

# **Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Project Implementation Committee**

January 28, 2021, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm GoogleMeet Virtual Meeting



#### **Agenda**

#### Meeting Objectives:

- a) Watershed Planning Update and Prioritization
- b) Project Status Review

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

PIC Co-Chairs:

Judy Haner, The Nature Conservancy Patric Harper, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

#### 2. Review and Approval of Minutes

#### 3. Old Business

a) Management Conference Committee Status Review – will update at the next meeting

#### 4. New Business

- a) Watershed Planning and Project Implementation Presentation:
- b) Schedule next meeting

#### 5. Adjourn

### **Project Implementation Committee Meeting – January 2021**



# Welcome!

Please put your name, organization, and email in the chat box to sign in.

Please note: This meeting is being recorded!

This presentation provides minutes of the January 28, 2021, Project Implementation Committee.

Attendees: Katie Baltzer, Cassie Bates, Don Blancher, Chris Blankenship, Herb Bullock, Wade Burcham, Mary Kate Brown, Ashley Campbell, Walter Earnest, Troy Ephriam, Kara Fox, Judy Haner, Patric Harper, Paige Felts, Casey Fulford, Carl Ferraro, Jennifer Greene, Meg Geocker, Leslie, Gahagan, Ashley Henderson, Rob Howell, Webb Jackson, Matt Jollit, Matthew Jones, Jeanette Kelson, Jeremiah Kolb, Cade Kistler, Nicole Love, Sarila Mickle, Eliska Morgan, Amy Newbold, Autumn Nitz, Don Mroczko, Rob Howell, Steve O'Hearn, Greg Pierce, Evan Reid, Ray Richardson, Justin Rigdon, Marcus Rubenstein, Mike Sharp, Lance Slater, Memphis Vaughan, Lee Walters, Chris Warn, Connie Whitaker, Amy Williams, Barja Wilson, Emma Witherington, Brad Young.

MBNEP Staff: Roberta Swann, Christian Miller, Jason Kudulis

### **Project Implementation Committee Agenda**

#### Welcome and Call to Order:

Co-Chairs: Judy Haner, The Nature Conservancy, & Patric Harper, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Old Business: Accept minutes from August 2020 meeting

<u>New Business:</u> Watershed Planning and Project Implementation Update

- ADCNR DWH Oil Spill
- MBNEP WMPs
- MAWSS
- Mobile County Shorelines
- MBNEP Restoration
- TNC Restoration
- City of Mobile

- Point Aux Pines/GOMESA
- NRCS
- Fly Creek
- Bon Secour
- Weeks Bay
- Gulf Frontal





The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm.

Old Business: Minutes were provided for review before the meeting. Carl Ferraro motioned to accept the August 2020 minutes. Eliska Morgan seconded.

New Business: See following project slides for *Watershed Planning and Project Implementation Update*.

- Project presenters were asked to share a map, an overview slide including project status, timeline, and any challenges, and a few pictures. Notes are included with project slides where applicable.
- Other PIC related business and discussion.
  - Judy commended the volume of complex and important projects that were shared by committee members. Although each project is unique, some share similarities and challenges that could benefit from additional PIC meetings, perhaps even topic-focused meetings to drill-down and exchange knowledge and lessons learned.
    - Commissioner Blankenship also shared how impressed he is with the work being done in coastal Alabama and expressed his gratitude to all involved.
    - Plan proposed is to continue with traditional quarterly meetings while adding off-cycle topics of interest and/or site visits with smaller groups to projects for experiential learning.

- A poll will be sent to the committee to gauge potential topics and meeting preferences.
- There was also some interest in more coordination with the other Management Conference committees where applicable.
- Our next PIC meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2021, 1-3pm.

Carl Ferraro made a motion to adjourn at 2:52pm. Lee Walters seconded.





- Completed
  - Wolf Bay
- Under Development
  - Western Shore
  - Little Lagoon/Gulf Frontal
  - MTA Delta
  - D'Olive (update)
  - Fly Creek/Eastern Shore
  - Dauphin Island
- On Deck
  - East/West Delta
- Sediment Studies
  - East/West Delta



Mr. Christian Miller provided a Watershed Management Plan Update. Completed

Wolf Bay – completed end of 2020. Wolf Creek stream restoration already in the works. Under Development - six in process at various stages of development. Most recent to get underway is Dauphin Island

Western Shore – near final draft.

Little Lagoon/Gulf Frontal

MTA Delta

D'Olive (update)

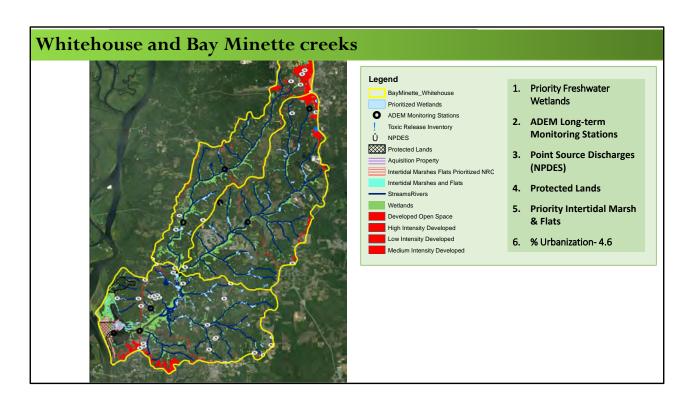
Fly Creek/Eastern Shore

Dauphin Island

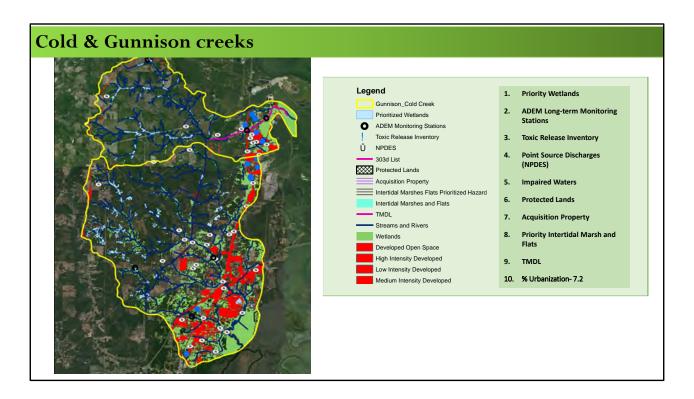
#### On Deck

East/West Delta – baseline water quality characterization work will be first step.

