



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Government Networks Committee**
June 16, 8:00 am – 9:30 am



**International Trade Building
250 N. Water Street
Mobile, AL 36606**

Virtual Meeting Link:

<https://disl.zoom.us/j/81312895402?pwd=dXgwbm5zWC9QYktZdEdvNGpEOW9vZz09>

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- a) Provide status of State projects and priorities
- b) Provide overview of Baldwin County MRF programs
- c) Provide overview of Resilience Planning for City of Mobile

1. Welcome and Introductions

GNC Co-Chairs:

- Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood, Baldwin County
- Commissioner Merceria Ludgood, Mobile County

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

3. Old Business

- a) State Update – Chris Blankenship, ADCNR
- b) MBNEP update – Christian Miller, MBNEP

4. New Business

- a) Baldwin County Materials Recovery Facility – Terri Graham, Baldwin County Solid Waste
- b) Resilience Planning for the City of Mobile – Casi Callaway, City of Mobile
- c) Announcements

5. Adjourn

Minutes

In attendance: Joseph Abston, Washington County; Matt Anderson, City of Mobile; Scott Bannon, ADCNR MRD; Henry Barnes, City of Bayou LaBatre; Chris Blankenship, ADCNR; Jessica James, City of Chickasaw; Jeff Collier, Town of Dauphin Island; Jennifer Fidler; Leslie Gahagan, City of Foley; Skip Gruber, Baldwin County; Ralph Helmich, City of Foley; Scott Hughes, ADEM; Amy Hunter, ADEM; Cody Ledet, City of Spanish Fort; Robin LeJeune, City of Daphne; Merceria Ludgood, Mobile County; Shannon McGlynn, ADEM; Bill Puckett, AL Soil & Water Conservation Committee; Sherry Sullivan, City of Fairhope; Nicole Taylor, SARPC; Chris Thomas, EPA; John Valentine, DISL; Margie Wilcox, AL House of Representatives; Casi Callaway, City of Mobile; Terri Graham, Baldwin County Solid Waste; Amy Golemose, Baldwin County Solid Waste; Mark Ingram, Baldwin County EWK; Laura Smith, AL Soil and Water Conservation Committee

Staff: Roberta Swann, Bethany Hudson, Marti Messick, Vanessa Romero, Blair Morrison, Christian Miller

Takeaways

- Deepwater Horizon funding has resulted in \$1 billion worth of projects completed/in process so far.
- Baldwin County's new materials recycling facility will be able to receive recyclable materials from the region, will utilize methane produced at the landfill to help offset initial costs, and provide an educational program for area school children
- The City of Mobile is in the process of undergoing a resilience assessment and plan to improve the long-term resilience of the City.

Meeting was called to order at 8:15. Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Commissioner Abston and seconded by Mayor Helmich.

ADCNR Update

- Commissioner Blankenship gave an update from ADCNR
- GOMESA – \$210 million in project suggestions were received this year for ~\$50 million in available funding.
- Expect to have project announcements in mid-July.
- Deepwater Horizon funding has to date resulted in \$1 billion worth of projects completed/in process in Alabama.
- Dept of Treasury representatives recently visited coastal AL to see projects.
- All of the NFWF GEBF money, \$356 million, has been allocated.
- NRDA discussions underway to complete another restoration plan to begin later this year
- RESTORE buckets 1 & 3 projects that have already been approved have required additional funding to complete due to cost increases since projects were originally proposed. This may preclude additional projects from those sources for another year or two.
- State is going to bid on the Meaher Park expansion soon, Gulf State Park expansion to add 200+ camp sites, trails, and amphitheater on the old golf course.
- FEMA approvals have been received to pay for rebuilding the Gulf State Park pier, project has been bid and awarded to MD Thomas Construction. In water work must wait until after November 1st due to turtle nesting season. Plan to be finished by Spring of '24.
- The State has a shellfish enhancement plan, 77-acre cultch plant in partnership with AL Wildlife Federation at Cedar Point is happening this year. Each of the five Gulf states got \$7 million for oyster restoration. State is working with partners to develop a 7-year plan and an additional \$2 million will be available to help while the plan is being completed.

MBNEP Update

- Christian gave an update on the status of watershed planning
- MTA Delta and Eastern Shore plans are out for comment and available on the MBNEP website.
- Working on finalizing draft of Western Perdido with the steering committee.
- Several members of the Western Perdido steering committee are interested in forming their own grass roots watershed volunteer group to support implementation with assistance from MBNEP and the Wolf Bay Watershed Watch who has agreed to mentor them.
- This leaves Western Delta and Eastern Delta which are under development and the Grand Bay Swamp still to get underway shortly.
- Also getting underway in updating the Eight Mile Creek WMP which is 13 years old

Baldwin County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)

- Terri Graham with Baldwin County Solid Waste updated the group on the County's new recycling facility and programming.
- 60,000 sq ft facility, with 10,000 sq ft of educational and office space.
- MRF will sit adjacent to the Magnolia Landfill
- Equipment has been purchased and is capable of processing up to 40,000 tons of material annually (goal is to get to 12,000 tons).
- Processing mixed fibers, paper, cardboard, plastics 1-7, aluminum, steel
- Education center – want to teach people about the importance of recycle and the potential economic impact of recycled materials. Will be geared to school-aged children
- Focus on Alabama companies that use recycled materials and what they use them for
- Will be able to highlight their reuse of gas from the facility as well as a constructed wetland that will be used to treat waste/stormwater at the facility.
- Baldwin County is investing \$6 million in ARPA funds, additional grants from ADEM, EPA and other sources of funding.
- Will be opening several "CHARM" (center for hard to recycle materials) around the county to take items like glass, light bulbs, batteries, electronics, and other items that will not be processed at the MRF
- Converting the methane into natural gas from the landfill and transporting it to Riviera Utilities pipeline
- MRF and methane to natural gas facilities are targeted to being operation in 2024
- Gas recovered from the landfill can be used to help offset the costs of operating the MRF

Resilience Planning for the City of Mobile

- Casi Callaway gave an update on the development of a Resilience Plan for the City of Mobile
- Project completes a comprehensive review of the City's **assets, critical systems, current plans, and key policies** through the lens of their vulnerability to acute shocks and chronic stressors
- Plan will provide a prioritized and actionable set of adaptation and resilience strategies, closely intertwined with existing City plans and priorities, that serve as the roadmap with which to build the city's resilience
- Why are they completing this plan?
 - Shift from reactive to proactive approach
 - Improve coordination across departments
 - Unlock additional resources, funding and partnerships
 - Save the city money in the long-term
 - Ensure a safe and thriving future for Mobile and its residents
- Vision: A **Resilient Mobile** ensures that all members of our community are poised to thrive in the face of increasing challenges and changes in our environment, climate, and economy.
- The plan seeks to create solutions that are: Place-based, integrated, inclusive, Risk-aware, and forward-looking
- Plan is focusing on these four areas: Economy, Community, Sea-Level, and Climate

- Process included Internal and External engagement
 - Internal plan review team – all Dept leads
 - Advisory groups: Economy, Environment, Community Health, Infrastructure
 - Public Survey
 - Individual interviews with key stakeholders
- Resilience assessment is looking at five systems deemed critical to Mobile: Infrastructure, Health & Wellbeing, Economy, Communities, Natural Resources
- Resilience plan is building off previous and ongoing efforts: Watershed Plans, Map for Mobile, Action Plan, etc.
- Anticipate that the plan will be complete between January-March 2024

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.