



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Zoom Virtual**  
**Friday, May 30, 2024, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**



**Attendees**

Chris Blankenship, ADCNR  
Scott Brown, ADEM  
Bradley Byrne, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce  
Dottie Byron, Dauphin Island Sea Lab/ALCoE  
Jennifer Dimaio, U.S. EPA Region 4  
Troy Ephriam, Ephriam & Associates Environmental Consulting, LLC  
Leslie Gahagan, City of Foley  
Charles "Skip" Gruber, Baldwin County Commission  
Ted Henken, Fowl River Civic Association  
Steve Jones, Geological Survey of Alabama  
Merceria Ludgood, Mobile County Commission  
Patti McCurdy, ADCNR, State Land

William Puckett, Baldwin County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Catherine Reaves, Alabama State Port Authority  
*(proxy for John Driscoll)*  
Lakeshia Robertson, U.S. EPA GoMD *(proxy for Marc Wyatt)*  
Elizabeth Roney, Congressman Jerry Carl's Office  
Steve Stewart, Partners for Environmental Progress  
LaDon Swann, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium  
Beth Thomas, Alabama Power Company  
Chris Thomas, U.S. EPA Region 4  
Will Underwood, ADCNR, State Lands  
John Valentine, Dauphin Island Sea Lab

**MBNEP Staff Present:** *Bethany Hudson, Christian Miller, Henry Perkins, Regan Smart, Bekah Farmer, Cody Aloï, Blair Morrison, and Roberta Swann.*

**Key Takeaways:**

- a) *Approve U.S. EPA Section 320 Funding Annual Workplan for 2024-2025*
- b) *Approve U.S. EPA Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding Annual Workplan for 2024-2025*

1. **Introductions/Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm. The group did a quick round of introductions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Chris Blankenship asked for comments or revisions to the minutes from the March 22, 2024, meeting. Hearing no remarks, Mr. Byrne made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Ludgood seconded the motion.
3. **Directors Report:**
  - **Approval of Section 320 EPA Workplan:** Ms. Swann gave a detailed overview and update of the projects and budgets within the FY 2025 EPA Section 320 Work Plan (attached). The \$850,000 funding requires 100% in matched dollars, which come from State, local governments, and other grant funds available for match. Our State and local budget is \$542,600 for the fiscal year 2025, which includes \$125,000 from the State of Alabama, \$90,000 from ADCNR, \$75,000 from both Baldwin and Mobile counties, and ten municipalities in the two counties. Any remaining funds needed are generated from in-kind contributions, which include volunteer labor hours, unrecovered indirect costs from DISL, use of city-owned machinery, the value of land donated for conservation purposes, and private donations to cover expenses incurred for events and activities carried out by local grassroots organizations and sponsored by MBNEP. The following are our projections for fiscal year 2025 match:

<b>Non-Federal Match</b>	<b>FY 2025 Budget</b>
State Appropriation	125,000
ADCNR	90,000
Baldwin County	75,000
Mobile County	75,000
City of Mobile	50,100
City of Daphne	50,000
City of Spanish Fort	5,000
City of Fairhope	20,000
Dauphin Island	5,000
Satsuma	-
Saraland	5,000
Chickasaw	-
City of Foley	40,000
City of Gulf Shores	2,500
<b>Total Non-Federal Match</b>	<b>542,600</b>

Ms. McCurdy, co-chair of the Finance Committee, made the recommendation for the work plan to be approved by the Executive Committee. Commissioner Blankenship called for a motion to approve the Section 320 EPA Workplan. Hearing no remarks, Commissioner Gruber made a motion to approve, and Dr. Puckett seconded the motion.

- **Approval of Year 4 BIL Workplan:** Ms. Swann gave a detailed overview and update of the projects and budgets within the FY 2025 EPA BIL Work Plan (attached). No match is required for this funding. Commissioner Blankenship called for a motion to approve the Year 4 BIL Workplan. Hearing no remarks, Ms. McCurdy made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Gruber seconded the motion.

**4. Old Business:** No old business.

**5. New Business:** No new business.

**6. Other/Announcements:** No announcements.

**7. Adjourn:** Hearing no questions or announcements, Commissioner Blankenship called the meeting adjourned at 3:18 pm.

# EPA Section 320 Work Plan 2024-2025

The following work plan summarizes how Section 320 U.S. EPA funds will be used to continue implementation of the current CCMP from **October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025**.

