



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program  
Community Action Committee  
Tuesday, October 12, 2021  
Virtual Meeting - Platform: Google Meets  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of Minutes
3. Presenters
  - **Jason Kudulis** - MBNEP, Restoration Project Manager
    - Deer River Marsh and Shoreline Restoration
    - Lower Fish River Restoration
    - Q&A
4. Announcements/Updates
  - Volunteer Monitor ADEM Reporting Protocol for rural monitors
  - ADEM Reported SSO Map Resource
  - Fowl River Area Civic Association (FRACA) Monthly Meeting
  - Watershed Planning Status Update
5. Adjourn



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program**  
**Community Action Committee**  
October 12, 2021, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Google Meet Virtual Meeting



**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Mimi Fearn, Dog River Clearwater Revival  
Leslie Gahagan, Wolf Bay Watershed Watch  
Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Ron Phelps, Little Lagoon Preservation Society  
Ted Henken, Fowl River Area Civic Association  
Eric Holladay, Dog River Clearwater Revival  
Jackie McGonigal, Wolf Bay Watershed Watch  
Dennis Hatfield, Little Lagoon Preservation Society  
Mary Buckhaults, Dog River Clearwater Revival  
Jenni Zimlich, Fowl River Area Civic Association

**MBNEP Staff:**

Madison Blanchard, Project Coordinator  
Jason Kudulis, Restoration Project Manager

**Meeting Recap:**

- A [Volunteer Water Quality Monitor Reporting Protocol](#) was developed through the CAC to aid in the process of reporting water quality issues to ADEM. Please review the document if you are a volunteer monitor and let Madison Blanchard ([mblanchard@mobilebaynep.com](mailto:mblanchard@mobilebaynep.com)) know if you have any questions.
- Grassroots groups within the CAC are interested in investigating how to grow and retain memberships. The CAC will work on increasing memberships of each group in 2022.
- Design for the Lower Fish River Watershed Restoration is 60% complete and construction is expected to begin in 2023. The Deer River Marsh Restoration engineering and design will be finalized by the end of 2021 and construction is expected to begin in 2022.
- The next CAC meeting will be on February 8, 2022 from 10a.m. to 12p.m.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Madison Blanchard opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and requesting each participant to sign-in through the chat box on the Google Meet platform. She reviewed the agenda for the meeting and introduced the Community Action Committee co-chairs.

**2. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Blanchard requested a motion to approve the minutes from the CAC's virtual meeting on July 13, 2021. Mike Shelton made a motion to approve and Mimi Fearn second.

**3. Presenter, Jason Kudulis**

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) Restoration Manager, Jason Kudulis, provided updates on MBNEP's ongoing restoration projects. The Deer River Marsh Restoration aims to stabilize and restore up to 5,600 linear feet of shoreline on Mobile Bay and enhance 275 acres of critical marsh nursery habitat; restore the hydrology of the tidal creek to sustain the currently healthy, but sediment impaired marsh; and return the marsh shoreline to its 1997 footprint. Engineering and design will be finalized by the end of 2021; construction will begin in 2022 and will be complete by 2025. This project is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund and Thompson Engineering has been selected as the contractor.

The Lower Fish River Watershed Restoration in Baldwin County has goals of improving hydrology and reducing sediment and nutrient loads to improve water quality entering Weeks Bay, and improving biological conditions of wetlands and riparian buffers of priority headwater tributaries. This project is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. The selected contractor team includes Volkert Inc., Goodwyn Mills Cawood (GMC), and Thompson Engineering. Design for this project is 60% complete, and construction is expected to begin in 2023. More details for each project can be found in [Mr. Kudulis' Restoration Update presentation](#).

#### **4. Discussion**

A Baldwin County grassroots group within the CAC expressed that they are having trouble growing their membership, although the Baldwin County population is growing rapidly. Ms. Blanchard opened the floor for other groups to indicate if they are having similar issues. The average age of Little Lagoon Preservation Society and Fowl River Area Civic Association members is rising and the groups need to recruit younger members. Wolf Bay Watershed Watch would like to grow their membership. Meeting attendees emphasized the need to educate citizens as well as growing memberships. Ideas to grow memberships were discussed, including: engaging new coastal residents via Neighborhood groups as they arrive, digital marketing campaigns, and hosting family events centered around education and entertainment. It is recognized that recruitment strategies may need to be customized for each watershed. Additionally, the groups would like to investigate how grassroots groups who have been successful in recruiting and retaining members can transfer their knowledge to groups who need help. Ms. Blanchard requested that CAC members share their ideas for growing memberships ([mblanchard@mobilebaynep.com](mailto:mblanchard@mobilebaynep.com))

#### **5. Announcements and Updates**

Ms. Blanchard gave an overview of [ADEM's Reported Sanitary Sewer Overflow \(SSO\) Map](#), an online resource showing locations of SSOs reported to ADEM by NPDES permitted facilities. The map provides the dates the SSO began and ended, coordinates of where it occurred, the receiving waterbody, number of gallons released, and the cause of the SSO. If a volunteer monitor records high E.Coli levels, they can check the map to see if the water body they monitor is receiving a sewer overflow. [Mobile Bay Keepers SSO Map](#) is a similar resource.

Ms. Blanchard and CAC Co-Chair, Mimi Fearn, developed a [Volunteer Water Quality Monitor Reporting Protocol](#) to aid in the process of reporting water quality issues to ADEM. The reporting protocol gives step by step directions on how to report issues online, tells what type of info to include and the data requirements for reporting. Please review the protocol if you are a volunteer monitor.

An update on Watershed Management Planning was provided: the Western Shore Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is complete; the Gulf Frontal WMP is out for comment; the Mobile-Tensaw Delta WMP will be complete in early 2022; the first draft of the updated D'Olive WMP is currently being edited; WMPs for Dauphin Island and the Eastern Shore are in development; an RFQ has been released for the Palmetto/Bridge Creek-Perdido WMP and the Western Delta WMP; an RFQ for the Eastern Delta WMP and the Grand Bay Swamp WMP will be released in early 2022.

The next Community Action Committee Meeting will be conducted virtually using Google Meets on February 8th 2022 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MBNEP is sharing monitoring stories via social media with the goal of communicating volunteer and other environmental monitoring findings to the public. Monitoring stories or findings can be related to restoration, water quality, litter, habitat, shorelines, etc. Monitoring story submissions can be submitted to [mblanchard@mobilebaynep.com](mailto:mblanchard@mobilebaynep.com)

## **6. Adjourn**

Ms. Blanchard thanked the meeting attendees for their time and the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m. A motion was made by Dennis Hatfield to adjourn and a second motion was made by Eric Holladay.