



Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Science Advisory Committee Meeting



May 20, 2022, 2022, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting
In-person at Five Rivers Delta Center

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- a) Review current monitoring associated with the WMPs
- b) Discuss availability of datasets to help inform ESTs and CCMP development
- c) Discuss use of third party to aid SAC contributions to CCMP development

1. Welcome

SAC Co-Chairs:

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

2. Review and Approval of Minutes (for last two meetings)

3. Updates and Presentations

- a) Overview of current monitoring and SAC priorities —Dr. Missy Partyka, MBNEP
- b) Open discussion on availability of existing datasets to inform ESTs/CCMPs —Dr. Partyka, MBNEP
- c) Next steps for CCMP and potential for 3rd-party facilitate workshop— Roberta Swann, MBNEP

4. Announcements

5. Adjourn

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

May 20, 2022

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, Don Blancher, Ronald Bond, Kevin Calci, Brian Dzwonkowski, Patric Harper, Steve Heath, Amy Hunter, Kathryn Keating, Julien Lartigue, John Lehrter, Fred Leslie, Autumn Nitz, LaDon Swann, PJ Waters, Chris Warn, Byron Webb,

MBENP Staff: Missy Partyka, Jason Kudulis, Christian Miller, Roberta Swann, Bethany Hudson, and Marti Messick

This meeting was held as a hybrid meeting, with both live and remote participation. The meeting was recorded and can be found here. <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1t-5tYKwVqRfbXM5uDdBNv-FOWV5wPSCe>

Dr. Amy Hunter called the meeting to order at 10:07 CST. Minutes from the October 21, 2021 and February 25, 2022 meeting were shared via email. Motion was made by LaDon Swann to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ronny Bond.

This meeting was designed to be an open discussion about needs and opportunities and did not include formalized presentations, rather topics were brought forward for discussion and SAC members had the opportunity to voice their ideas and opinions.

Dr. Melissa Partyka started off the meeting with an overview of monitoring needs related to the Watershed Management Plans and the SAC's monitoring priorities.

Key takeaways include:

- Some inherent difference in approach between what the SAC sees as priorities long-term and the needs of the WMPs to begin projects to address immediate needs.
- Need to find a way to dovetail the monitoring priorities of individual watersheds (based on their predominant issues), regulatory requirements of either project permits or 303d listing, and what the SAC sees as scientific needs/gaps in our understanding of how a system is functioning.

Roberta Swann followed with an overview of the need to have the WMPs evaluated for priorities and approaches brainstorming on a Co-Production of Knowledge approach to developing the next iteration of the CCMP.

Key takeaways include:

- While data are being collected for the development of the WMPs, it is unclear to the SAC how those data may be accessed to allow for synthesis.
- Need to determine what is the most salient information in the WMPs to help develop the next CCMP but also to evaluate the success of the WMPs and the current CCMP.
- Inclusion of regulatory entities, like ADEM, will be essential to ensuring that monitoring data that are being collected can help with the development of assessment tools and to determine which data need to be prioritized/can be collected long-term and consistently.
- Hope to engage the SAC in digging into the WMPs to find the data that are needed, the data that are available, and the areas that need to be

General discussion followed about monitoring in the Mobile Bay area and the potential for additional monitoring funding in the future.

Key takeaways include:

- Loss of ARCOS data is an issue for not only scientist and resource managers but for stakeholders as well. Infrastructure funding through the MBNEP will help to stand up the Middle Bay Lighthouse station.
- We need to determine the difference between actual monitoring data gaps and perceived data gaps. Need to tell the difference between temporal, spatial, and total data gaps.
- Even if gaps are identified and priorities set, question remains of how the monitoring is funded long-term. Coming up with a strategic monitoring plan can help provide leverage for future funding by showing priorities to the Government Networks Committee that can then convey those needs to ADEM.

Other news: Dr. Hunter shared about recent RESTORE priority projects announced by Gov. Ivey the previous evening. One comprehensive monitoring project was recommended for funding (Dr. John Lehrter as PI) along with various other stormwater and water treatment plans for several municipalities and sediment reduction projects.

Motion to adjourn by Ronny Bond at 11:48, seconded by Don Blancher.

Adjourned