



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program  
Business Resources Committee  
June 4, 2024, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce**



**Minutes**

**In Attendance**

Eliska Morgan, Thompson Engineering  
John Barton, TC Boiler  
Aimee Christensen, Christensen Global Strategies  
Pamela Wellner, Christensen Global Strategies  
Michael Capella, University of South Alabama  
Jennifer Denson, Partners for Environmental Progress  
Todd Greer, Innovation Portal  
Chandra Wright, The Lodge at Gulf State Park  
Colette Boehm, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism  
Steve Stewart, SCS Engineers  
Beth Thomas, Alabama Power  
Jennifer Tremayne, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce  
Don Bates, Osprey Initiative  
Frank Smith, BankPlus

**Staff**

Roberta Swann  
Henry Perkins  
Shemika Brown  
Shar'riah

The meeting was called to order at 10:07AM. All attendees introduced themselves and their organizations, and the last meeting's minutes were accepted without discussion.

**New Business**

Aimee Christensen presented CGS's discoveries so far in the region. First she highlighted the vision for the BRC, the values and assets in the region, and the value of the blue economy. Leadership is engaged locally, national and global experts see the potential, and combined these assets provide fertile ground for work.

A general BRC Work Plan Outline was discussed, using projects identified from the March meeting.:

- Projects (suggestions)
  - Waste to-value projects: Pallets, containers, construction diversion
  - Carbon capture projects
  - Port and terminal decarbonization projects
  - Coastal ecological restoration projects
- Capacity Building: provide resources, webinars and conferences
- Reach and Engagement: progress reports, ribbon cutting events, social media

- Measurement: Contribute data from business operations on sustainability and resource impacts

The key questions to resolve to move forward were:

- How do we develop the BRC action plan to advance climate and economic development?
- How do we capture that in the CCMP?
- How do we measure progress in the next 5 years?

There was an extended open discussion that captured the following points:

- Don Bates: Truck Bed Trash Can Competition (recruitment) was significant, represented good outreach and targeted business development; green tourism; use “footprint” to communicate - language
- Mobile Chamber: Biggest challenge is waste management, waste stream; MBNEP as a resource on what projects and opportunities are there; roundtable with small businesses - challenges and opportunities
- Innovation Portal: Public education of how you can be involved and small business support
- PEP: Supply chain participants small business support (webinar on June 11)
- Awareness: Industries, small businesses (supply chain and hospitality)
- MBNEP: \$40,000 for Climate Resilience Challenge competition and \$25,000 from Alabama Power oyster restoration
- Matchmaking of waste to value - PEP database tool; Innovation Portal management
- John Barton is partnering with Don Bates, they are starting a new location in Mobile County to take some recyclable plastic.
- Support to continue with education / webinars. MBNEP role or Innovation Portal?

Next Steps:

- SME engagement: what are our greatest environmental challenges? Mobile Chamber to survey large companies in roundtable (July TBD) to determine what are their needs climate-wise, support from MBNEP and PEP
- Share resources: [10,000 Communities](#), Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, [SME Climate Hub](#), link to webinars, support organizations (Inclusiv, New Orleans Business Alliance), [Local Governments for Sustainability](#), [C40](#)
- Share PEP June 11 Lunch and Learn, Scope 3 / CA regulations trickle down impact on MSE: need to make sure BRC has the invitation / appointment.
- Next webinars June 20 and June 27 Need a time for June 20.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10