Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Project Implementation Committee

May 20, 2021, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

GoogleMeet Virtual Meeting

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

a) Set off-cycle topical meeting subject(s)
b) Continue discussing more coordination with other Management Conference committees
c) Project Status updates

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 Updates

4. **New Business**
   a) Shoreline Projects Permit/Monitoring Inventory – Dr. Missy Partyka, MS AL Sea Grant/MBNEP
   b) Watershed Planning and Project Implementation Presentations
   c) Off-cycle topical meetings – what, when, and where?
   d) Schedule next meeting

5. **Adjourn**

Project Implementation Committee Meeting – May 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 May 20, 2021, Project Implementation Committee.

Attendees: Katie Baltzer, Don Bates, Mark Berte, Don Blancher, Mary Kate Brown, Scott Brown, Dottie Byron, Ashley Campbell, Walter Ernest, Jay Estes, Mike Eubanks, Troy Ephriam, Kara Fox, Rosemary Ginn, Judy Haner, Patric Harper, Paige Felts, Casey Fulford, Meg Geocker, Leslie, Gahagan, Matthew Jones, Jeanette Kelson, Cody Ledet, Justin McDonald, Shannon McGlynn, Sarila Mickle, Autumn Nitz, Don Mroczko, Greg Pierce, Chris Plymale, Justin Rigdon, Tina Sanchez, Ryne Smith, Sam St. John, Woody Speed, Suzanne Sweetser, Memphis Vaughan, Lee Walters, Chris Warn, Tim White, Emma Witherington.

MBNEP Staff: Roberta Swann, Christian Miller, Jason Kudulis, Missy Partyka

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:

- Management Conference Committee Updates
- Review and approval of January 2021 minutes

New Business:

- *Shoreline Projects Permit/Monitoring Inventory – Dr. Missy Partyka, MS AL Sea Grant/MBNEP*
- *Watershed Planning and Project Implementation Updates*
- Off-cycle Topical Meetings

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm.

Old Business: Minutes from the January 2021 were provided for review prior to the meeting. Mark Berte motioned to accept the minutes. Lee Walters seconded.

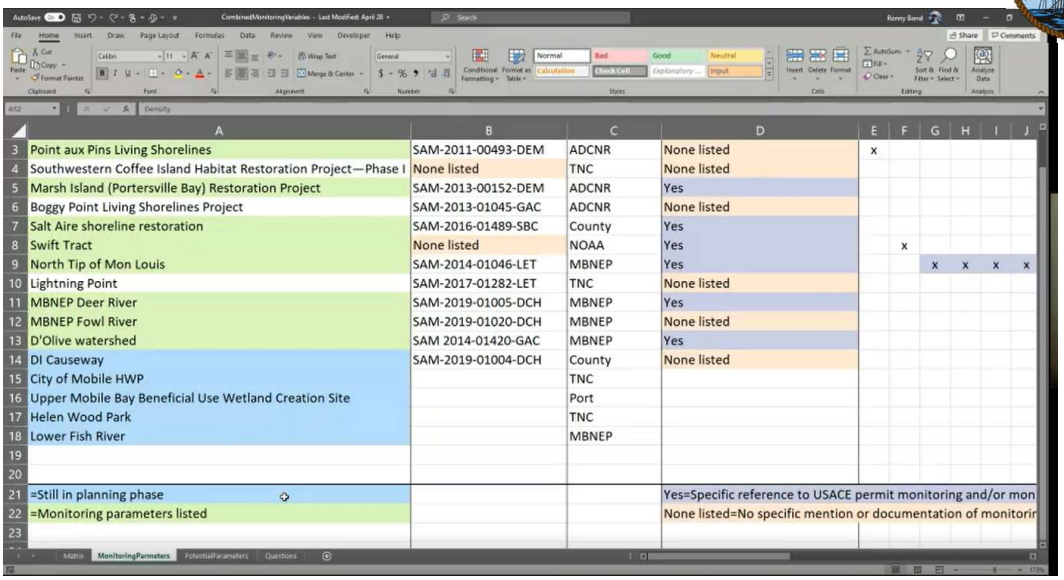
New Business:

- *Shoreline Projects Permit/Monitoring Inventory* – Dr. Missy Partyka, MS AL Sea Grant/MBNEP
- 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, challenges, and a few visuals. Supplemental notes are included with project slides.

- Other PIC related business and discussion.

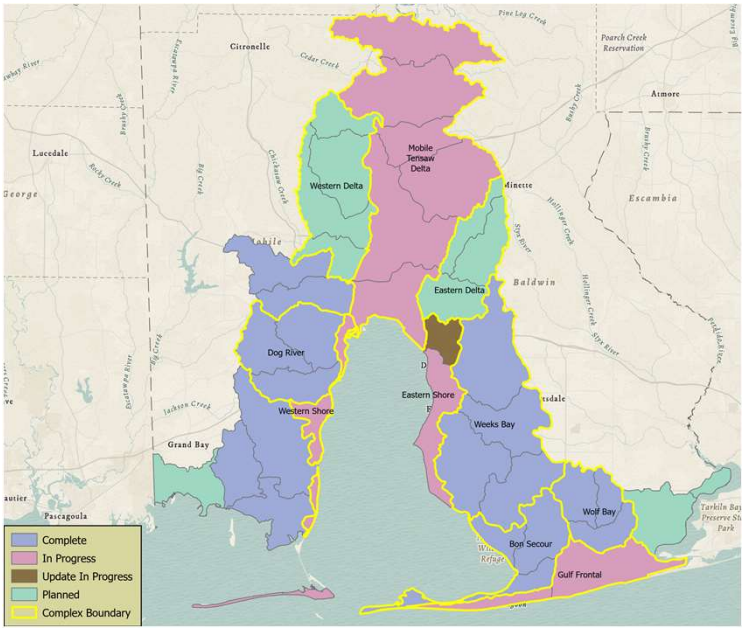
Shoreline Monitoring Inventory



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
3	Point aux Pins Living Shorelines	SAM-2011-00493-DEM	ADCNR	None listed	x					
4	Southwestern Coffee Island Habitat Restoration Project—Phase I	None listed	TNC	None listed						
5	Marsh Island (Portersville Bay) Restoration Project	SAM-2013-00152-DEM	ADCNR	Yes						
6	Boggy Point Living Shorelines Project	SAM-2013-01045-GAC	ADCNR	None listed						
7	Salt Aire shoreline restoration	SAM-2016-01489-SBC	County	Yes						
8	Swift Tract	None listed	NOAA	Yes		x				
9	North Tip of Mon Louis	SAM-2014-01046-LET	MBNEP	Yes			x	x	x	x
10	Lightning Point	SAM-2017-01282-LET	TNC	None listed						
11	MBNEP Deer River	SAM-2019-01005-DCH	MBNEP	Yes						
12	MBNEP Fowl River	SAM-2019-01020-DCH	MBNEP	None listed						
13	D'Olive watershed	SAM 2014-01420-GAC	MBNEP	Yes						
14	DI Causeway	SAM-2019-01004-DCH	County	None listed						
15	City of Mobile HWP		TNC							
16	Upper Mobile Bay Beneficial Use Wetland Creation Site		Port							
17	Helen Wood Park		TNC							
18	Lower Fish River		MBNEP							
19										
20										
21	=Still in planning phase			Yes=Specific reference to USACE permit monitoring and/or mon						
22	=Monitoring parameters listed			None listed=No specific mention or documentation of monitorir						
23										

