast.

Vision: Alabama's estuaries, where rivers meet the sea, are healthy and support ecological function and human uses.

accessible (2) agencies (2) bays (3) benefit (2) brings (3) citizens (3) clean (3) coastal (2) collaborative (2)
conserve (3) dedicated (4) diverse (2) ecological (2) ecosystem (3) enhance (7) ensure (2)
estuaries (3) estuarine (3) fish (2) future (2) generations (2) habitat (4) healthy (2) help (2)
management (3) natural (3) partnership (3) people (4) preservation (4)
protect (13) public (3) quality (4) regional (3) resources (7)
restore (12) science (4) shared (2) surrounding (2) sustain (3) together (6)
water (10) watershed (6) wildlife (4) working (4)

Vision

Our vision is to produce a Watershed Management Plan

- for the community
- creating a landscape of environmental and economic viability
- that promotes the protection and restoration
- of water quality and coastal ecosystems
- through strong local leadership and sustainable partnerships.

What words are missing from the vision?

Web Survey Questions

1. Which, if any, of these stakeholder groups do you represent?
 - ☐ Business owner/Operator
 - ☐ Recreational user
 - ☐ Builder/Developer/Engineer/Architect
 - ☐ Reside in the Little Lagoon watershed
 - ☐ Reside in the Perdido Pass watershed
 - ☐ Other (please specify)
2. What are the **top three issues** the Little Lagoon and Perdido Pass Watershed Management Plan should focus on?
3. Are there certain **cultural, historic or environmental sites or resources** that should be protected in the planning area?
4. Do you think the condition of the area is **better or worse** today compared to how you first remember it? If worse, what do you feel are the primary causes?
5. In your opinion does the environmental quality of the area need to be improved? If yes, what are the **key issues** that need attention now?
6. What do you believe are the **biggest threats** to management, planning, and restoration in the area?
7. What is your **ideal vision** for the Little Lagoon and Perdido Pass watershed, 10 years from now?



Public Engagement

- Small meetings with public officials
- Booth to inform and survey locals at Wolf Bay Watershed Watch Fishing Tournament (10/19), Orange Beach Art Fest (March 2020), etc.
 - Purpose?
 - Inform
 - Identify
 - Listen
 - Who?
 - 2-5 people
- Large Community Meeting

When should the large public engagement meeting be:

December

January

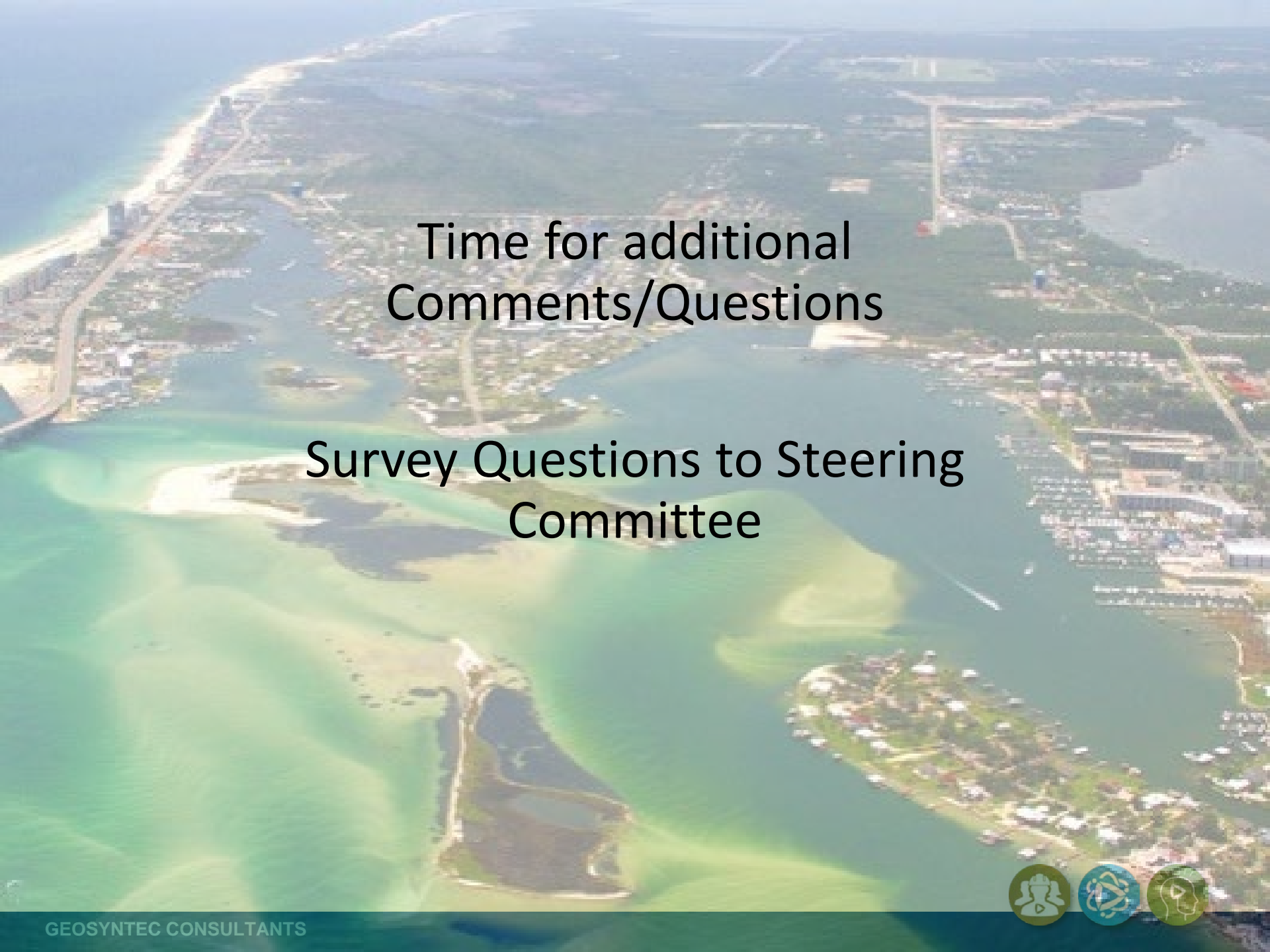
February

Upcoming Events

- Public Engagement Event(s)
- Wolf Bay Watershed Watch Fishing Tournament (10/19)



- Next month climate vulnerability assessment meeting
- Next meeting location?



Time for additional
Comments/Questions

Survey Questions to Steering
Committee

