



Good Morning!

Please sign-in by putting
your name and organization
in the chat box.

Thanks!

**MOBILE BAY NATIONAL
ESTUARY PROGRAM
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING**



February 5, 2021

Google Meet Virtual

AGENDA

- Introductions/Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes: August 26, 2020
- Director's Report
 - Key Accomplishments
- Committee Reports
 - Science Advisory
 - Project Implementation
 - Government Networks
 - Community Action
 - Business Resources
 - Community Resources
- Old Business
 - CCMP Approval
 - Program Evaluation Findings
- New Business
- Other/Announcements
- Adjourn



CCMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013- PRESENT

- 13 HUC 12 Watershed plans under development (6)
- 17 HUC 12 Watershed plans published (9)
- 71 Acres of Flood Plain reconnected
- 300 Acres of Freshwater wetlands protected
- 3 Miles of streams being restored/restored
- 483 Acres of Tidal Wetlands being restored/restored

Annual Reductions of pollutants entering D'Olive Bay

56 TONS of nitrogen
2.8 TONS of phosphorus
5.7 TONS of sediment

1
Impaired water
removed from
ADEM's List



Joës Branch



CCMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013- PRESENT

4,697 Acres of coastal habitat protected
814 Acres of coastal habitat placed
under conservation easement.
1,728 Acres managed to control invasive
species.



CCMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013- PRESENT



18,606+ **Adult Apple Snails** removed from Langan Lake

88,491+ **Apple Snail egg clutches** destroyed



Langan Park Lake



CCMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013- PRESENT



14.7 Miles of Shoreline being stabilized/stabilized



Mon Louis Island

CCMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013- PRESENT



3,645,443 Pounds of trash removed from Mobile Bay waters

Maple St. Canal

CCMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013- PRESENT



**20 New or upgraded access
points**



Three Mile Creek

CCMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013- PRESENT



- 26 Videos** produced
- 388 Active members** of the Management Conference 2020
- 49 Create a Clean Water Future** members

CCMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013- PRESENT



29 Active volunteer monitors measuring bacteria loads in waters of Mobile and Baldwin counties

89 Active volunteer monitors measuring physical and chemical data for waters of Mobile and Baldwin counties

16 Newsletters published

60 Rain Barrels installed in Prichard, AL



SWAMP Program
Participants

CCMP ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013- PRESENT



Dollars Invested through MBNEP 2013-2020

\$ 32,247,322



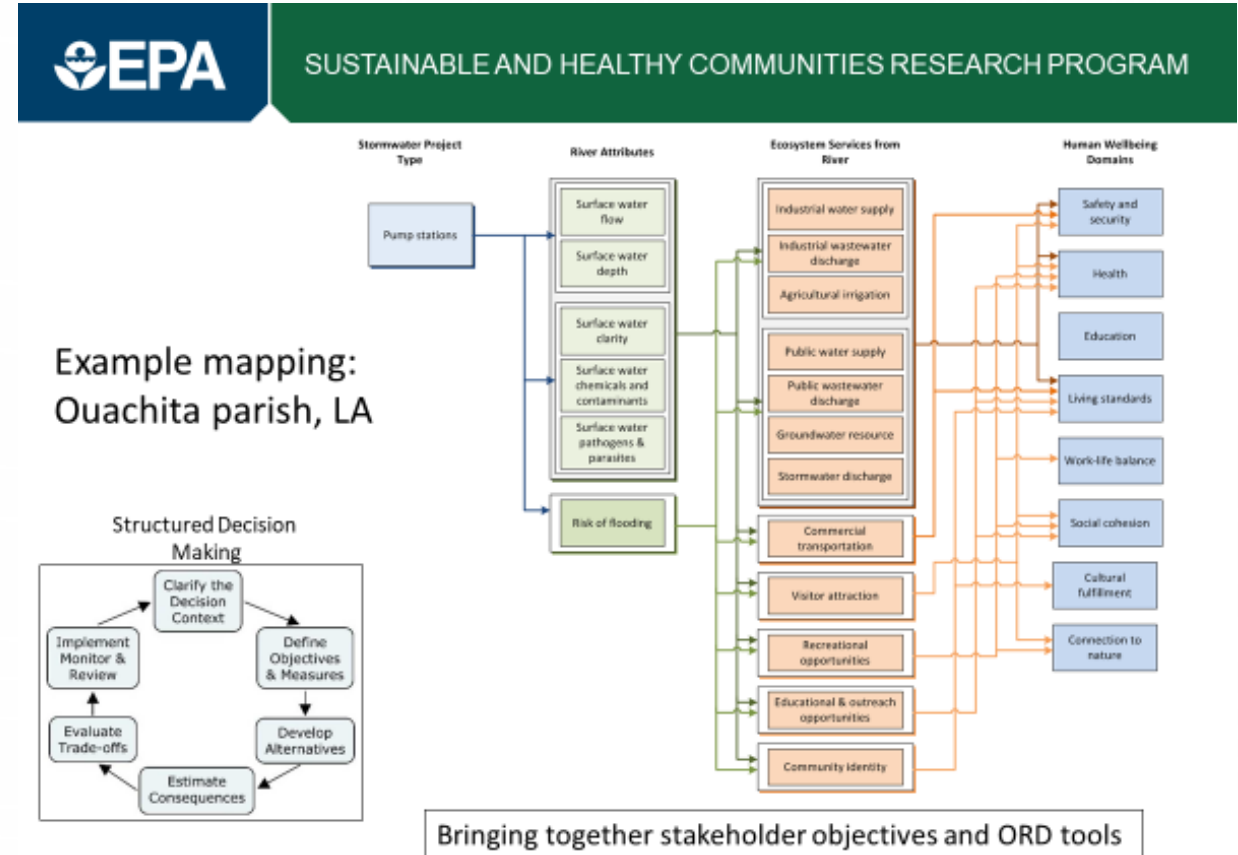
SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