Dr. Missy Partyka, provided an update on a shoreline projects monitoring inventory she has been working on. The document incorporated permit/monitoring plan information from partners and various public portals. The idea is to have a master shoreline restoration monitoring inventory for completed and planned projects to compare parameters and permit requirements. Has application to consider: why this here but not here, duration, what is missing, and what cost to benefit does each parameter add? The SAC will also review. Ultimately, we are bound by permit requirements, but this could aid discussions to better coordinate with those agencies to improve cross-project consistency, allowing better apples-to-apples review to aid planning and implementation at a specific project and collectively across coastal Alabama. This framework could be reworked for stream and other projects too.

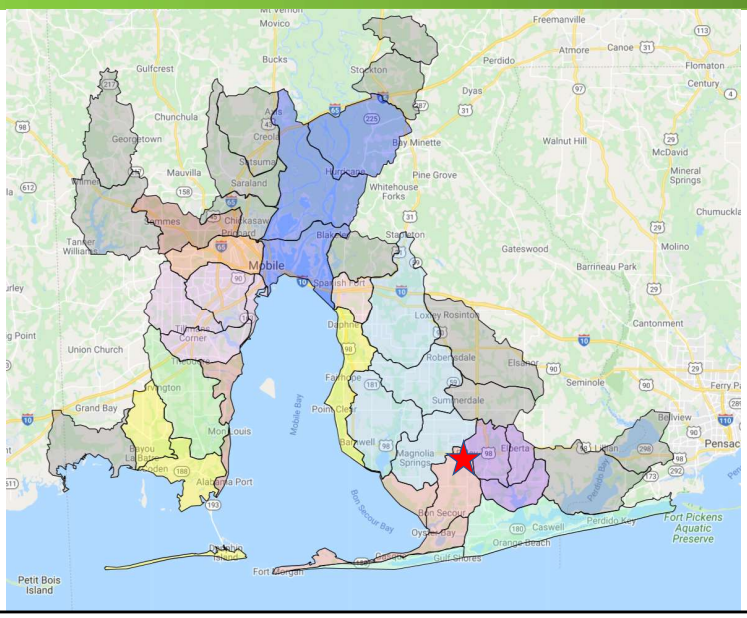
Watershed Planning Update



- **Completed**
  - Western Shore
- **Under Development**
  - Little Lagoon/Gulf Frontal
  - MTA Delta
  - D'Olive (update)
  - Fly Creek/Eastern Shore
  - Dauphin Island
- **On Deck**
  - West Delta
    - Lower Chasaw
    - Gunnison Creek, Cold Creek, Bayou Sara
- **Sediment Studies**
  - East Delta
  - Gulf Frontal

- Western Shore draft will be released for comment the first of June.
- Gulf Frontal and D'Olive drafts should be released ~July.
- Further watershed baseline/sediment work was not needed for the Western Delta watersheds. Lower Chasaw likely to be released as a stand alone, the other Western Delta could be grouped into one complex (anticipate June/July RFQ release).
- Perdido Complex also on deck.
- Sediment/baseline analysis work getting underway on the Eastern Delta complex.
- RFQ for slated WMPs to be released later in the year
- Additional monitoring work has been initiated for the Gulf Frontal WMP and may potentially be needed in Lower Chasaw (pathogens).

Bon Secour River Headwaters Restoration



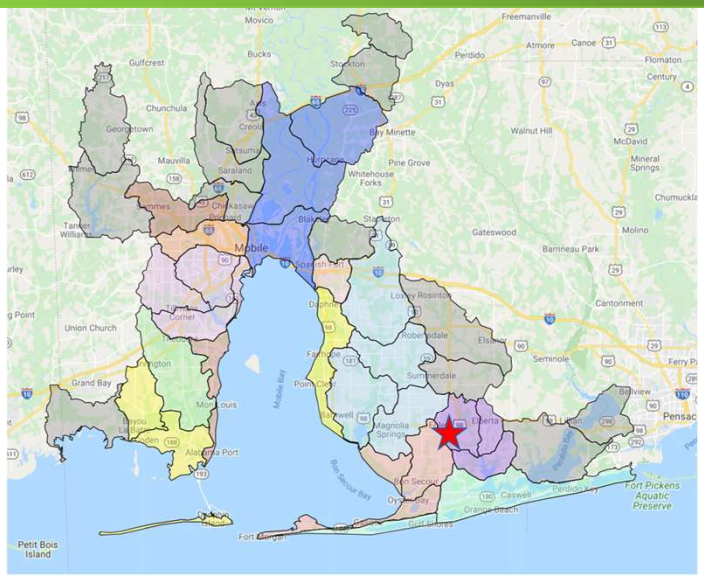
Bon Secour River Headwaters Restoration

- Headwaters Restoration Phase II Implementation – City of Foley
- Status – Pre-Bid Meeting June 1 and Bid Opening June 8
- Timeline – Construction and Restoration 1 year (July 2022)
- Potential Roadblocks – Weather

Ms. Leslie Gahagan with the City of Foley shared an update on the Bon Secour River Headwaters Restoration.

- Completed Phase I first of the year and have secured funding for Phase II construction.
- Large constructed wetlands and acquisition project funded by NFWF GEBF.

