



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Government Networks Committee
May 26, 8:00 am – 9:30 am**



**Killian Room, International Trade Building
250 N. Water Street, Mobile, AL**

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- a) Provide status of NFWF GEBF & RESTORE funding
- b) Overview of the Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan
- c) Review findings of South Alabama Stormwater Regulatory Update

1. Welcome and Introductions

GNC Co-Chairs:

Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood, Baldwin County

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

3. Old Business

- a) NFWF GEBF/RESTORE Update – Amy Hunter, ADCNR
- b) Watershed Planning Update – Christian Miller, MBNEP

4. New Business

- a) Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan – David Newell, US Army Corps of Engineers
- b) South Alabama Regulatory Update – John Carlton

5. Adjourn

Minutes

In attendance: Joseph Abston, Washington County Commission; Billie Jo Underwood, Baldwin County Commission; Merceria Ludgood, Mobile County Commission; William Puckett, Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee; Scott Bannon, ADCNR-MRD; Jeff Collier, Town of Dauphin Island; Amy Hunter, ADCNR; Chris Thomas, EPA Region 4; Patty McCurdy, ADCNR-State Lands; Amy Hunter, ADCNR; Diane Burnett, SARPC; Mike McMillan, City of Spanish Fort; Casey Rains, City of Spanish Fort; Casi Callaway, City of Mobile; Leslie Gahagan, City of Foley; Judith Adams, Alabama State Port Authority, Justin McDonald, US Army Corps of Engineers; Dan Bond, City of Gulf Shores; Matthew Jones, Mobile County; Clair Dorough, City of Bay Minette; Kim Burmeister, City of Fairhope; Elizabeth Roney, Office of Rep. Jerry Carl; Veronica Hudson, City of Saraland; Nicole Taylor, SARPC; Mike Sharp, NFWF; John Carlton; Newton Cromer, Saraland City Council; Rickey Rhodes, SARPC; Margie Wilcox, AL House of Representatives; Mary Brown, City of Creola; Don Nelson, City of Creola; Ralph Helmich, City of Foley; Tina Sanchez, Mobile County; Skip Gruber, Baldwin County Commission; Taylor Buffkin, Baldwin County Commission; Jerry Carl, US House of Representatives; Chris Plymale, EPA Region 4; Gail Ambrose, City of Prichard; Meredith LaDart, USACE; David Newell, USACE; Ashley Forwood, USACE

Staff: Roberta Swann, Bethany Hudson, Marti Messick, Christian Miller

Takeaways

- The Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan is a stakeholder driven planning tool that will aid in creating more resilient communities, economies, and natural systems in Coastal Alabama.
- The recently updated South Alabama Regulatory Review provided additional information on stormwater and litter regulations and is being utilized by many municipalities to inform modifications to their regulatory structure.
- The State recently awarded 12 projects under the RESTORE-funded water quality program. Additional funding will soon be made available through GOMESA to fund additional water quality/habitat conservation and restoration projects.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 A.M.

Commissioner Ludgood asked for a motion to approve the minutes which was made by Mr. Puckett and seconded by Mr. Cromer.

Next, Christian gave an update on coastal watershed planning

- Completed: Western Shore, Gulf Frontal, and D'Olive Update
- In Progress: MTA Delta, Eastern Shore, Dauphin Island,
 - These should all be wrapping up sometime this summer
 - A stakeholder workshop was recently held for the Eastern Shore plan and provided some good information for prioritizing management measures that will help in defining the recommendations and implementation strategies.
 - Dr. Alex Bebe, a Geologist at USA, is wrapping up some work in the Little Lagoon area looking at nutrients in groundwater. This study will help inform the ongoing discussion regarding the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant.
- Just getting underway: Perdido, Western Delta, Eastern Delta
- Remaining: Grand Bay
 - Initial conversations have been held with the State of Mississippi regarding partnering on this effort.
- For updates on watershed planning visit the MBNEP website:
<https://www.mobilebaynep.com/watersheds>

Next, David Newell and Ashley Forwood with the US Army Corps of Engineers provided an overview of the Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP).

- The ACCP is proactive and stakeholder-driven planning tool designed to facilitate a greater

understanding of the dynamic **social, environmental, and economic** landscapes of the Coastal Alabama community.