MET JANUARY 29, 2021

- Committee reviewed role of SAC, timeline of CCMP
- Updates and next steps discussed for Ecosystem Status and Trends
- Subcommittees to be formed to implement stressor evaluation matrices, assist with decadal study, and expand diversity of SAC

Participants: 42



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

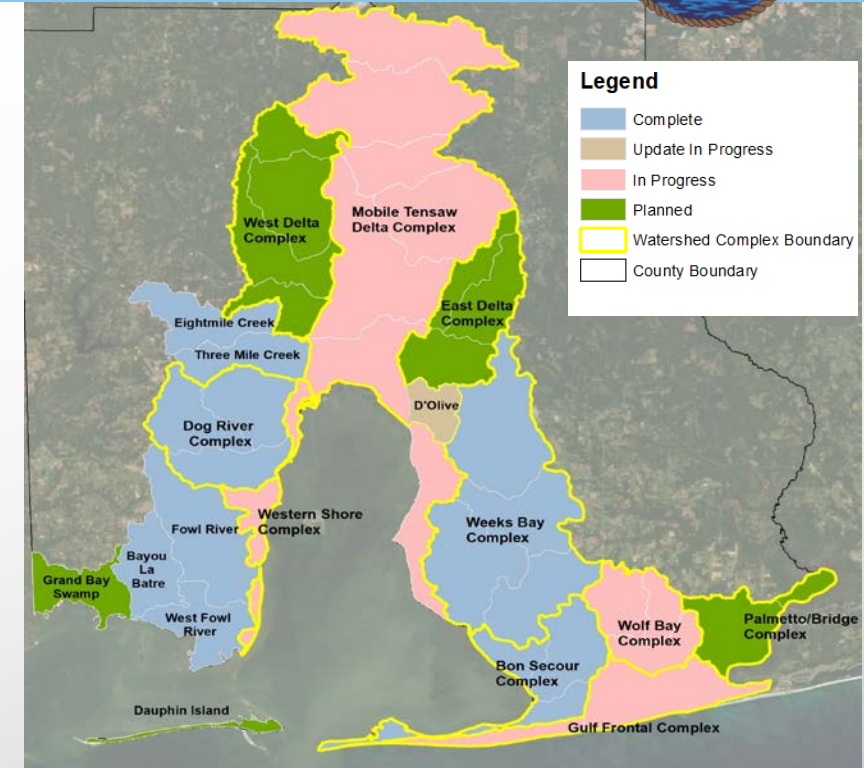


MET JANUARY 28

Partners shared over 25 ongoing projects across more than 12 watersheds:

- Bayou La Batre
- Deer River
- Delchamps Bayou
- Fowl River
- Garrows Bend
- Grand Bay Swamp
- Gulf Frontal
- Little Lagoon
- MS Sound
- Three Mile Creek
- Weeks Bay
- Lower Chasaw
- Dauphin Island
- Wolf Bay