Wolf Creek Headwaters Restoration

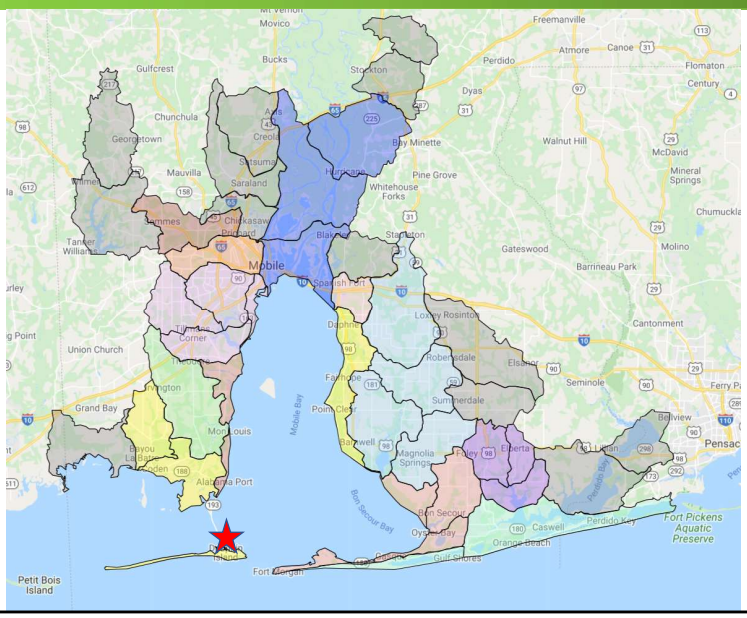


Wolf Creek Headwaters Restoration

- Headwaters Restoration Phase I Engineering & Design – City of Foley
- Status – Site Assessments underway for 3 properties
- Timeline – Landowner Easements by Fall; E &D completed by Spring 2022
- Potential Roadblocks – Landowner Concerns on 1 property; Permitting Issues

- Working with landowners to establish easements, specific sites could shift pending assessment work.

Little Dauphin Island Restoration Assessment



Little Dauphin Island Restoration Assessment – Study Overview

- **Task 1 Field Data Collection** - Hydrodynamics, elevations, and sediment tracing to provide a primary source of data for model validation and gain a better understanding of the overall sand transport pathways and processes along Little Dauphin Island.
- **Task 2 Hydrodynamic and Morphological Change Modeling** - Evaluations to help assess the resiliency of island with and without potential restoration alternatives to storm events, river flow variability and sea-level rise.
- **Task 3 Plan Development** - Evaluations of the cost and benefits of sand placement options within the nearshore area northeast of Little Dauphin Island and/or directly on the northeastern shoreline.
- **Task 4 Feasibility Report** – A report documenting the field data collection, modeling, plan development and environmental analysis.
- **Task 5 Environmental Analysis –** Preparation of documents that satisfies National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and applicable environmental laws and regulations.
- ~~**Task 6 Design and Contract Documents –** Preparation of contract documents capturing the final design including design considerations and decisions, should a feasible recommended alternative be determined.~~
- **Task 7 Project Management and Coordination** – Performance of technical management and coordination of all tasks including budgeting and scheduling

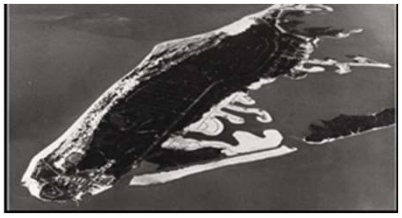
- Mr. Justin McDonald with the US Army Corps of Engineers provided an update on Little Dauphin Island activities.
- NFWF funded effort to undertake a restoration study. Predominately owned by US Fish and Wildlife.
- Working on Task 1 & 2 currently. Will deploy sediment tracers next month to inform morphological and hydrodynamic modeling.
- Building on work of the Alabama Barrier Island Restoration Study.
- Removed Task 6 and reallocated money to assess breaching at Drury Pass in a more comprehensive manner.

Survey, Wave Gage, and Tracer Deployment Zones

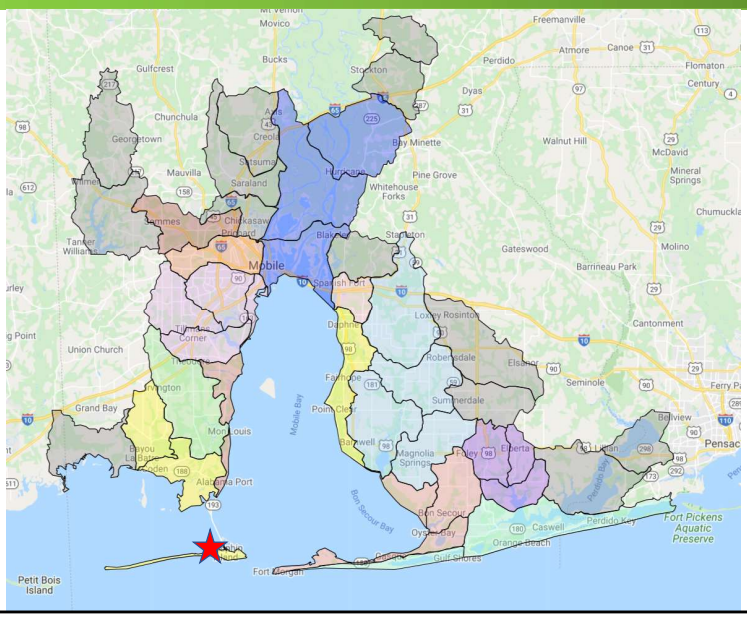
- Hashed lines are tracer deployment locations.
- Additional survey work in other hashed areas and the breach.
- Hope to deliver the draft final plan by Spring/Summer 2022.


Google Earth


Little Dauphin Island
Dauphin Island Bay
Dauphin Island

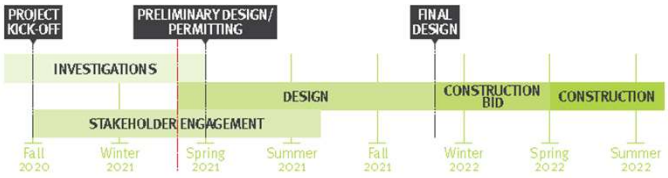


Graveline Bay Marsh Creation Project



Graveline Bay Marsh Creation Project

- **Current Status – Engineering and Design**
  - **Outreach to adjacent landholders**
  - **Investigations complete**
  - **Conceptual design complete**
- **Timeline –**
  - **30% Design mid-June; permit application**
  - **100% Design by October**
  - **Construction funding 2022**