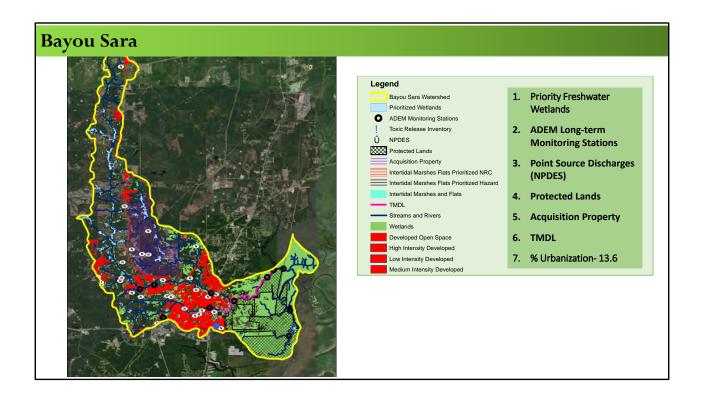
More shared on remaining RESTORE funded WMPs follows. Recall watersheds were ranked by the PIC in 2018.

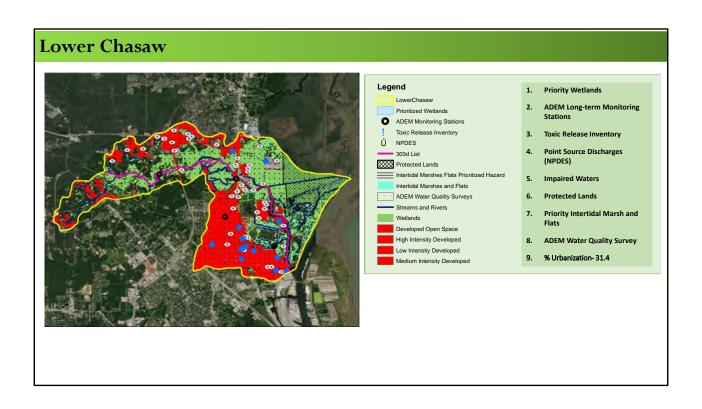


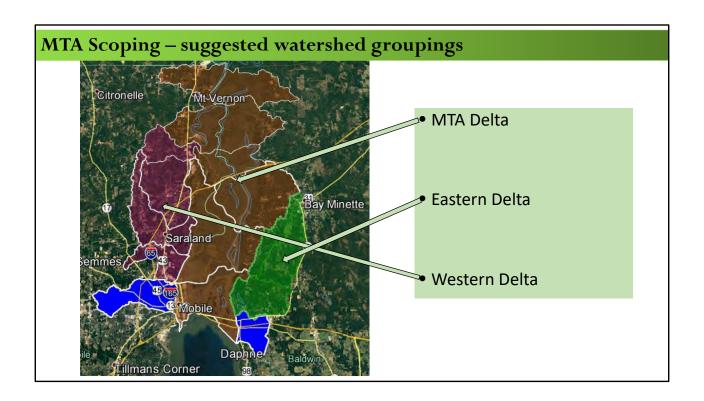
Eastern Delta Complex – these and the western delta HUC 12s are suggested groupings from a Moffat Nichol scoping exercise.



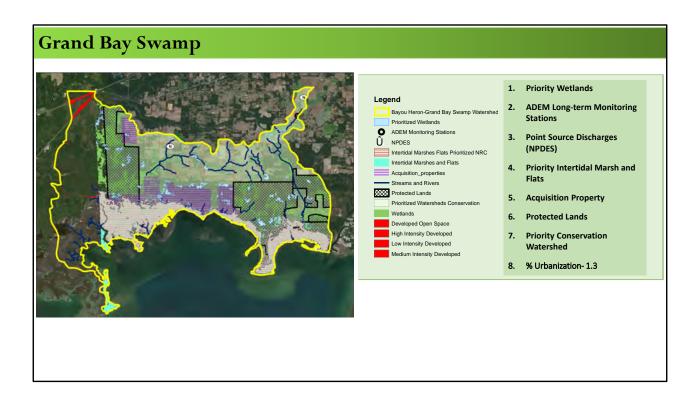
Western Delta – two northern HUC12s



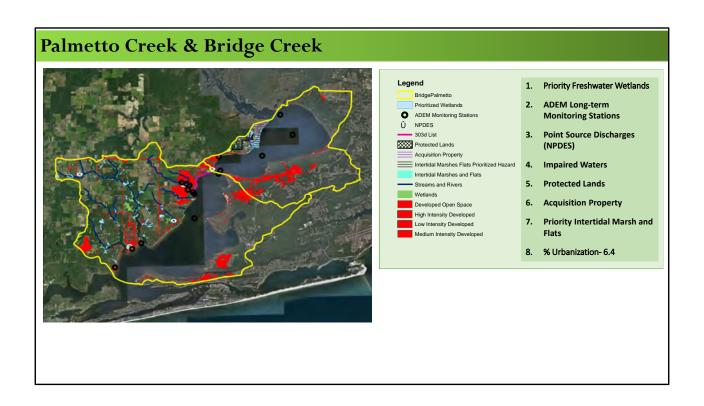




Four red HUC12s makeup the Western Delta – Cold and Gunnison Creeks, Bayou Sara, Lower Chasaw. Not set in stone but likely.