- The State and its partners work with stakeholders to determine where opportunities exist to make improvements across multiple community sectors in support of our Coastal Alabama values.
- Tabs on the Home Page represent the 8 value areas identified in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.
- The “**About**” tab outlines the ACCP’s goals and objectives, objectives for the ACCP include:
 - Identifying the public’s social, economic, and environmental visions for Coastal AL
 - Highlight existing plans that support those visions
 - Identify vulnerabilities
 - Uncover opportunities for resilience
- The “**Public Involvement**” section houses stakeholder comments that were categorized into the afore mentioned value areas.
- The “**Overview**” page explains that the public comments came out of 17 meetings where individuals documented on a map what they considered important to Coastal Alabama today, in 10 years, 25 years, and 50 years. Meeting minutes can also be accessed from this Overview page.
- Public comments were placed on a map and be broken out by category, or value area, to further refine the search criteria.
- The map viewer can zoom in and around the dynamic map to choose specific locations to review comments.
- The “**Plan Documents**” tab contains an updated list of comprehensive watershed management plans for the areas within the ACCP. This list can be searched and filtered based on value criteria.
- The “**Storm Surge**” tab includes three maps that simulate average storm surge flooding scenarios for 50-year, 100-year, and 500-year storm events. Within each “**Year Event**” tab are three simulation maps, separated by current conditions, ½ meter sea level rise, and 1 meter sea level rise.
- the “**All Events**” tab overlays the three events for an easier comparison, and the viewer can interact with this map and see more information by clicking on a specific point in the map. The “**Advanced**” tab allows the viewer to alter the visibility of each data later.
- The “**About the Data**” tab allows the user to download the data and provides other resources.
- the “**Cultural Sites**” layer illustrates counts of potentially impacted cultural sites by storm surge event. Like the “**Storm Surge**” tab, this illustration is broken up by tabs labeled 50-, 100-, and 500-Year Flood Events, and within each of those, the current data is compared to ½ meter and 1 meter sea level rise data.
- the “**Habitat**” tab shows where Oyster Suitability and Wetland Succession were prioritized.
- The Oyster Habitat Suitability (HSI) layers mimic how sea level rise and increased salinity may change the quality and extent of suitable habitat. This information will inform resource managers and other viewers about the location of oyster habitats over time and under different conditions - from highly suitable to potentially unfavorable.
- “**The Data**” tab is where the viewer can find and download the ArcGIS layer information.
- Still under the “**Habitat**” tab at the top, the “**Wetland Succession**” information is set up similarly to the Oyster Suitability section. First there’s an overview of the layers, which were created to show how sea level rise and increased salinity may affect wetland extent, classification, and species composition in each area. The Map, or “**Wetland Succession Tool**”, visually specifies how and where some of these sea level changes may occur, although this tool is undergoing some construction at this time. Like the previous layer, ‘The Data’ tab shows this Wetland Succession ArcGIS layer.
- The “**Structure Risk**” tab displays a comparison of structural damage in dollars based on different storm events and conditions. They are displayed for the 10-Year, 50-Year, and 100-Year flood events, with flood damage dollars and impacted structures calculating as the viewer explores the map. You’re looking at a comparison of the 10-year event here.
- The “**Transportation**” tab displays the total counts and amounts of transportation features by Census Tracts under current and future sea level rise scenarios. Below the map impacted transportation features are calculated and updated as the viewer moves around the map.

- The “**Wastewater**” tab is included to show the count of wastewater infrastructure potentially impacted in the selected simulation scenario. Like other area tabs, the indicators under the map calculate and update the data pulled from the current view of the map.
- the Watershed Management Plan Projects includes a compiled list, shown geospatially, of recommendations that have come from completed water management plans. They’re able to be filtered by watershed, project type, and by other criteria, or by zooming into the map. Clicking on “More Info” button will take you directly to the link associated with the plan you’re interested in.
- The ACCP can be accessed here: <https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Alabama-Coastal-Comprehensive-Plan/>