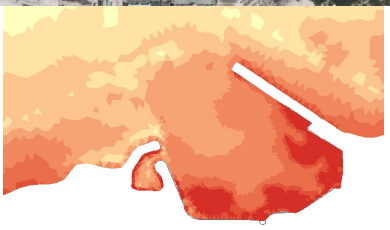



GRAVELINE BAY MARSH RESTORATION
FACTSHEET
WINTER 2021
#1
LATEST NEWS
PROJECT GOALS
TIMELINE

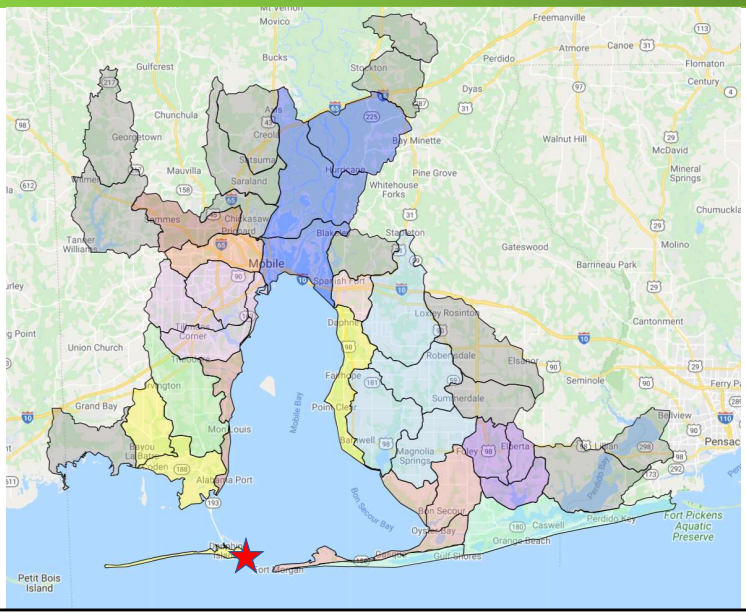
Ms. Meg Goecker with Moffat and Nichol shared an updated on the Graveline Bay Marsh Creation project.

- NFWF GEBF project at one of the largest marsh complexes on the north side of the island - identified in the Corps' Alabama Barrier Island Restoration Assessment study.
- Will use a marsh mound (high tide refuge) technique.

Graveline Bay Marsh Creation Project

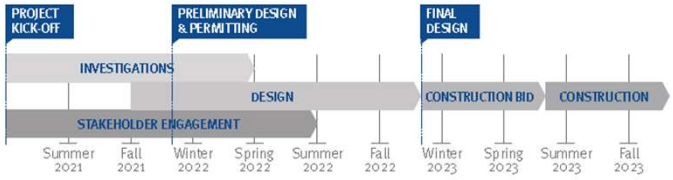


Restoration of East End of Dauphin Island



Restoration of East End of Dauphin Island

- Current Status – engineering/design (NFWF)
  - Outreach to landholders
- Timeline



- Potential roadblocks
  - Landholder agreements

Meg also shared an update on the Restoration of the East End of Dauphin Island and the following Upper Mobile Bay Wetland Creation.

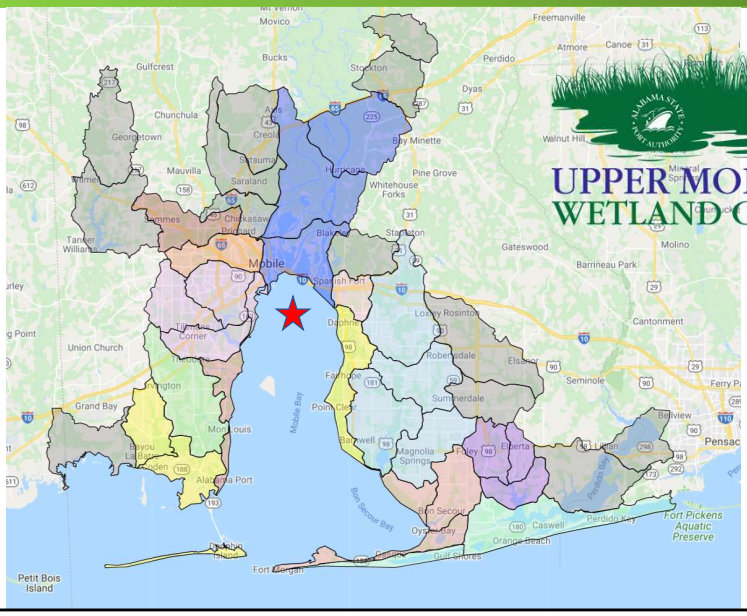
- This is a South Coast Engineers project. Moffat and Nichol are supporting this effort.
- Project was identified in the Corps' Alabama Barrier Island Restoration Assessment study.
- Direct questions to South Coast Engineers

Restoration of East End of Dauphin Island

2021 – Courtesy
of Sam St. John

Project Extent

Upper Mobile Bay Marsh Creation (ASPA)

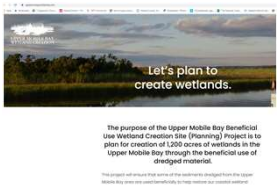


ALABAMA STATE PORT AUTHORITY

UPPER MOBILE BAY
WETLAND CREATION

Upper Mobile Bay Marsh Creation

- Current Status – engineering/design, permitting, planning
  - Outreach – www.uppermobaywetlands.com
  - Conceptual design
  - Pre-design meetings – USACE
  - Field investigations being completed
- Timeline – 2021 milestones
  - Permit application – Summer 2021



The purpose of the Upper Mobile Bay Beneficial Use Wetland Creation Site (Planning) Project is to plan for creation of 1,200 acres of wetlands in the Upper Mobile Bay through the beneficial use of dredged material.

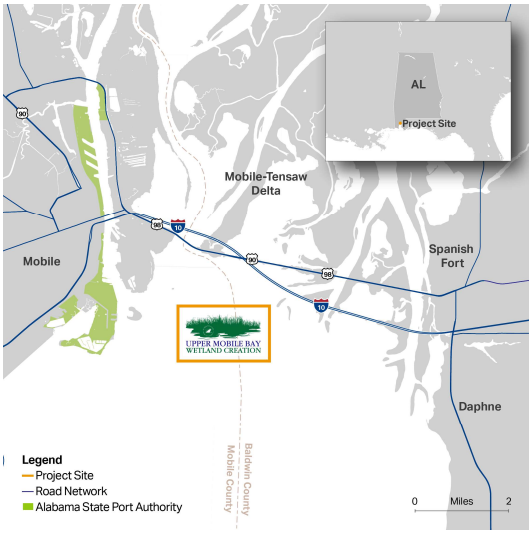
Planning is underway to create 1,200 acres of wetlands in the Bay. This project will ensure that some of the dredged sediments removed from the Upper Mobile Bay area water bottoms are used beneficially to help restore our coastal wetland habitats. Visit **uppermobaywetlands.com** to learn more.