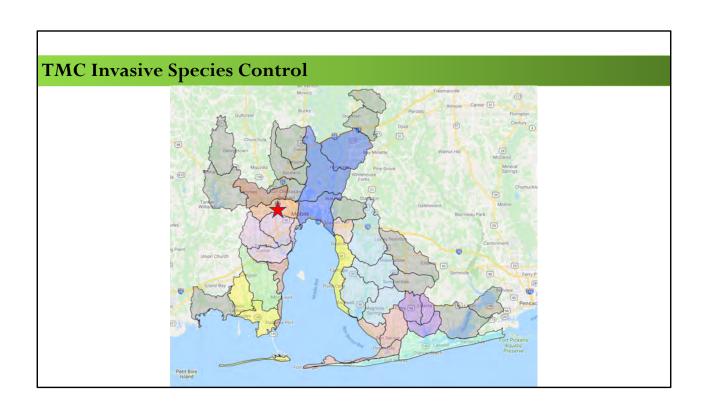


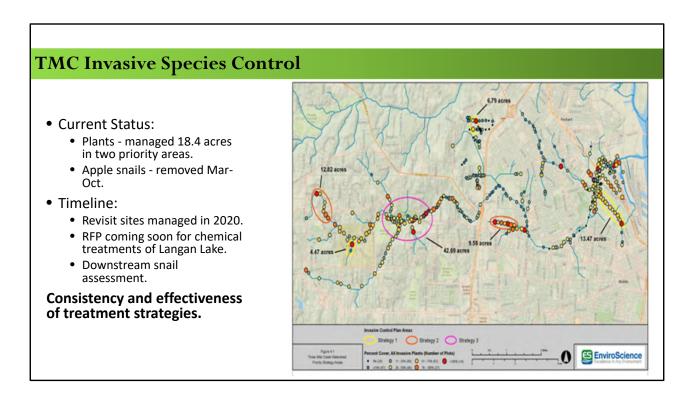
Last but not least, the Grand Bay Swamp and Palmetto and Bridge Creek (on the state line with FL, looking to leverage this funding with the new Estuary Program in Perdido) will be last. The baseline assessment work has not kicked off for either of these.



	#1	#1		#2		#3	
#Respondents	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Wt.Score
MTA Delta	2	3	4	6	36	51	4.4
Fly Creek	0	5	6	13	27	51	4.2
Bayou Sara	0	3	11	15	22	51	4.1
Little Lagoon/Perdido Pass	1	5	11	10	26	53	4.0
Bay Minette Creek/ Whitehouse 🟒							
Creek	0	6	11	14	21	52	4.0
Lower Chasaw	1	6	7	18	18	50	3.9
Garrows Bend	2	8	6	13	17	46	3.8
Bridge Creek/Palmetto Creek	1	6	21	17	11	56	3.6
Delchamps Bayou/Deer River	1	7	18	10	12	48	3.5
Dauphin Island	9	12	7	7	13	48	3.1
Gunnison Creek/Cold Creek	5	16	20	5	5	51	2.8
Grand Bay Swamp	24	5	9	4	7	49	2.3

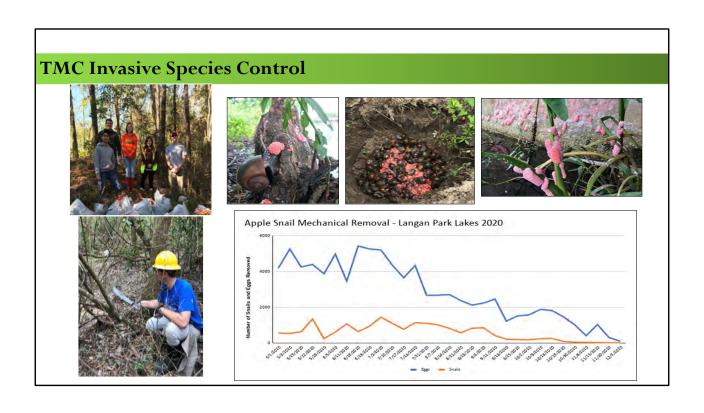
These are the remaining watersheds as ranked in May 2018. Questions remains best way to group or split the four HUC12s in the western delta? Various community demographics and geopolitical identities may warrant smaller groups to develop specific plans to meet needs and management measures. Learning some lessons from the Western Shore WMP development where similar factors are playing a role. Drilling down more for each HUC12 has value if budgets allow. No decision was made at the meeting and further discussion was encouraged to be shared with Christian.





Mr. Christian Miller also provided an update on Three Mile Creek invasive species control efforts and restoration in the headwaters of Twelvemile Creek.

- Will be working with USA to manage plants on and near campus in 2021.
- RFP for apple snail control targeting Langan Lake will be released soon.
- Gulf Corps was helpful in maintaining populations in the interim.



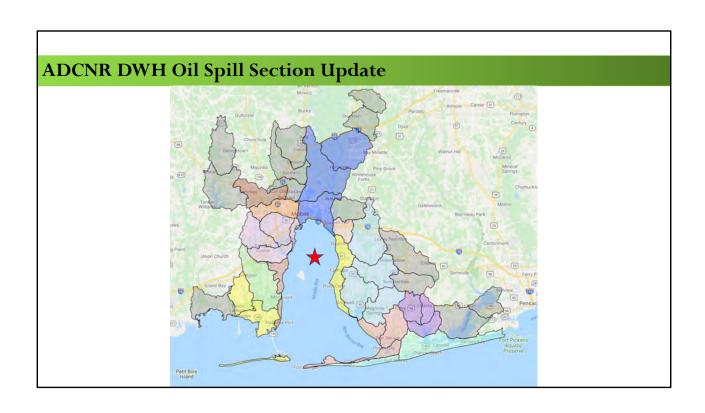


### **Twelvemile Creek Headwaters Restoration**

- Current Status:
  - USACE permit secured.
  - Awarded from RESTORE in late June 2020.
  - Stantec Completed 100% design
  - Project team site assessment completed.
  - Initiated monitoring program.
- Timeline:
  - Securing property access.
  - Construction planned for April 2021 - 3.5 months for construction.



- Issued Requests for Bid this will be MBNEP's first stream project in the City of Mobile.
- Eyeing construction in April.
- Working to secure remaining property access.



### **ADCNR DWH Oil Spill Section Update**

- NRDA
  - Coastal Bird Stewardship (RP3) Proposal Evaluation
  - Regionwide TIG Restoration Plan due Fall 2021
  - West End DI
- RESTORE
  - Fort Morgan Bike Trail
  - FPL3b Out for Public Comment
    - Water Quality
    - Perdido Program
    - Justin's Bay
- NFWF
  - Other Implementers

Dr. Amy Hunter with ADCNR provided a general overview of planned and ongoing NRDA, RESTORE, and NFWF projects. Several projects Dr. Hunter touched on have standalone slides in these minutes.