Participants: ~50



Sam St. John flythecoast.com

GOVERNMENT NETWORKS COMMITTEE



MET FEBURARY 5, 2021

- MET FEBRUARY 5TH
- REVIEWED CCMP OBJECTIVES (TAC)
- UPDATING COASTAL ALABAMA REGULATORY REVIEW
 - FOCUS ON LITTER
- UPDATED ON THE STATUS OF WATERSHED PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION
 - BEGINNING DEVELOPMENT OF REMAINING COASTAL WATERSHED PLANS

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

South Alabama Stormwater Regulatory Review

January 2018

Prepared For:

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
118 North Royal Street – Suite 601
Mobile, Alabama 36602

Prepared By:

John Carlton, CPESC
33507A US Highway 31
Spanish Fort, Alabama 36527



This report has been prepared under contract PO # 40206, 467-5394-3100-2900-PIR

Participants: 30

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE



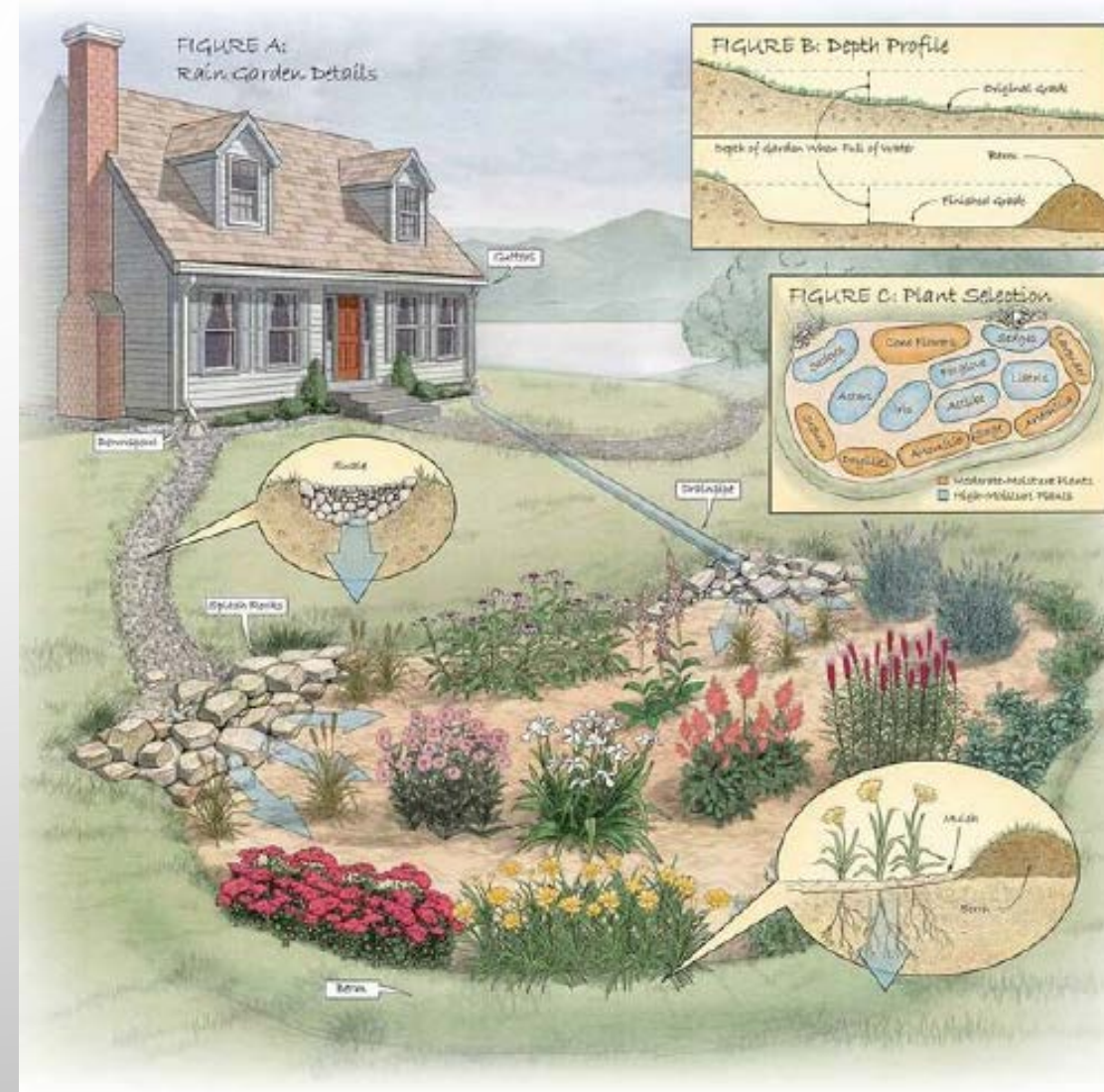
MET JANUARY 26, 2021

- Rain Gardens- identifying the garden area; size and depth calculations; appropriate native plants; ecological services and benefits
- **Guest Speaker:** Bob Howard, Master Gardener

