



Community Action Committee Meeting

June 8, 2022 10am-12pm
Virtual Meeting Platform: Google Meets



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of Minutes
3. Coastal Alabama Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program
 - a. Current status of Mobile and Baldwin counties
 - b. Volunteer monitoring needs
 - c. Roles of those involved in coordinating volunteer monitoring groups
 - d. Steps forward
4. Q&A
5. Announcements/Updates
6. Adjourn

Coastal AL Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program



Purpose

Develop a comprehensive volunteer monitoring program to promote the wise stewardship of our creeks, streams, rivers and bays.

Coastal AL Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program



Goals

- Educate citizens about water quality issues related to their local watershed
- Increase citizen involvement in hands-on monitoring
- Build the capacity and contributions of place-based groups
- Align monitoring efforts with watershed management planning and implementation

Coastal AL Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program



Objectives

- Establish grassroots monitoring in priority coastal Alabama watersheds; one new group annually.
- Hold three AWW workshops annually.
- Attend two watershed planning meetings annually to recruit citizen monitors.
- Present “how-to” guide to place-based groups and public; reach >200 people.



Current Status

Number of monitors

Mobile: 32

Baldwin: 28

Number of Active sites (monitored since January 2022)

Mobile: ~35

Baldwin: ~30



Current Resources

Mobile Trainers & Coordinators

- Mimi Fearn: Trainer and Coordinator
- Madison Blanchard: Trainer and Coordinator
- Jenni Zimlich: Coordinator
- Morgan Counts: Coordinator

Baldwin Trainers & Coordinators

- Jackie McGonigal: Trainer and Coordinator
- Madison Blanchard: Trainer and Coordinator
- Leslie Gahagan: Coordinator
- Angie Eckman: Coordinator
- Dennis Hatfield: Coordinator

Supplies

- Tracking supplies being loaned out to volunteers ensures all unused supplies are returned

Funding

- MBNEP: Dog River, Fowl River, MTA, Western Perdido Bay, and all other Mobile County monitors
- Any other funding sources involved?

Roles



Mobile

- Mimi Fearn: Trainer and Coordinator
- Madison Blanchard: Trainer and Coordinator
- Jenni Zimlich: Coordinator
- Morgan Counts: Coordinator

Baldwin

- Jackie McGonigal: Trainer and Coordinator
- Madison Blanchard: Trainer and Coordinator
- Leslie Gahagan: Coordinator
- Angie Eckman: Coordinator
- Dennis Hatfield: Coordinator



Needs: Individual Groups

LLPS

Increase monitors; Recruit individual to help w coordination activities

WBWW

Increase citizen monitors; Recruit Volunteer Coordinator to help with volunteer communication

FRACA

Increase monitors; Recruit individual Volunteer Coordinator to push FRACA's VWQM Program forward

DRCR

Prepare for Mimi to retire from Volunteer Coordinator position (identify and train new Volunteer Coordinator)



Needs: Overall Program

- Increase support of volunteer Trainers & Coordinators
- Create tracking document for sites in each watershed including status and site code
- Create tracking list for volunteer monitors (contact info; site they're monitoring)
- Identify Baldwin County 'hub' to house chemicals and serve as chemical/supplies pickup location for volunteers
- Work closely with new volunteers to ensure they're prepared and comfortable
- Use monitoring sites suggested in Watershed Management Plans
 - Avoid having volunteers monitor from their private property



Steps Forward

- Create shared Google Drive Document for tracking volunteer info and monitoring sites?
- Focus on supporting volunteer coordinators and trainers
- Discussion / Questions



Announcements

- New Hire at the City of Foley: Environmental Clerk
- AWW Bacteria Data Observation Protocol changes



Questions?