PHASES

PHASE I	PHASE II	FUTURE PHASE
PLANNING	**INITIAL CONSTRUCTION**	**FUTURE EXPANSION**
Activities:	Activities:	Activities:
• Plan 1,200 acres • Permit 1,200 acres • Design 100 acres	• Construct wetland containment • Construct 100 acres	• Design and construct incremental expansions to build remaining 1,100 acres
2021	NEXT 5 YEARS	NEXT 20 YEARS

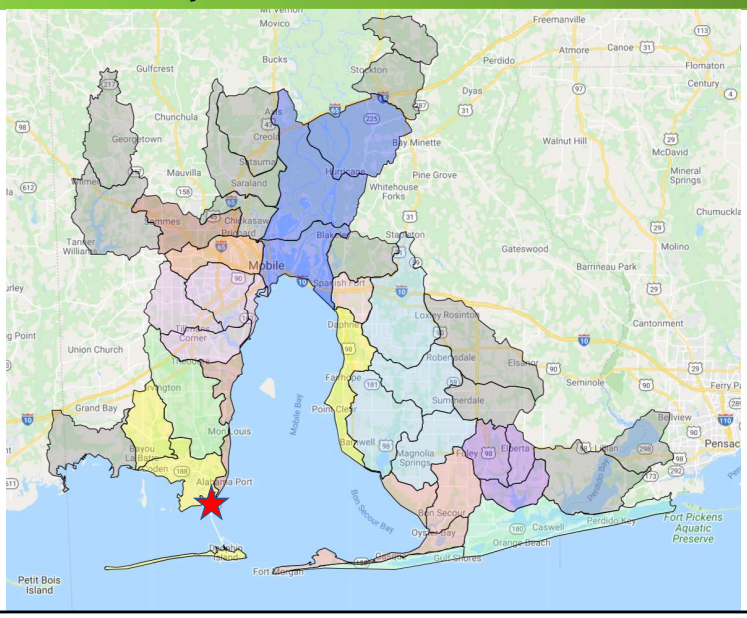
- Formally launched the project. Will have a press release and public meetings launching.
- Anticipate 60-80 acres built per year for the next 20 years.
- RESTORE Act funding for this phase of the project.
- Location selected to avoid cultural resources and SAV.

Upper Mobile Bay Marsh Creation



UPPER MOBILE BAY
WETLAND CREATION

Dauphin Island Causeway Shoreline Restoration



Dauphin Island Causeway Shoreline Restoration

- **Status Update**
  - Mobile County received funding for construction from NFWF
    - NFWF Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund - $22.6 M
    - NFWF Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund - $7.85
  - Geotechnical investigations are being completed
  - Geosyntec has continued working on 100% Plans
- **Timeline**
  - Geotechnical Investigations complete by the end of May/Beginning of June 2021
  - 100% Design Plans – July 2021
  - Begin construction date is contingent on permit.
- **Potential Road Blocks**
  - Timeline dependent on USACE dredging project

Ms. Tina Sanchez with Mobile County shared the good news that full funding has been secured to construct the project.

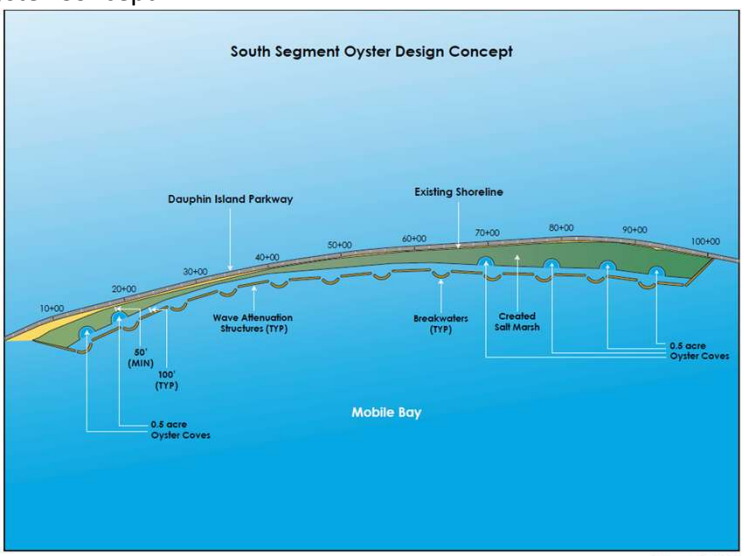
Tina also shared that the NFWF GEBF funding agreement for acquisition of the Harrison Tract is being finalized (Dog River Watershed). ~230-acre parcel near interstate on Halls Mill Creek. Will negotiate with landowners moving forward.

Improvements at Chickasabogue Park moving forward swiftly. Working with engineering firms to execute contracts to begin process.