UPCOMING 2021 MEETINGS

- APRIL 13, 2021: CITIZEN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING- WHO, WHERE, HOW
- JULY 13, 2021: THREE MILE CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION
- OCTOBER 12, 2021: MON LOUIS ISLAND TIP RESTORATION

Participants: 15



BUSINESS RESOURCES COMMITTEE



MEETS FEBRUARY 10, 2021

Advanced strategy to meet the needs of Alabama oystermen

- Revolving Loan Fund



Developing technology for litter reduction

- Truck Bed Trash Can Competition
- Next steps

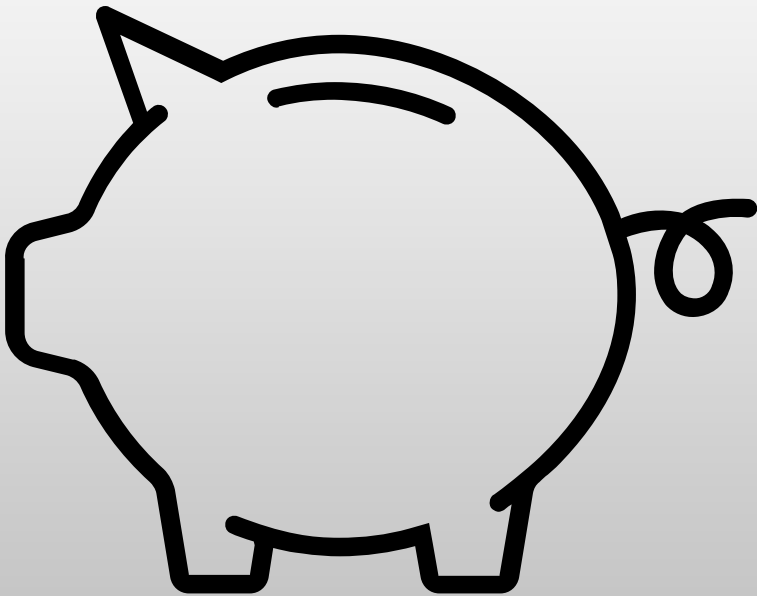
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE



MET JANUARY 20, 2021

- The **CRC Trash Abatement Work Plan** has been approved as a “living document,” with individual subcomponents that include:
 1. Reduction in Trash/Litter Prevention
 2. Litter Removal
 3. Increased Recycling
 4. Policy
 5. Education
 6. Awareness
 7. Behavior Change
 - * The Behavior Change subcomponent remains under development.
- Subcommittees are being formed to refine metrics for each subcomponent.
- As CRC organizations pursue projects falling under each subcomponent, a **CRC Trash Abatement Database** is being developed to:
 1. Facilitate collaborative opportunities and avoid duplication or redundancy.
 2. Ensure data is tracked, accurate, and shared.

Participants: 12



Goals of Committee

1. Educate local, State, and federal government agencies about the value of the MBNEP
2. Cultivate engagement of local, State, and federal government and private sector interests in specific projects
3. Secure long-term investments from local, State, and federal government and private sector interests to sustain program delivery

MBNEP Commitment 2021: To work with this committee to develop a plan for diversifying funding base.

CCMP APPROVAL



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3104

January 19, 2021

Ms. Roberta Swann, Director
Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
118 N. Royal St. Suite 601
Mobile, Alabama 36602

SUBJECT: Update to the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

Dear Ms. Swann:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has assessed the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's (MBNEP) *Respect the Connect: A Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Alabama's Estuaries and Coast, 2019-2023*. The EPA has verified that the MBNEP CCMP is consistent with the CCMP Revision and Update Guidelines and the NEP Funding Guidance. Therefore, the MBNEP CCMP is officially considered final by the EPA.