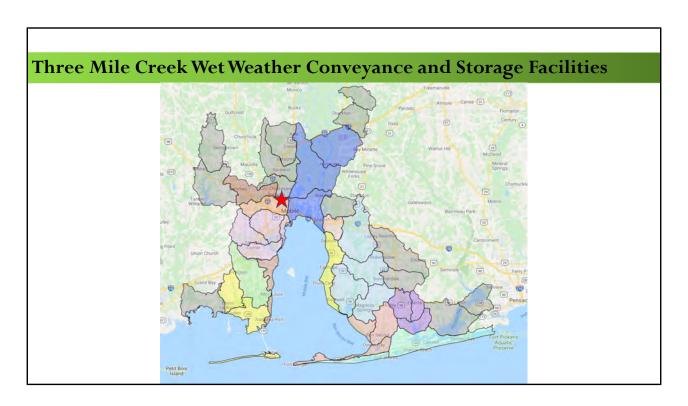
- NRDA Restoration Plan III Coastal Bird Stewardship Program will be continued originally a NFWF funded program.
- Update: Successful in acquisition of the western end of Dauphin Island. The Town took ownership of that land and Mobile County is assisting with a management plan.
- RESTORE Fort Morgan bike trail under engineering and design. Ultimately, will have a trail from water tower in Orange Beach to the end of Ft. Morgan.
- Bucket II many regional water quality programs currently under review.
- NFWF Other implementers will share these projects during the meeting.

# **ADCNR DWH Oil Spill Section Update**

- Location Based Updates
  - Dauphin Island Charettes (Multiple Projects)
  - Bayou la Batre City Docks and Lightning Point
  - Mobile County Blueway Survey and Website out this week
  - Center of Excellence (DISL) Website Up; RFP Out; ARCOS Upgrades/Repairs Ongoing

#### **Location Based Updates**

- Dauphin Island Charettes (Multiple Projects) both the Aloe Bay project and the DI watershed management plan are underway.
- Bayou la Batre City Docks and Lightning Point TNC provided a Lightning Point update at this meeting.
- Mobile County Blueway Survey and Website out this week survey is out, please complete.
- Center of Excellence (DISL) Website Up; RFP Out first round of academic funding opportunities are out; ARCOS Upgrades/Repairs Ongoing – several ARCOS stations were damaged during the 2020 hurricane season. Repairs are planned.



Mr. Christian Miller filled in for MAWSS who were unavailable to attend.

# Three Mile Creek Wet Weather Conveyance and Storage Facilities

#### **Construction Progress Update**

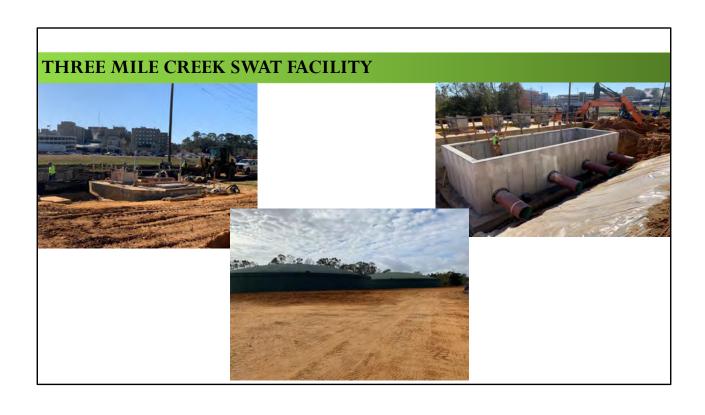
#### **Three Mile Creek Severe Weather Attenuation Tank Facility:**

- Tank No. 2 and No. 3 have been completed
- Lift Station Wet Well has been completion
- Construction of Diversion Box is nearing completion.
- Installation of mechanical and electrical equipment is ongoing.
- Project is scheduled for completion by March 12, 2021

#### **Three Mile Creek Trunk Sewer:**

- Approximately 11000 L.F. of new trunk sewer has been installed.
- Connections of intersecting sewer mains to new trunk gravity main is ongoing.
- Project is scheduled for completion by April 23,2021.

Both the SWATs and trunk sewer upgrades along Three Mile Creek will be completed in the coming months.





# Three Mile Creek Greenway Trail

## **Current Activity:**

- ALDOT TAP Grant: Segment 6N Construction Packet currently under review by FHWA
- RESTORE Grant: Design Contracts on Segments 5 and 7N (Segments East of I-65) under review and adjusting per ADCNR comments
- Planning underway for design of Segments 1 & 2 (Segments West of I-65)

# **Next Steps:**

- Finalize Greenway Safety Plan
- Segments 5 and 7N Design

MOBILE

• Segment 6N Construction



Mr. Matt Jolitt with the City of Mobile provided an update on the TMC Greenway and hydrological restoration of the TMC historic channel.

• Next on slate to be constructed is segment 6N, currently under review.

# Three Mile Creek Hydrological Restoration

# **Current Activity:**

- Design Contract approved and Project Kick-off completed on January 22
- Site Investigations

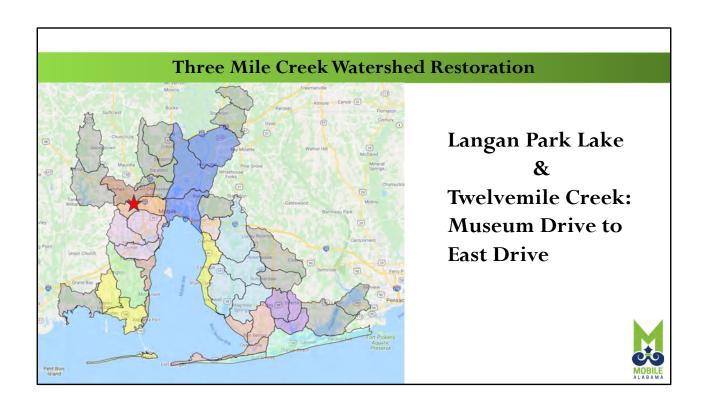
# **Next Steps:**

- E & D/ Permitting
- Construction (Estimated 3<sup>rd</sup>
  Quarter of 2021





• Design contract approved (Moffat and Nichol) and project kick-off completed.







