

**SUMMARY OF  
WOLF BAY WATERSHED  
STEERING COMMITTEE KICK-OFF MEETING  
June 18, 2018**

**Members in Attendance:**

Caryn Woerner  
Tony Schachle  
Leslie Gahagan  
Patric Harper  
Katy Hines  
Brett Gaar  
Paige Felts  
Sherry Allison  
Phillip Hinesley  
Melissa Pringle  
Brad Young  
Paul Hopper  
Casey Fulford  
Christian Miller  
Shannon McGlynn

**Members Absence but Confirmed:**

Ralph Hellmich  
Skip Gruber

- **Additional Steering Committee Members:**

- Representative from Forever Wild (Will Underwood)
- Farmers Co-op? Hope Cassebaum
- OAW - currently changing management so we will wait for contact
- Representative from Wolf Bay Plantation Harbor RV Resort in Elberta (includes 60 undeveloped acres)
- Representative from the Elberta Schools (Leah Tucker) (Leslie to call)

- **WMP Goals/Objectives:**

- Resilience
- Conservation
- Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure
- Identification of Restoration Projects/Areas
- Identification of Pollution Sources
- Maintain OAW Status
- Heritage/Culture
- Public Access
- Living Shorelines
- Community Involvement
- Stream Restoration
- Identify Additional Water Quality Sampling Points
- Well Head Protection Program

*Notes and Discussion for Goals/Objectives:*

- Group Conservation/ID Restoration Project Areas/Green Infrastructure (Ranked #2 by Steering Committee)
- ID Water Quality Monitoring Sites – Where are the best sites located? Where are additional sites needed?
- Maintain OAW (Outstanding Alabama Water) status – Wolf Creek is not an OAW/ Riviera approximately 2 years out from bring new treatment plant online that discharges to Wolf Creek
- Resilience: Plan for Sea Level Rising – Flooded Homes from previous storms along Wolf Creek
- Stormwater Management: - encompasses all aspects of stormwater management (Ranked #1 by Steering Committee)
- Shoreline Erosion/Stream Restoration: minimal but some streambanks eroding in headwaters; education on Living Shorelines
- Heritage and Culture: Baldwin County Heritage Museum in Elberta and Train depot in Foley
- ID Non-point Pollution Sources – phosphorus huge issue in watershed
- Public Access (Ranked #3 by Steering Committee)
- Coastal Clean-up: Requires new location with public access – suggested options: Wolf Creek Park Kayak and Canoe Launch area and Graham Creek Nature Preserve
- Wellhead Protection Requirements

**Top Three Priorities:**

1. Stormwater Management
2. Conservation/ID Restoration Project Areas/Green Infrastructure
3. Public Access

- **WMP Goals Schedule:**
  - Short-term: less than 5 years
  - Mid-term: 5-10 years
  - Long-term: more than 10 years
- **Community Involvement:**
  - Target Audience Meetings vs. Large Audience Meetings: Consider using the small meetings used to promote the big community meeting
  - What are Good Platforms?
    - PLAN (speaker needed)/ contact Miriam Boutwell, City of Foley
    - City of Foley Planning Commission Meetings
    - Town of Elberta Planning Commission Meetings
    - Baldwin County Commission Meetings
    - Voting Precincts in Run-off Election on July 17 (3 precincts) – provide brochure/handout/Survey Monkey or sheet with link to Survey Monkey to voters
    - Elberta Sausage Festival in October
    - BBQ and Blues in March
    - Hot Air Balloon in May
    - Art in the Park
    - Wolf Bay Watershed Watch Fishing Tournament
    - Farmer's Market
    - Riviera Utilities Bills
    - City of Foley newsletter
- **Specific Target Audience Groups:**
  - Wolf Bay Plantation Harbor RV Resort (retired people) on Miflin Creek
  - Beulah Heights on Wolf Creek
  - Leisure Lakes – neighborhoods around Graham Creek Nature Preserve
  - Agriculture: Co-op board meetings; Farmer's co-op; riparian buffers and funding opportunities; identify 1-2 farmers in area.
  - Baldwin County Contractors/Developers/Realtors – DR Horton (Caryn to call)
  - Dr. Kurtts – voice of all people in town
- **Handouts/Survey Monkey/Brochures:**
  - Draft a Watershed 101 Brochure with Survey Monkey Link
  - Draft a More Developed Brochure about the WMP at the End of the Project
  - Draft Bullet Points to be used at the Small Meetings
  - Places to put brochures:
    - Baldwin County Property Taxes
    - Riviera Utilities Bills
    - City of Foley Newsletter
    - Foley City Hall
    - Foley Public Library
    - Elberta Town Hall
    - Newspaper in Elberta
    - Mobile Bay NEP Website
    - Wolf Bay Watershed Watch Newsletter
    - Elberta Co-op