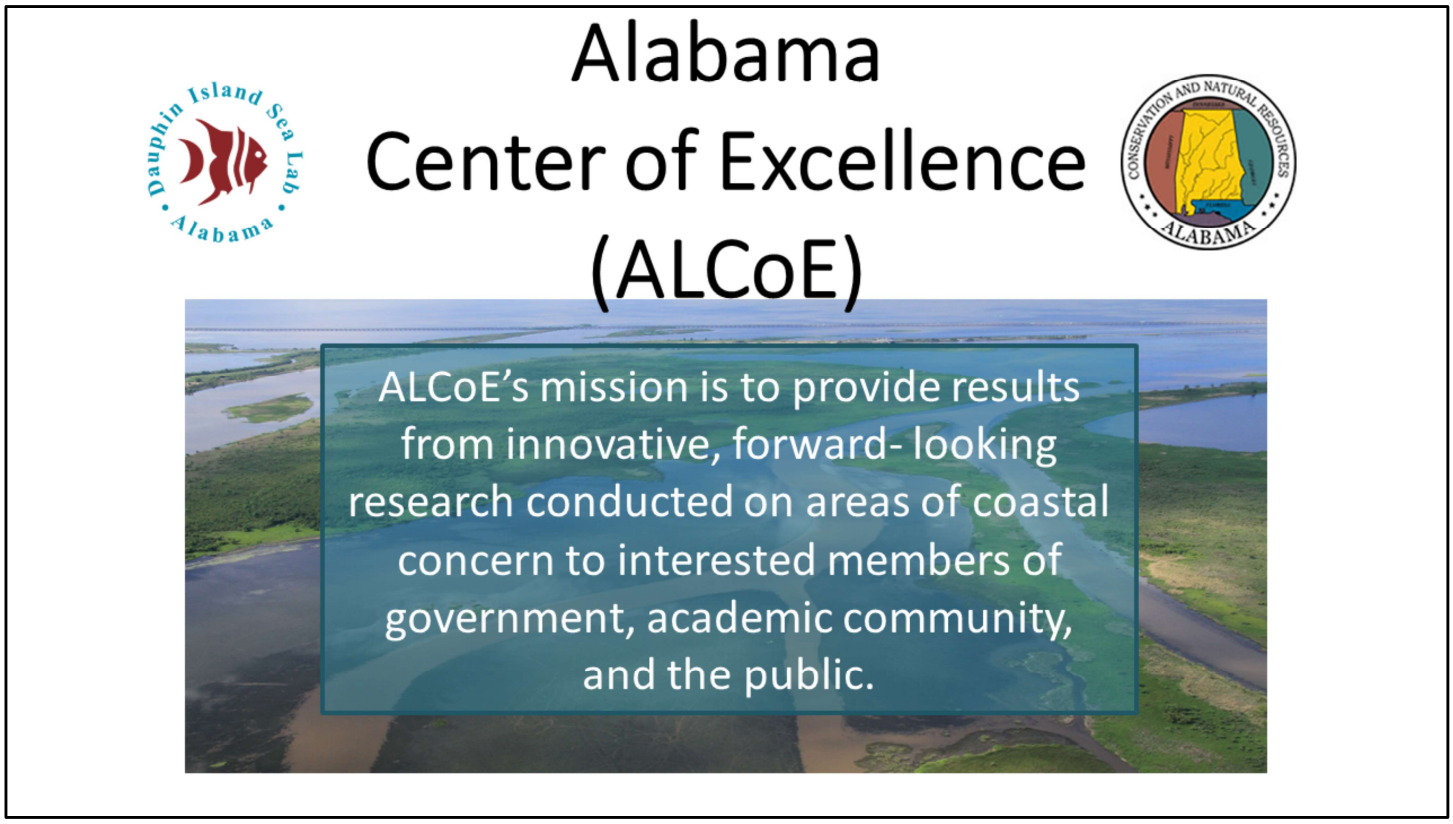
Matthew Jones with Mobile County added that Geosyntec is moving toward 100% design. Additional Geotech in the works, weather windows are hindering field activities. Additional Corps dredging project coordination expected – permit delivery and material availability are timeline critical.

Dauphin Island Causeway Shoreline Restoration

- South Segment Oyster Concept



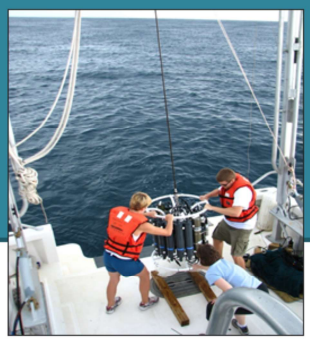
February 24, 2021

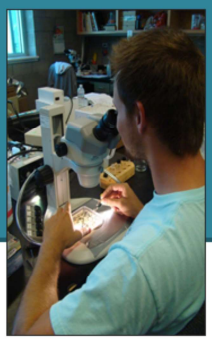


Ms. Dottie Byron with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab provided an update of the Alabama Center of Excellence. The ALCoE is asking the PIC to participate in a relevancy review of submitted proposals for a current funding opportunity.

ALCOE RFP1

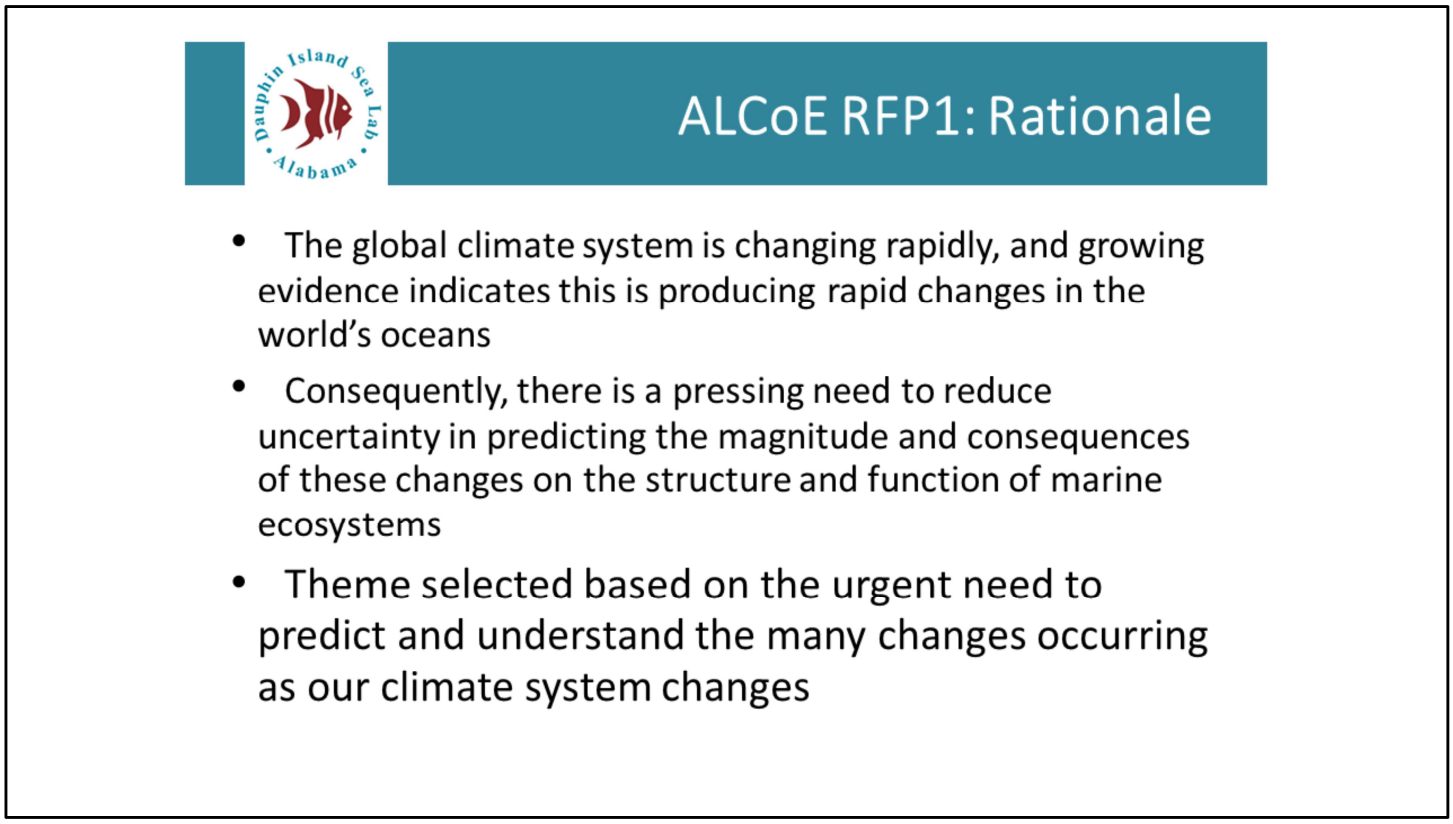
- Amount of funding available = ~$4.5 million
- Per project cost: $100,000- $500,000
- Total number of awards: 9 -12