# Three Mile Creek Watershed Restoration: Langan Park

- Current Activity:
  - USACE permit obtained
  - Firms selected for E&D and CE&I
  - Engineering and Design contract under review by ADCNR
- 2021 Milestones:
  - 100% plans expected 6/2021
  - Construction start expected 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021



Mr. Lance Slater with the City of Mobile provided the update on TMC restoration and Langan Park.

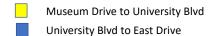
## Three Mile Creek Watershed Restoration: Twelvemile Creek Bank Stabilization

### • Current Activity:

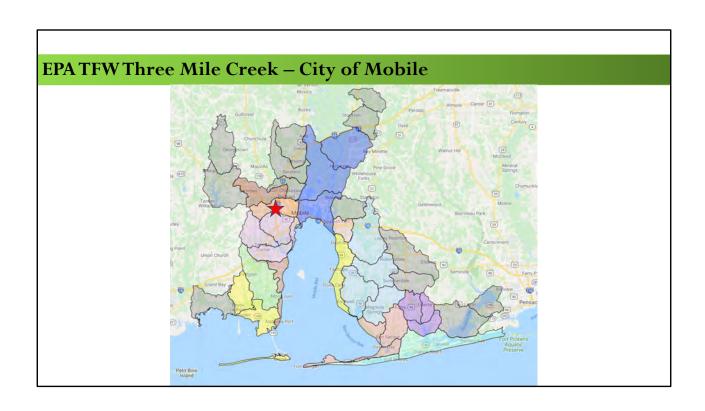
- 90% design plans complete, 100% pending CLOMR
- Land acquisition is final negotiations

#### • 2021 Milestones:

- 100% plans expected 2/2021
- Target Construction start 7/2021
- Target Construction completion 4/2022







# **EPA TFW Three Mile Creek – City of Mobile**

- Monitoring (maintaining) six (6) newly upgraded Litter Gitters (Osprey)
- Sited locations for 30 new Litter Interceptors (City) formerly (MDI's)





- In-field assessment held with fabricator/Osprey/City on 1/27/21 for initial 7
- Initial 7 to be installed by April 2021













Ms. Jenn Greene with the City of Mobile provided an update for continued litter abatement activities in the City of Mobile.

# **EPA TFW Three Mile Creek – City of Mobile**

- Public Outreach
  - Mobile BayKeeper working on multiple strategies including radio, and media campaign with City
  - Mobile BayKeeper working with stakeholders on strategies for public outreach/education
  - Mobile Baykeeper working to develop a litter public outreach program, including Mobile Baykeeper's SWAMP program with Vigor High School Students – with the challenges that COVID has presented

**#TrashFreeWaters** 







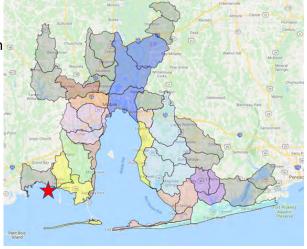






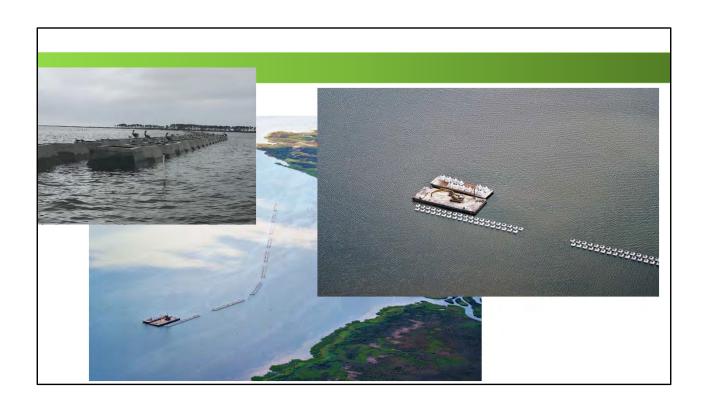
### **Point aux Pins Breakwater Complex**

- Construction began on June 30, 2020, and ended on November 3, 2020.
- 15 segments of 200 feet each were installed on the eastern side of Point aux Pins.
- A total of 585 breakwaters were installed.
- The breakwaters will serve to reduce erosion along the shoreline and provide additional habitat for bivalves and other invertebrates.
- The 5-year monitoring plan will observe any shoreline changes and assess the density of invertebrate infauna and epifauna on the breakwaters.



Mr. Jeremiah Kolb with ADCNR provided an update on the Point aux Pins Breakwater Complex and upcoming GOMESA projects.

- Gulf Equipment was the construction contractor; Tetra Tech did the design.
- Project totals over 3,000 linear feet of breakwaters.
- Show no signs of trouble following the two tropical events Fall 2020.



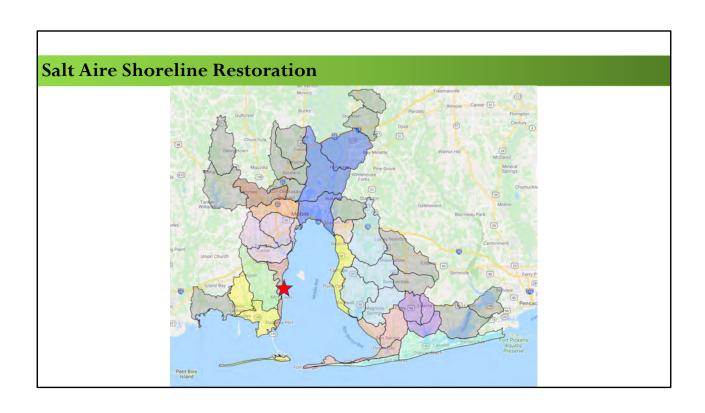
# **Upcoming GOMESA Projects**

- Sewer Infrastructure Improvements
  - Bayou la Batre
  - Bellingrath Rd.
- Public Access Improvements
  - Fish River boat ramp at Weeks Bay
  - Brooks Landing
  - Steele Creek
  - Little Billy Goat Hole
  - New Three Mile Creek boat ramp
  - Baldwin County ICW
  - Mobile County Parks including Escatawpa and Chickasabogue

- Land Acquisitions
  - Brookley Bayfront
  - Graham Creek Additions
  - Blackwater North Addition
- Research and Education
  - Manatee Sighting Network
  - AU Oyster Enhancement in Little Dauphin Bay
  - GulfQuest Improvements
  - DISL Research Vessel

ADCNR has not put out the announcement for 2021 GOMESA project submissions as of this meeting (January 2021).