The EPA would like to recognize the MBNEP and the entire Management Conference for its tireless efforts in updating the CCMP. I would like to specifically thank you and Tom Herder of your staff for your extensive efforts in completing the update and production of two supporting documents, the Climate Vulnerability Assessment and the Draft Communications Strategy. The EPA is eager to learn how each citizen, scientist, local community, public agency, and stakeholder who has been called to action by the MBNEP CCMP will contribute to the restoration, stewardship, and ultimate health of the Mobile Bay study area. On behalf of EPA Headquarters and Region 4, congratulations on a job well done.

The EPA is looking forward to receiving the next MBNEP CCMP update in 2023. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 404-562-9243 or Chris Plymale of my staff at 404-562-9794.

Sincerely,
**THOMAS
MCGILL**

Thomas McGill, Chief
Ocean, Wetlands and Streams Protection Branch
Water Division

Digitally signed by THOMAS
MCGILL
Date: 2021.01.19 11:03:54 -05'00'

PROGRAM EVALUATION FINDINGS



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
WATER

January 20, 2021

Ms. Roberta Swann
Executive Director
Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
118 North Royal Street, #601
Mobile, AL 33602

Dear Ms. Swann,

Thank you and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) staff, as well as your partners, for contributing to the 2020 Program Evaluation (PE) process. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the results of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2020 PE. We recognize that you put considerable effort into both the PE package and the responses to our follow-up questions. We also appreciate your facilitation of the PE Team's online site visit that enabled the team to participate in meetings for all of the committees in your Management Conference.

I would like to note that your evaluation benefited from the voluntary participation of Duane De Freese, Executive Director of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, and Kathy Hill, Deputy Director of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, who served in an ex officio capacity on the PE Team. Duane and Kathy's participation provided the team members with an invaluable National Estuary Program (NEP) perspective.

The primary purpose of a PE is to help EPA determine whether the twenty-eight NEPs are making adequate progress implementing their Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs). The evaluation process has considerably enhanced the EPA headquarters and Regional knowledge of each NEP and promoted the sharing of innovative projects and approaches across all twenty-eight NEPs. In addition, EPA uses the PE process to assess how the NEPs support Clean Water Act (CWA) core programs and to evaluate the extent and effectiveness of the NEPs' contributions to the achievement of the relevant EPA 2018 - 2022 Strategic Plan goal – Goal 1: A Cleaner, Healthier Environment, Objective 1.2, Provide for Clean and Safe Water.

2020 Program Evaluation Findings

The following summary highlights the PE Team's key findings by identifying the MBNEP's: (I) Progress Made in the Areas Highlighted in the 2015 PE, (II) Support of CWA Core Programs, (III) Strengths, and (IV) Challenges. This summary is intended to recognize MBNEP's successes and to recommend efforts strengthen the program further. The program's actions in response to these recommendations will be evaluated in the next PE cycle.

I. Progress Made in the Areas Highlighted in the 2015 Program Evaluation Review

The 2015 PE Team indicated in its findings letter that the MBNEP needed to address the following key issue areas.

Ecosystem Status and Trends – Assessment and Monitoring

MBNEP made significant progress over the five-year evaluation period to address this challenge. A comprehensive Monitoring Framework was developed and piloted during the reporting period. Implementation of the monitoring framework as it applies to each watershed aims to answer questions pertaining to trends in the Bay and its surrounding watersheds with respect to water quality, flow, sedimentation, living resources, and habitat. Pre- and post-project monitoring has been a component of restoration projects during the review period.

Although MBNEP did not publish an official "State of the Bay" report during the reporting period covered by the PE and has no plans to do so in the near-term, the program communicated status and trends information through many different channels to keep stakeholders abreast of what was happening in the Bay and its surrounding watersheds.

Climate Change

Impacts associated with sea level rise and other fallout from a changing climate have been drivers for the program's project planning and implementation efforts. MBNEP's efforts have benefitted largely from extensive work conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Alabama through its Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan Tool.

MBNEP did not create a risk-based climate change vulnerability assessment during the review period; however, the program conducted an assessment broadly consistent with EPA guidance as part of the process of updating the CCMP for 2018-2023. This assessment will be used to shape how the strategies of the CCMP are implemented over the next five-year period and will prompt consideration of project return periods related to any restoration activities undertaken.

- **OTHER**
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- **ADJOURN**



A Wish for Eternal Peace...
Dottie Teague Lawley
October 27, 1948 - January 30, 2021