Overall, key areas of focus for the coming year will center around investigation of efficient coastal monitoring protocols and new practices for pathogen source detection, strategic implementation of recommendations in watershed management plans, investing in private sector efforts to advance resilience, and community outreach to engage as many different constituencies as possible in shaping the CCMP for 2025-2030.

## EPA Section 320 Budget: 2024-2025

Projected Revenues	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Budget	Total
EPA Annual Appropriation	850,000	850,000	1,700,000
Match	490,100	542,600	1,032,700
Match Carryover from the previous year	17,500	7,500	25,000
<b>Total Projected Revenues</b>	<b>1,357,600</b>	<b>1,400,100</b>	<b>2,757,700</b>

Description	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Budget	Total
<b>Estuary Status and Trends</b>			
EST-1: Coastal Monitoring Program	-	43,500	<b>43,500</b>
<b>Ecosystem Restoration and Protection</b>			
ERP-5: Access Enhancements	9,000	39,000	<b>48,000</b>
<b>Technical Assistance and Capacity Building</b>			
TAC-2: Business Capacity Building	-	40,000	<b>40,000</b>
TAC-4: Grassroots Capacity Building	35,402	5,000	<b>40,402</b>
<b>Education and Public Involvement</b>			
EPI-3: Community Education Program- Newsletter	8,000	8,000	<b>16,000</b>
EPI-3: Community Education Program- Signage	2,000	7,425	<b>9,425</b>
EPI-3: Community Education Program- Videos	53,217	35,000	<b>88,217</b>
EPI-5: Community Event Program- Special Events	27,000	35,500	<b>62,500</b>
EPI-5: Management Conference Support	7,000	35,000	<b>42,000</b>
<b>Management and Program Administration</b>			
Program Delivery/Operation	1,026,153	969,052	<b>1,995,205</b>
Indirect Charges	177,078	182,622	<b>359,700</b>
<b>Total Projected Expenses</b>	<b>1,357,600</b>	<b>1,400,100</b>	<b>2,757,700</b>

## EPA Section 320: Summary of Activities 2024-2025

Description	FY 2025 Budget	Projected Completion Date	Notes
<b>Estuary Status and Trends</b>			
EST-1: Coastal Monitoring Program	43,500	9/30/25	Canine Scent and Microbial Source Tracking Study- Impaired Waterbody
<b>Ecosystem Restoration and Protection</b>			
ERP-5: Access Enhancements	39,000	9/30/25	Africatown Neighborhood Plan Nature Park development; ADA access project- location TBD
<b>Technical Assistance and Capacity Building</b>			
TAC-2: Business Capacity Building	40,000	9/30/25	New Business Solutions for Community Resilience Challenge to be established working with Innovation Portal of Mobile
TAC-4: Grassroots Capacity Building	5,000	9/30/25	Support for Alabama Water Watch Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program
<b>Education and Public Involvement</b>			
EPI-3: Community Education Program- Newsletter	8,000	9/30/25	Production of <i>Alabama Current Connection</i> , a newsletter of MBNEP and ADCNR
EPI-3: Community Education Program- Signage	7,425	9/30/25	Watershed street and interpretive signage installations in Western Delta, Fly Creek, Eight Mile Creek, other
EPI-3: Community Education Program- Videos	35,000	9/30/25	Annual Meeting video production and other project documentation footage; continue <i>Wisdom on the Water</i> and <i>Bay Bites</i> partnership with WKRG
EPI-5: Community Event Program- Special Events	35,500	9/30/25	Community Events sponsorships and education & outreach materials
EPI-5: Management Conference Support	35,000	9/30/25	Provision of Technical Assistance, training and meeting support, including refreshments, to Management Conference Committees focused on CCMP 2025-2030
<b>Management and Program Administration</b>			
Program Delivery/Operation	969,052	9/30/25	Operational costs, including external professional services contractors, to provide backbone support to Management Conference
Indirect Charges	182,623	9/30/25	Approved discounted indirect rate of 15% paid to DISL to administer MBNEP EPA grant
<b>Total Projected Expenses</b>	<b>1,400,100</b>		