- GOMESA portion of Brookley acquisition was 95 acres.
- A new access point along lower Three Mile Creek was purchased by Mobile County -Conception Street.
- Research vessel for DISL will be a large off-shore multiday addition to their fleet.



### **Salt Aire Shoreline Restoration**

### • Status Update

• County is currently in the process of selecting a design consultant

### • Timeline

- Design to begin in the coming months
- Construction to begin during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year or 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022

### • Potential Roadblocks

• None at this time

Mr. Matthew Jones with Mobile County provided an update on Mobile County's shoreline projects.



Two components to this project.

- 1) The offshore breakwaters have been completed.
- 2) Restoring 30 acres of salt marsh.



# **Dauphin Island Shoreline Restoration**

### Status Update

- Received funding from NFWF to complete 60-100% Design and construction
- Issued Geosyntec a NTP on 11/30/2020
- USACE Permit was submitted

#### Timeline

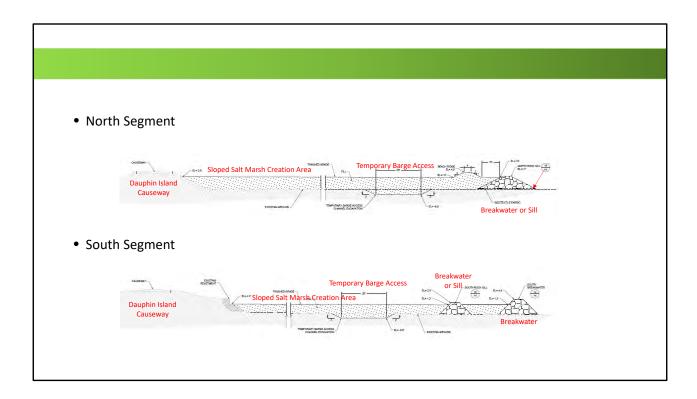
- Geotechnical Investigations NTP+ 3 months
- 100% Design Plans NTP + 4 months
- Begin construction date is contingent on permit.

#### Potential Roadblocks

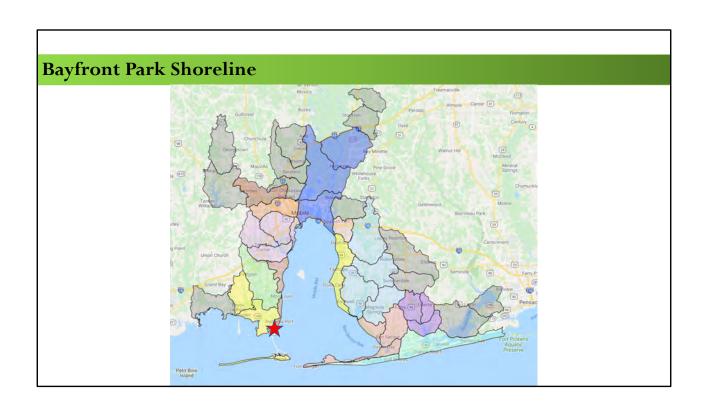
• None at this time

Project is about 3.3 miles long. Starting at Bayfront Park and ending at Cedar Point.

- Segmented rock breakwaters will be used.
- Estimate beneficial-use nearing 1,000,000 cu yd of material will be used.

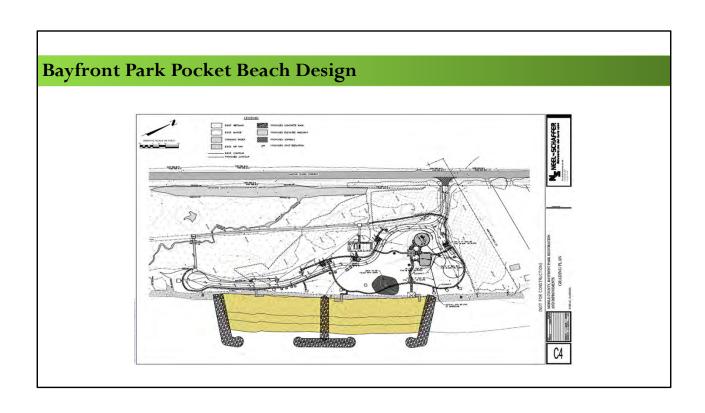


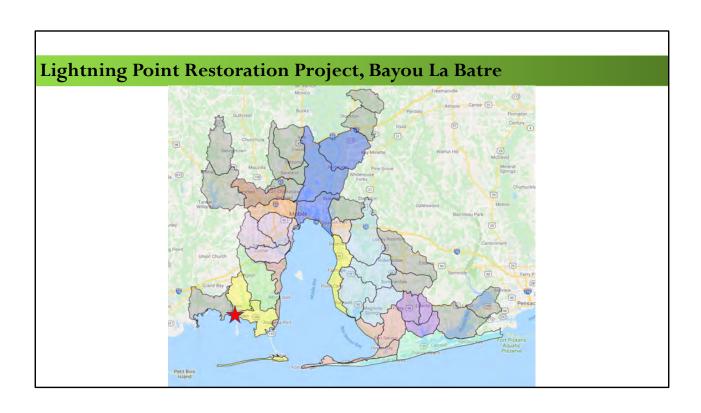
Varied wave climate between the two segments required different engineering approaches.