- **Specific Concerns and Issues**

- Sandy Creek: Massive erosion; white/cloudy water at times. (Leslie)
- South of Old Foley Road on County Road 83. Stream restoration needed on east side of road – beavers
- Elberta Hardware near Highway 98 at Miflin Creek – stream incising
- Hammock Creek requires additional studies on Highway 95 to County Road 20. NCRS threatened to take funds away; seafood processing
- Wolf Creek: sediment problem: upstream of Doc McDuffie Road between Riviera Utilities and Doc McDuffie Road
- Stream Restoration downstream of Poplar
- County Road 83 and Miflin Creek (Gum Branch): research conditions at this location
- Wolf Creek at Swift Church Road: sand wasting, tree dredge removal; potential sediment loss from OWA (County Road 20)
- Lack of Public Access

- **Other Issues:**

- County Road 20 below Baldwin County Sewer lift station
- Nutrient Issues
- Sediment problems on Sandy Creek from flood of 2014 (silting in)
- Two proposed bridges could change character of Elberta and County Road 20

- **Land Acquisition for Conservation or Conservation Easements:**

- Forever Wild - 480 acres / could be used for public access and boat launch and parking for vehicles/trailers over
- 40 acres next to Graham Creek Nature Preserve (Downing Trust)
- 6 acres off County Road 20 unusable (40 feet off roadway and remainder wetlands)
- Barber property
- Tom Slinker property
- Wolf Creek Park 5 acres south – close off loop – bird nesting area
- Baldwin County Construction Property
- Consulting with Foley Family near Headwaters
- Woerner property

- **Signage :**

- You are in the Wolf Bay Watershed
- Inventory What Signs Already in Stock (Christian working with Leslie on this)
- MBNEP may have funding for 10 signs
- Cannot place on state highways
- Christian to send watershed template to Melissa
- Locations:
  - County Road 20
  - County Road 83

- **Short-term Goals:**

- Trash and Litter – Litter Getter?
  - Wolf Creek: north of 98
  - 98 to Foley near Fernwood

- **Best Management Practices**
  - Conservation/Acquisition Easements
  - Signage
  - Streambank Restoration
  - NRCS Streambank funding
  - Fish and Wildlife (Patric) Riparian work through Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
  - Coordination of Stormwater and Development Regulation (Foley, Elberta, Baldwin County)
  - Living Shorelines instead of Bulkheads
  - Regional Detention
- **Steering Committee and Future Meetings**
  - Steering Committee to meet Quarterly
  - Send out Steering Committee List
  - Next Steering Committee Meeting in August
  - Large Community Meeting in September
- **Action Items:**
  - A simple handout with bullet points that can be used at the smaller meeting venues
  - A Wolf Bay Watershed 101 factsheet that can be distributed far and wide
  - Secure dates, times and locations for small meetings and identify a person to attend and present at those meetings
  - We need to establish a date in August for our next quarterly meeting and a date in September for our community watershed meeting
  - Literature review for the watershed for Watershed Characterization
  - GIS mapping of land use for Watershed Characterization

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