ALCoE RFP1: Theme

The focus of research for RFP1 is on the effects of multiple stressors influenced by our changing climate as they affect the natural resources of the north central Gulf of Mexico

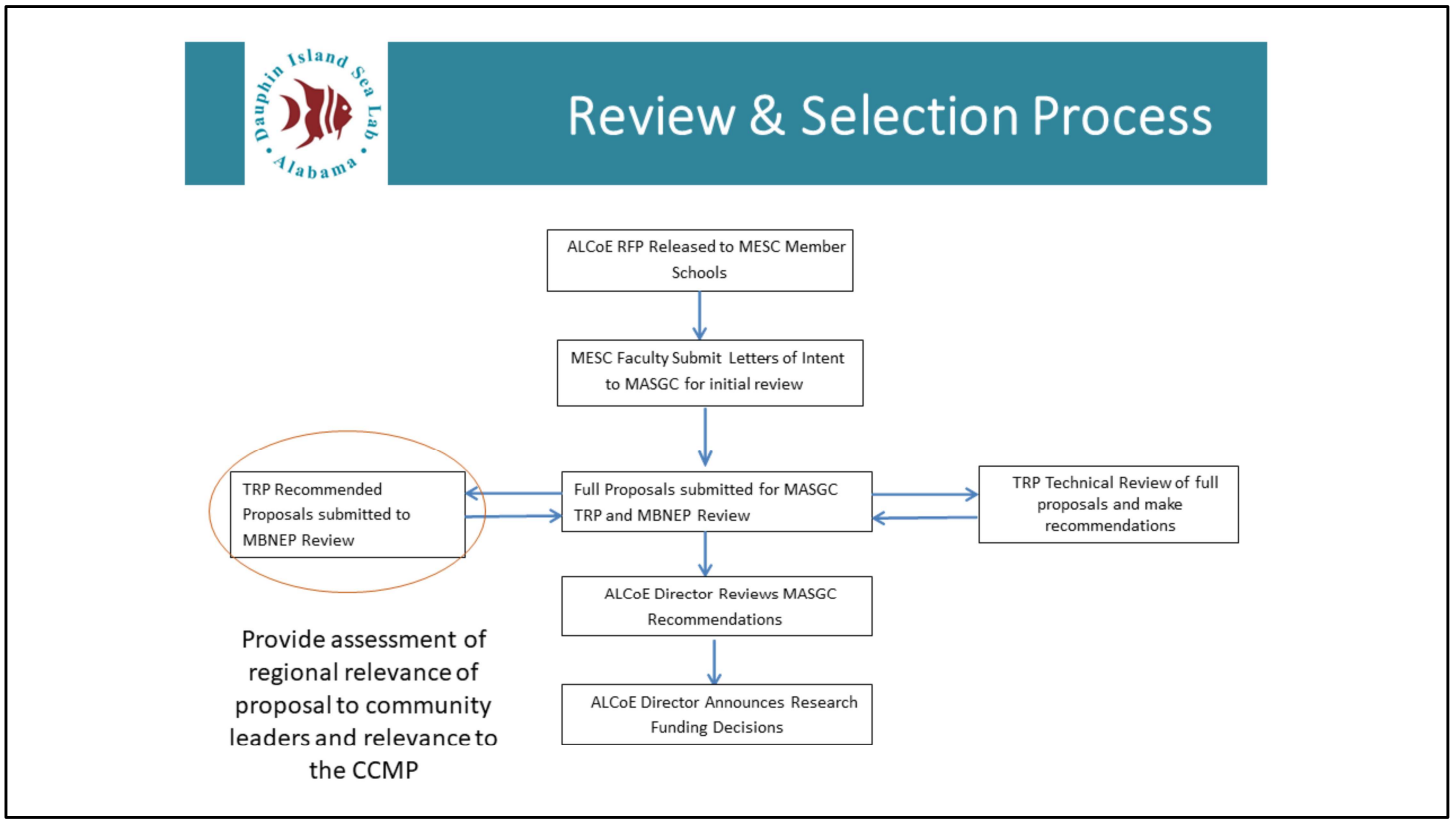


The rational for the direction of this RFP came from the increasing evidence that the global climate is changing rapidly, and this is producing rapid changes in the world's oceans. Consequently, there is a pressing need to reduce the uncertainty in predicting the magnitude and consequence of these changes on the structure and function of marine ecosystems.

Projects Must

Demonstrate how the project relates to at least one of the RESTORE Act eligible disciplines

1. **Coastal and deltaic sustainability, restoration and protection, including solutions and technology that allow citizens to live in a safe and sustainable manner in a coastal delta in the Gulf Coast Region.**
2. **Coastal fisheries and wildlife ecosystem research and monitoring in the Gulf Coast Region.**
3. Offshore energy development, including research and technology to improve the sustainable and safe development of energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico.
4. **Sustainable and resilient growth, economic and commercial development in the Gulf Coast Region.**
5. **Comprehensive observation, monitoring, and mapping of the Gulf of Mexico**.



MASGC will use a Technical Review Panel (TRP) approach to evaluate proposals sent in response to the RFP. The submission of a Letter of Intent will be required for a full proposal submission to be considered. These will not be reviewed but will serve as a means to quicken the process to find reviewers that have the right expertise to review the full proposals and minimize conflicts of interest of reviewers. The TRP will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal using the results from the reviews and at the conclusion of each discussion, the proposal will be placed into a "fundable," or "not fundable" category based on their relationship to the four selected RESTORE Act priorities.

Those proposal that are in the fundable categories will be submitted for a relevancy review by members of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Project Implementation Committee. The PIC will review projects and rate each based on relevance to the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) Upon completion of the review process, SeaGrant, will provide ALCoE's Director and Deputy Director with copies of the TRP and PIC reviews, along with all recommendations, for final determination.