# **Bayfront Park Shoreline**

- Status Update
  - Mott MacDonald has completed the 100% Design of the pocket beach
  - Landside park design is complete
  - Construction phase grant funding is in place
- Timeline
  - USACE permit expected in the coming weeks
  - Move into bid phase and construction phase once permit has been received
- Potential Roadblocks
  - None at this time



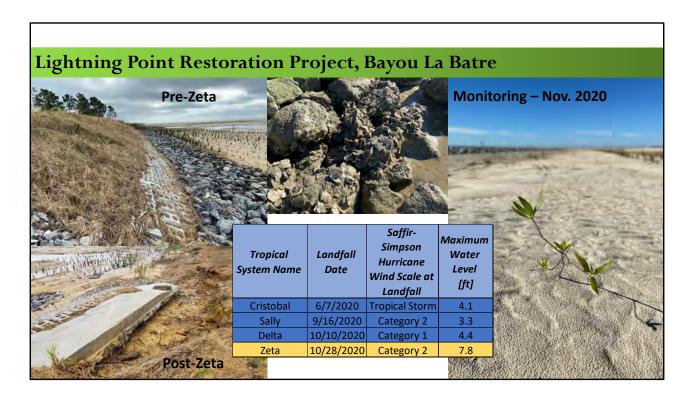


# Lightning Point Restoration Project, Bayou La Batre

- <u>Brief Description</u>: Large-scale restoration project composed of 1.5 miles of rock breakwaters, 40 acres of new coastal habitats created with more than 240,000 cubic yards of dredged material and stabilized with almost 90,000 native grasses and shrub seedlings, 2 miles of tidal creeks, 667 cubic yards of shell hash
- Current Status -
  - Engineering/design COMPLETE
  - Construction COMPLETE
    - 4 eastern breakwaters pending on landowner agreements
  - Monitoring Baseline COMPLETE; 1<sup>st</sup> Annual post-construction biological COMPLETE; Structural planned for summer 2021
- <u>Timeline 2021 milestones</u> Constructing amenities (ADA Access and Fishing Platform; Pavilions; Paths); repairs to revetment
- Potential roadblocks
  - Hurricane Season, Landowner agreements

Ms. Mary Kate Brown with The Nature Conservancy provided an update on Lightning Point.

• Growing season and vegetation were challenged by tropical events but overall, the project faired well.



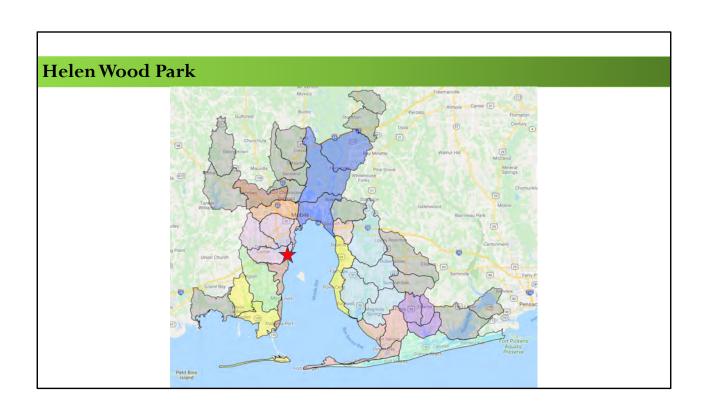
- Storm surge during Zeta reached 7.8' the rapid rise overtopped the revetment and caused some scour height data are captured at Bayou La Batre bridge.
- Breakwaters installed just over a year already have oysters attached.



# **Little Lagoon Living Shoreline, Gulf Shores**

- <u>Brief Description</u>: 2000' living shoreline at the SW corner of Little Lagoon, Gulf Shores to restore and protect the access and beach dune habitats for the Alabama beach mice from further erosion
- Current Status -
  - Engineering/design COMPLETE with permit, waiting on USFWS to approve
  - Construction Part 1 (Native Plants) COMPLETE with 4,000 1-gallon *Juncus roemerianus*; Part 2 6,000 plants planned, waiting on approval from USFWS to move forward
  - Monitoring Baseline COMPLETE; Part 1 post-planting COMPLETE
- <u>Timeline 2021 milestones</u> Implementing Part 2 (either all natural or hybrid with plants, fill and rocks)
- Potential roadblocks
  - · Changing of the guards
  - Delayed approval will lead to higher cost of nursery plants
  - Navigating USFWS purchase process





### Helen Wood Park

- Current Status:
  - 60% designs complete
- Timeline:
  - Permit application: Mar-April 2021
  - Construction Phase: Winter 2021\*
  - Monitoring: 2023
- TNC-ALDOT collaboration
  - Recycled bridge material & mitigation
- Funding limitations



Ms. Katie Baltzer with The Nature Conservancy provided an update on Helen Wood Park and the Lower Perdido Islands.

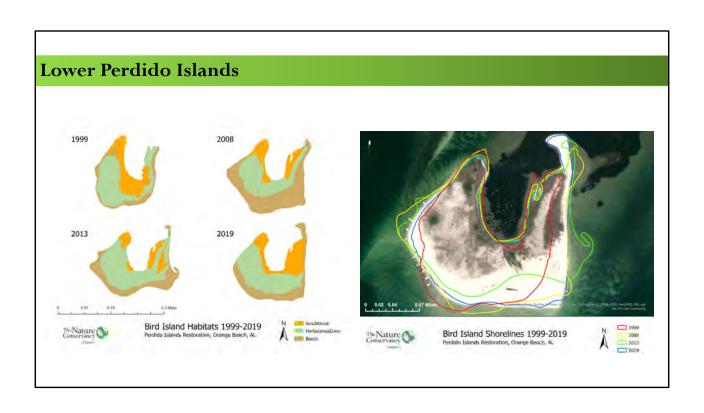
- Exploring cost-cutting options to meet budget constraints. ALDOT mitigation requirements may prove to be a great solution.
- Park did sustain some damage from tropical events in 2020.
- Jacobs Engineering is the design firm.