Next, John Carlton discussed the South Alabama Regulatory Update

- This project reviewed and updated the 2018 regulatory review.
- Both reviews covered the 27 jurisdictions in Mobile and Baldwin counties and a regulatory matrix was prepared for each county
- A garbage and trash survey was added for the 2021 update due to requests for this information from municipal and county partners
- Regulatory areas of interest were consistent between surveys and consisted of:
 - Construction-phase BMPs
 - Post construction stormwater management
 - Coastal area resource protection
 - Low impact design
 - Shoreline structures and stabilization
- This product will be required to be updated on a routine basis due to the nature of these regulations being constantly reviewed, modified, and amended.
- Notable State regulatory changes:
 - ADEM updated the NPDES construction general permit (ALR10) in March of 2021 – however there was no impact to the specific regulatory areas of interest of this report.
 - The State of Alabama enacted Senate Bill 107 - amends several sections of the local government enabling statutes and effectively limits a municipality’s permitting and code enforcement jurisdiction to its corporate limits, thereby returning permitting of land development in any ETJ to the county.

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
South Alabama Stormwater Regulatory Update September 2021

• **2021 Summary of Stormwater Regulatory Responses by Local Governments**

Regulatory Category	Baldwin		Mobile	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Construction Phase BMPs regulations	14	1	8	4
Post Construction Phase SW Management regulations	14	1	11	1
Coastal Resource Protection regulations	8	7	4	8
LID regulations	7	8	5	7
Shoreline Protection regulations	4	11	0	12
MS4 Permit Coverage	4	11	6	6

• **2021 Summary of Garbage/Trash/Litter Responses by Local Governments**

Category	Baldwin		Mobile	
	Yes	No/NR	Yes	No/NR
Routine Garbage Collection Program	15	0	9	3
Routine Trash/Bulky Collection Program	15	0	8	4
Litter Ordinance	10	5	10	2
Anti-Litter Program	9	6	9	3
Recycling Program	7	8	5	7

• **Quick Summary of Stormwater Regulation Changes**

Category	2018	2021
Construction BMPs	23	23
Post Construction	22	25
Coastal Resource Protection	12	14
LID	8	13
Shoreline Protection	4	4
MS4 Coverage	10	10

- A lot of the municipalities in Baldwin County require citizens to participate in the County’s trash program. There is no similar program in Mobile County.
- A significant increase in communities that at least reference LID in regulations, although the number of communities that require LID is still relatively low.
- This resource has been very beneficial to county and municipal staff as they look to modify/upgrade regulations to see what other similar municipalities are requiring.
- The regulatory review can be accessed here: https://www.mobilebaynep.com/assets/pdf/Final-South-AL-Stormwater-Regulatory-Review-Update_w-appendicies.pdf

Next, Amy Hunter and Patty McCurdy gave an ADCNR update

- The Governor's Restoration Summit was held last week in Spanish Fort and first round of water quality projects were announced
- The latest round of projects for NFWF GEBF have received requests for full proposals, including Wolf Creek/Sandy Creek restorations in Foley, Lower Fish River restoration (including Magnolia River) for MBNEP, East end of Dauphin Island. These are funding construction of previous awarded E&D projects.
- RESTORE: currently in the process of adding additional funding to projects already awarded due to cost increases
- RESTORE funded water quality projects – funding awarded to 12 projects:
 - City of Fairhope Sanitary Sewer Overflow Mitigation Project
 - City of Fairhope Storm Water Infrastructure Inventory
 - Town of Loxley Corn Branch Tributary Restoration
 - Baldwin County Red Gully Stream Bank Stabilization
 - City of Orange Beach Stormwater Master Plan
 - University of South Alabama Coastal Alabama Water Quality and Sediment Baseline Monitoring
 - University of South Alabama Three Mile Creek Headwater Improvements
 - City of Saraland Norton Creek Sanitary Sewer Inflow and Infiltration Project
 - Town of Dauphin Island Stormwater Masterplan and Drainage Improvements
 - City of Bayou La Batre North System Sewer Improvements (septic to sewer)
 - Grand Bay Sewer Service (septic to sewer)
 - Dauphin Island Water and Sewer Authority Sewer Collection System Improvements
- GOMESA funding information has been received from the Feds. This Federal program established revenue sharing among the States that participate in offshore oil and gas extraction.
- Funding for this year is \$27 million dollars and the State will likely choose among previously submitted projects rather than having another request for proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05