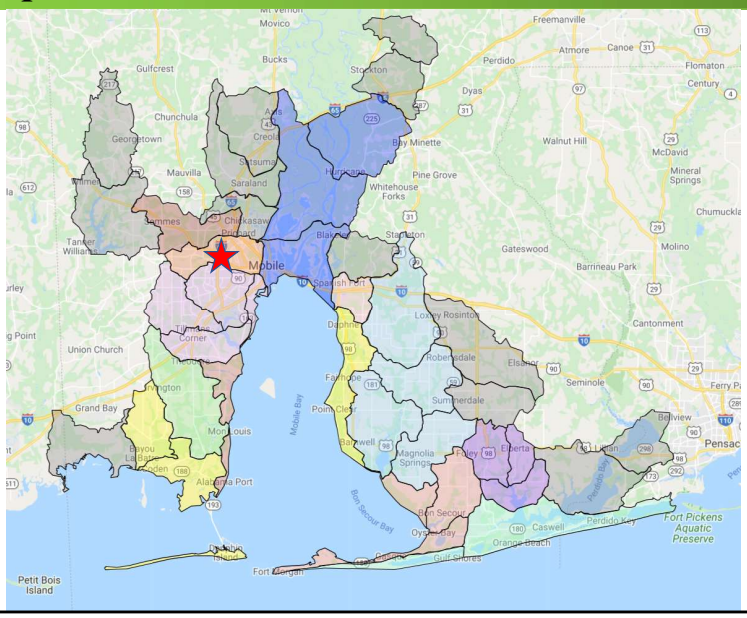
Thanks!

Projects Should -

- Priority will be given to those projects that:
  - Investigate the effects of multiple anticipated stressors on the 4 RESTORE Act eligible disciplines.
    - → Altered precipitation patterns and freshwater discharges containing altered nutrient loading
    - → Altered coastal hydrology
    - → Increased water temperatures leading to reduced oxygen concentrations
    - → Changes in pH driven by ocean acidification that could influence mineralization in ecologically and economically important taxa
    - → Increased immigration by tropical species (tropicalization), leading to shifts in species composition from warm temperate to tropical.

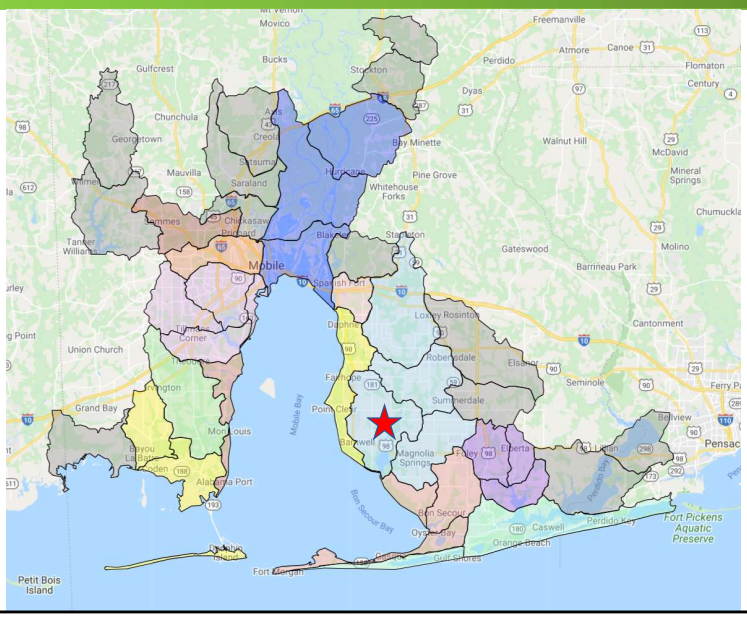
PIC was asked to share this information on GulfTREE.org. See slide.

TMC Invasive Species Control & Twelvemile Creek Restoration



- MBNEP hired American Sportfish to eradicate apple snails in Langan Lake. Using chemical treatment and manual removal. Contact Christian Miller for more information.
- 12-Mile Creek stream restoration is currently underway.
- Both projects are RESTORE funded.

Lower Fish River Restoration



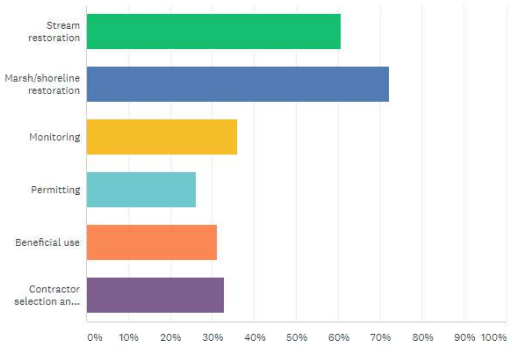
- Field assessments of targeted subwatersheds in lower Fish River have been completed.
- Results found some sediment and nutrient issues but not on the scale or magnitude of D'Olive or similar stream projects. Project team is coordinating with partners to evaluate identified issues and consider additional assessments in other nearby subwatersheds.

- MBNEP continues to undertake E&D activities at Deer River and Fowl River. Currently, drafting full proposals seeking construction fund. These projects are NFWF GEBF.

Off-cycle Meeting Survey

What topic(s) or project issue(s) interests you the most?

Answered: 61 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Stream restoration	60.66%	37
Marsh/shoreline restoration	72.13%	44
Monitoring	36.07%	22
Permitting	26.23%	16
Beneficial use	31.15%	19
Contractor selection and capacity building	32.79%	20

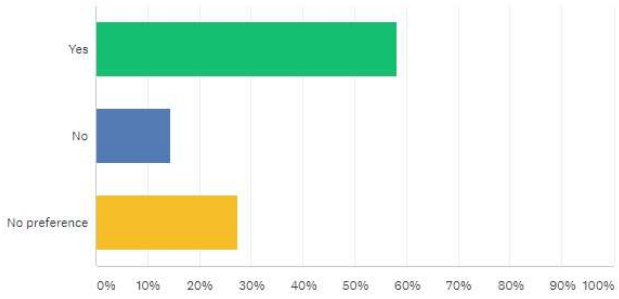
At the January 2021, meeting the PIC expressed interest in holding additional meetings in the field to expand discussion of project related topics.

- Survey was sent to narrow down and prioritize potential meeting topics.
- Group decided to hold a marsh/shoreline meeting. Will visit Lightning Details will be sent to the committee to register.

Off-cycle Meeting Survey

Prefer visiting project sites and meeting/discussing on site?

Answered: 62 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	58.06%	36
No	14.52%	9
No preference	27.42%	17

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm. Mark Berte made the motion, Patric Harper seconded.

Next meeting has yet to be scheduled. A save the date and draft agenda will be provided when determined.