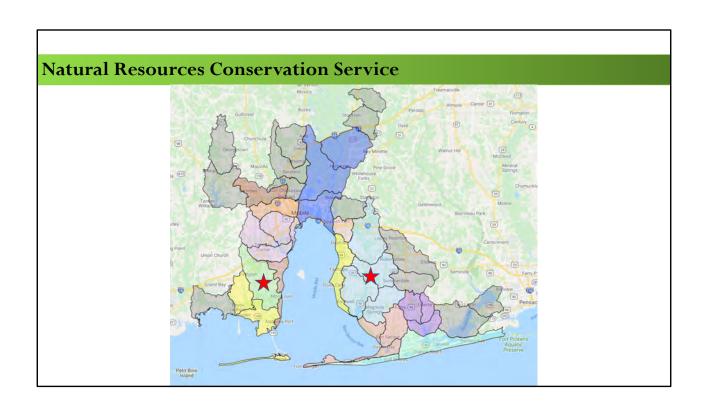






Walker, Robinson, and Bird Islands are focal points.





### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**



### **RESTORE**

Mobile County: 18 ApplicationsBaldwin County: 6 Projects

• Examples:

• Erosion Control in the Bayou La Batre Watershed

Stream Restoration in the Blackwater River Watershed

## **Nutrient Reduction Program**

Impacted Areas: Weeks Bay & Fowl River

Landowner Participants: 41

Acres Impacted: 14,000



Ms. Casey Fulford with the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts provided the report for NRCS.

 USGS will be assisting with water quality monitoring as a component of the nutrient reduction work.

# **Baldwin County Soil & Water Conservation District**

- Curriculum Development
  - Grass Cover Strategies to Reduce Erosion and Control Sediment
  - Three Practices to Help Keep Sediment Onsite: Entry/Exit Pads, Sediment Barriers, and Inlet Protection
  - Sediment Basin: Controlling Sediment and Turbidity



#### Virtual Courses for Coastal Professionals

For More Information: Contact Laura at Baldwin@alconservationdistricts.org

 Released an RFP to development three different sediment and erosion control curriculum. Moving forward with selected applicant. Looking for spring or early summer completion.



### **Lower Fish River Restoration**

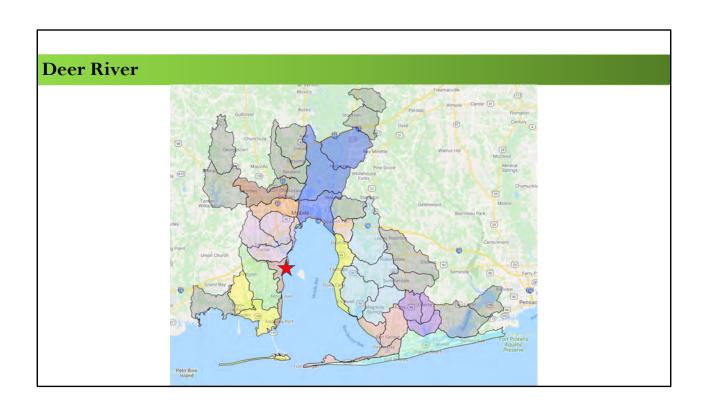
- Current Status:
  - IDIQ engineering and design firm selection complete.
  - Marlow engineering and design underway.
  - Field assessments to prioritize future restoration sites initiated.
- Timeline:
  - Complete Marlow E&D; procure construction contractor.
  - Complete field assessments and select additional sites for E&D.
  - Establish baseline monitoring program.

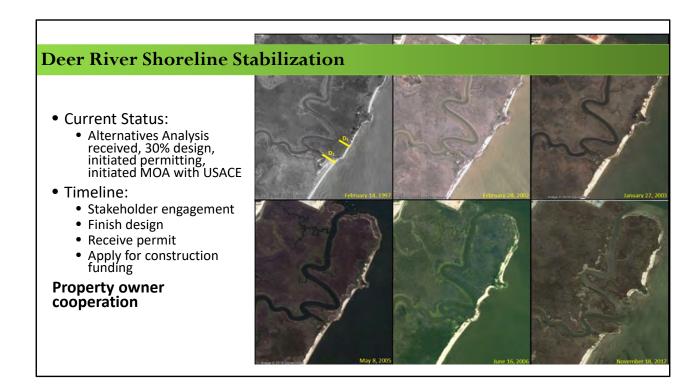


None at this time.

Mr. Jason Kudulis with MBNEP provided an update on Lower Fish River Restoration, Deer River, and Fowl River.

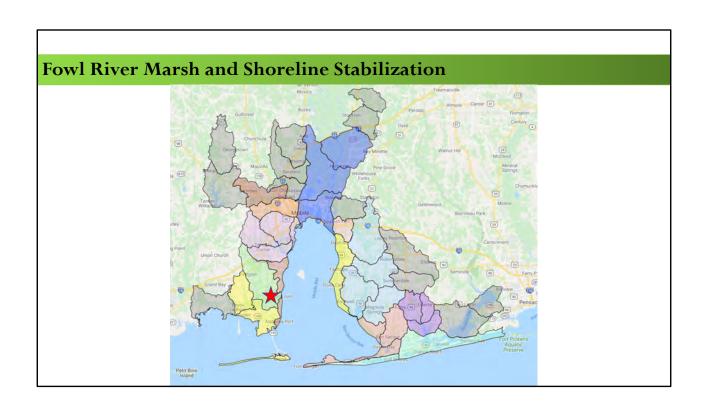
- Goodwyn Mills Cawood, Geosyntec, Thompson, and Volkert were the selected firms.
- Thompson will begin immediate design with the Marlow project.
- Aiming for end of 2020 Marlow construction contractor procurement.
- Select additional Lower Fish River restoration sites and begin design.





- Thompson is prime with support from ESA and Barry Vittor and Associates.
- Design and permit pursuit are currently delayed due to landowner cooperation.
- Timeline may be pushed back due to delays. Hopefully for 2022 construction.





### Fowl River Marsh and Shoreline Stabilization

- Current Status:
  - Alternatives Analysis received, 30% design, initiated permitting
- Timeline:
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Finish design
  - Receive permit
  - Apply for construction funding

# Phased Adaptive Approach; material source



ESA is the prime, Thompson and Barry Vittor and Associates are providing support.

- Draft alternatives received.
- Aiming for stakeholder outreach after selecting design alternative.
- Finish design and aim for 2022 construction.

