



# Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Science Advisory Committee Meeting



February 25, 2022, 10:00 am – 11:00 am  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

## Agenda

### Meeting Objectives:

- a) Reminder SAC role in EST evaluation for MBNEP
- b) Discuss moving forward with Stressor Evaluation Matrix
- c) Group discussion for monitoring priorities related to stressors and habitats

### 1. Welcome

SAC Co-Chairs:

Dr. John Lehrter, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dr. Amy Hunter, ADCNR-DWH Restoration

### 2. Review and Approval of Minutes

### 3. Updates and Presentations

- a) Why we're here: The role of the SAC within the MBNEP— Dr. Amy Hunter, ADCNR
- b) The Stressor Evaluation Matrix, why we need you! —Dr. Missy Partyka, MBNEP
- c) Monitoring needs to reach our EST goals, what we have and what we need —Dr. Partyka, MBNEP
- d) Brainstorming/working session on monitoring goals and needs via JamBoard.

### 4. Announcements

### 5. Adjourn

**Mobile Bay National Estuary  
Program Science Advisory  
Committee Meeting Zoom Meeting**

**August 12, 2020**

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*The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Science Advisory Committee was established to bring area experts together to provide advice, guidance, and recommendations to ensure that MBNEP activities will be conducted in a scientifically relevant and rigorous manner.*

In attendance:

**Becky Allee, Alex Beebe, Ronald Bond, Mary Kate Brown, Dottie Byron, Marlon Cook, Newton Cromer, Dennis Devries, Brian Dzownkowski, Jay Estes, Rich Fulford, Patric Harper, Amy Hunter, Steve Jones, Julien Lartigue, John Lehrter, Fred Leslie, Nicole Love, John Mareska, Greg Pierce, Eric Schneider, Tim Thibaut, PJ Waters, Bret Webb,**

MBENP Staff: Missy Partyka, Jason Kudulis, Roberta Swann, Bethany Hudson

*This meeting was held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Dr. Amy Hunter called the meeting to order at 10:03 CST. Minutes from the October 21st meeting were shared via email. No motion was made to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, Dr. Hunter decided to table the approval of those minutes until the next meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Amy Hunter opened the meeting with a few slides on the role of the SAC within the MBNEP and our overall charge to provide information that can be utilized with other committees within the management conference.

Dr. Missy Partyka gave a brief presentation on the current status of responses from the **Stressor Evaluation Matrix** shared with the SAC during the previous fall and efforts to improve contributions by soliciting outside feedback. Questions and discussions about methodologies and endpoints ensued.

Key takeaways include:

- 9 SAC members had completed the matrix to date
- Significant holes remained in the areas of upland habitats (longleaf forests, pine savannahs, etc.)
- A Qualtrics survey was created to solicit scientific expertise outside of the SAC where professionals could self-select their areas of experience and a personalized matrix would be created for them
- Results from this iteration of the matrix will be presented at GoMCon, upcoming in April

Dr. Partyka then led a brief discussion about monitoring needs in the face of the SACs charge to both outline ecosystem status and trends in and around the Bay, but also in terms of needs moving forward. This was followed by a Jamboard session where committee members were asked to provide their opinions about monitoring needs for specific habitats, ES, and stressors. These results will be compiled and used to help guide decisions regarding funded monitoring efforts and potential investments in monitoring infrastructure going forward.

Key takeaways:

- Turbidity, sedimentation/erosion, nutrients, land use change, and shoreline impacts remain high monitoring priorities for targeted habitats (intertidal marshes/flats, freshwater wetlands, rivers/streams/riparian buffers)
- Monitoring for prioritized ES (wildlife/habitat, water quality, biodiversity, nesting habitat) is incredibly diverse and may need to be addressed in a more targeted way
- Consensus was more easily found when focused on monitoring the impacts of specific stressors (e.g., land use change and fragmentation requires additional mapping and tracking changes spatially over time)

Links to the Jamboard results are here...

[Habitat Monitoring](#)

[Ecosystem Services Monitoring](#)

[Stressor Monitoring](#)

Motion to adjourn by Dr. John Lehrter at 10:59, seconded by Dottie Byron.

Adjourned