# EPA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Work Plan 2024-2025

The following work plan summarizes how Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funds from U.S. EPA will be used to continue implementation of the current CCMP from **October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.**

## EPA BIL Budget: 2024-2025

<b>Projected Revenues</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Total</b>
EPA	909,800	909,800	909,800	909,800	<b>3,639,200</b>
Other Leverage		575,000			
<b>Total Projected Revenues</b>	<b>909,800</b>	<b>1,484,800</b>	<b>909,800</b>	<b>909,800</b>	<b>3,639,200</b>

<b>Projected Expenses</b>					
<b>EST-1: Coastal Watershed Monitoring Program</b>					
Bay Monitoring	75,241				<b>75,241</b>
Baldwin County Monitoring	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	<b>200,000</b>
Mobile County Monitoring			50,000	50,000	<b>100,000</b>
<b>ERP-2: Community Resilience Green Infrastructure Initiative</b>					
Eight Mile Creek Watershed Management Plan	150,000				<b>150,000</b>
Eight Mile Creek Watershed Plan Implementation		100,000	100,000	100,000	<b>300,000</b>
TMC/Lower Chasaw: Gulf Village/Alabama Village	75,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	<b>275,000</b>
Wolf Bay: Beulah Heights- Foley	75,000	100,000	72,514	72,514	<b>320,028</b>
Justice 40 Low Impact Development Program	50,000	100,000	75,000	75,000	<b>300,000</b>
Project Delivery	43,648	43,648	44,957	44,957	<b>177,208</b>
<b>ERP-3: Comprehensive Shoreline Management Program</b>					
Mobile County Shoreline Management Plan	225,000				<b>225,000</b>
Shoreline Management Plan Implementation		250,241	300,000	300,000	<b>850,241</b>
Project Delivery	47,241	47,241	48,659	48,659	<b>191,800</b>
<b>Subtotal Project Related Costs</b>	<b>791,130</b>	<b>791,130</b>	<b>791,130</b>	<b>791,130</b>	<b>3,164,517</b>
Indirect Charges	118,670	118,670	118,670	118,670	<b>474,682</b>
<b>Total Projected Expenses</b>	<b>909,800</b>	<b>909,800</b>	<b>909,800</b>	<b>909,800</b>	<b>3,639,199</b>

## EPA BIL Summary of Activities: 2024-2025

Activity	Year 4 Budget	Projected Completion Date	% J40	Narrative
<b>EST-1: Coastal Watershed Monitoring Program</b>				
Bay Monitoring		Completed		Installed new equipment at Middle Bay Lighthouse; data in progress
Baldwin County Monitoring	50,000	9/30/28		Baldwin County monitoring; Canine Pathogen Detection- Waterway impaired for pathogens TBD
Mobile County Monitoring	50,000	10/1/28	100%	Support for USGS monitoring station Bayou Sara; Re-establish USGS station Three Mile Creek
<b>ERP-2: Community Resilience Green Infrastructure Initiative</b>				
Eight Mile Creek Watershed Management Plan		12/31/24		Continue development of Watershed Management Plan
Eight Mile Creek Watershed Plan Implementation	100,000	9/30/28	100%	Implementation of pathogen reduction project as recommended in watershed plan
TMC/Lower Chasaw: Gulf Village/Alabama Village	50,000	9/30/28	100%	Installation of Green Infrastructure in Gulf Village to reduce flooding
Wolf Bay: Beulah Heights-Foley	72,514	9/30/28	100%	Continued implementation of Stormwater Management Plan by City of Foley in Beulah Heights
Justice 40 LID	75,000	9/30/28	100%	Project selection and implementation in two underserved areas
Project Delivery	44,957	9/30/28	100%	
<b>ERP-3: Comprehensive Shoreline Management Program</b>				
Mobile County Shoreline Management Plan		7/31/25		Plan in progress; Continue to coordinate USACE Intergovernmental Task Force for regional sediment management
50% Cost share program	300,000	9/30/28		Build fund to implement Shoreline Management Plan in Mobile County
Project Delivery	48,659	9/30/28		
<b>Subtotal Project Related Costs</b>	<b>791,129</b>			
Indirect Charges	118,670	9/30/25		Approved discounted indirect rate of 15% paid to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab to administer MBNEP EPA grant
<b>Total Justice 40 Investments: 392,471, 43%</b>				