



Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE

Roberta Swann, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP)
Christian Miller, MBNEP
Randy Davis, M&R Solutions, LLC
Christopher Warn, Environmental Science Associates (ESA)
Tim Thibaut, Vittor and Associates
Steve O'Hearn, Thompson Engineering
Suzanne Sweetser, Thompson Engineering
Mike Eubanks, Thompson Engineering
Eric Schneider, ESA
Emily Miller, Thompson Engineering
Alfred Guarisco, Village Point Park Preserve
Tim White, City of Daphne
Tim Patton, Daphne Utilities
Casey Fulford, Alabama Association of Conservation Districts
Christina LaJeune, City of Fairhope
Henry Perkins, MBNEP
Grey Cane, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA)/resident
Connie Whitaker, South Alabama Land Trust (SALT)
Ashley Campbell, Baldwin County Planning and Zoning
Joey Nunnally, Baldwin County Highway Department
Casey Williams, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce
Troy Ephriam, Ephriam and Associates Environmental Consulting, LLC
Craig Pouncey, Coastal Alabama Community College
Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)
Cathy Barnette, Old Towne Daphne Association/Dewberry
Corey Martin, City of Fairhope City Council/Resident
Selena Vaughn, Daphne Utilities



AGENDA TOPICS

- The meeting was held on July 30, 2021 at the Baldwin County Satellite Courthouse.
- The Team presented watershed characterization and conditions results.
- The Team also presented results from the online survey (Appendix).

DISCUSSION

- It was suggested that the largest developmental growth in Fairhope has been in the headwaters of Fly Creek and Point Clear Creek.
- There was a lot of discussion about public access; specifically that not all the access points had been identified.
- Tim Thibaut presented data on SAV (2019 map compared with 1966 map) that sparked interest for participants. They wanted to see historical maps and wanted to understand the definition of SAV and the importance for it in the bay. Tim also mentioned that the estimated wetlands within the watershed is 3,498 acres.
- Chris Warn discussed the water quality and climate change/resiliency aspects of the watershed. Specifically, he mentioned that the sea level has risen about 1.35-feet over the past 100 years in this area.
 - It was mentioned that there is a need for more public education about environmental problems and specifically about how citizens can take actions to reduce sewage problems by not putting grease or “flushable” wipes down their drains.
 - Shoreline erosion along D’Olive Bay and Yancey Creek was a topic of concern.
- Randy Davis and Troy Ephriam presented the online survey results. They were well received and did not invoke any surprises. All meeting participants were encouraged to get others to take the online survey to get a higher level of participation across all sectors of the watershed.
 - Corey Martin brought up concerns about Alabama SB107, and potential effects on orderly planning and zoning within the watershed. Along the same lines participants were interested in riparian buffers along the bay and how passage of Senate Bill 107 would impact the City’s authority over these buffers. SB107 states: *“Under existing law, the police jurisdiction of a municipality having a population of 6,000 persons or more may extend for three miles from the corporate limits and the police jurisdiction of a municipality having less than 6,000 persons may extend for one and one half miles from the corporate limits. This bill would provide that the police jurisdiction of a municipality would not be extended but would provide that a municipality may reduce its police jurisdiction by any half-mile increment or eliminate its police jurisdiction. Under existing law, the planning jurisdiction of a municipality, including the approval of subdivisions, extends for five miles from the corporate limits (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction). This bill would limit the jurisdiction of a municipal planning commission to the corporate limits of a municipality.”*



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- Currently, zoning outside of city limits is citizen driven and subject to a referendum vote to get county zoning.
- Joey Nunnally discussed storm debris removal from Hurricanes Sally and Zeta (2020). He stated that the debris removal project for navigable streams had been completed.
- Suzanne Sweetser summarized the tentative watershed plan meetings:
 - September 2021, Public Stakeholder Meeting
 - January 2022, Presentation of Watershed Management Measures and Critical Issues to Steering Committee
 - April 2022, Public Stakeholder Meeting for present findings/recommendation of the Draft Watershed Management Plan.