

Coastal Alabama Clean Water Partnership

Steering Committee Meeting

5 Rivers Delta Center

Thursday, February 7, 2013, 1-3 PM



Attendees: Allison Jenkins, ACWP; Evan Corneille, ACF; Lee Walters, GMC; Frank Trione, Baldwin County Soil&Water; Randy Shaneyfelt, ADEM; Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay NERR; Teddy King, AL Dept of Public Health; Roberta Swann, MBNEP; Marshall Johnson, Payne Environmental Services; April Griffin, Mobile County Soil &Water; Barbara Shaw, MAWSS; Brian Keller, Mobile County Soil&Water; Joyce Nicholas, NRCS; Coen Perrott, MDEQ; Donna Jordan, Mobile Baykeeper; Stefanie Christensen, Mobile Baykeeper; Rosemary Sawyer, City of Mobile; Patti Hurley, ADEM; Patric Harper, USFWS

Meeting was called to order at 1:00, participants introduced themselves.

Christian Miller gave the Coastal Basin Update:

- Jim Jeter asked Christian to relay the following information about the Gulf of Mexico Forest Restoration Initiative: The U.S Endowment for Forestry has a pot of money they want to use for a fact finding project. They want the 5 Gulf States to participate to form a region report. They will send out a RFP to forestry consultants – the selected consultant will be the lead and contract holder for the project. Each state will provide a forestry liaison – in the case of Alabama – it will be me. The consultant will need to meet with and interview all the partners that have an interest in the area for their input – that will be each of you and all others that you tell me need to be involved. I do not have a time frame on this and you now know what I know. This will be a good opportunity for all to suggest future goals for the coastal area and a possible funding source for future projects. If this comes to fruition each of you will be seeing more of me in the future – I know that warms your heart! Please be thinking of all that will have needed input – Christian – the CWP will be the first stop – it is such a good jumping off spot.
- Upcoming rain barrel workshops are being held in Grand Bay NERR on 2/16, Daphne on 3/9, and Mobile on 4/13.
- Watershed plans have been completed for Eightmile Creek and D'Olive Creek and are in the process of being implemented. A comprehensive watershed plan for the Three Mile Creek Watershed has also begun and is scheduled to be completed in December of 2013.

- The Alabama Clean Water Partnership-Coastal Basin is now on Facebook. Please visit and “like”.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Alabama-Clean-Water-Partnership-Coastal-Basin/237456029641884?ref=hl>

Frank Trione gave an update for the Baldwin County Soil & Water Conservation District. The Longleaf Pine program is still ongoing, and the NRCS Gulf of Mexico Initiative is in its second year and focused on the Middle Fish River Watershed. Farm Safety Day is scheduled for March 21st at the Robertsdale Fair Grounds.

April Griffin gave a report for the Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District, and noted that they are gearing up for the annual Mobile County Water Festival, which will this year be held on Tuesday, April 9th at the Alabama Cruise Terminal. Grant funds should allow for 550 area 4th graders to participate this year, and **volunteers are needed**.

Roberta gave an update on current MBNEP efforts:

The MBNEP is currently in the process of updating their Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP). Through the Science Advisory Committee, surveys indicated priority habitats (Fresh Water Wetlands, Intertidal Marshes and Flats, and Streams and Rivers), their associated ecosystem services, and the ability of habitats to provide that service based on stressors. Priority habitat locations were determined based on the use of information from NASA. The MBNEP is currently working with their management conference on prioritizing watersheds for action, and those watersheds will be determined at an open meeting of the MBNEP Project Implementation Committee on February 21st.

Allison Jenkins explained the NRCES effort to prioritize streams for restoration and conservation:

The ACWP has been asked by the Natural Resources Conservation Service – Alabama to solicit stakeholder input through the ACWP’s neutral stakeholder forum in order to produce a list of prioritized Alabama streams needing restoration and/or protection. This will be done at the 12 digit hydrologic code (HUC) level in each of the ten ACWP delineated river basins, as well as at the statewide level. Once complete, the prioritized lists will be used to focus future watershed protection efforts across the state.

The following three lists are currently being compiled in each of the ten delineated ACWP river basins:

1. **Agriculture & Forestry Conservation** (focus on sediment and nutrient reduction),
2. **Urban Conservation** (focus on sediment/erosion control, low impact development and other measures that improve water quality), and
3. **Aquatic Resources** (focus on aquatic restoration).

Roberta – Can a property Owners Association be eligible for funds through NRCS programs?

Joyce – Generally, the system likes an individual tax ID number

Rhonda – the watersheds we receive the most calls about are D’Olive and the Middle Fish River.

Joyce – The two Watersheds that could have the most impact for Ag practices are Bayou La Batre and Fowl River. There is also a lot of interest in the Juniper Creek and Halls Mill Creek Watersheds.

Watersheds selected by Coastal Basin

Agriculture & Forestry	Urban Conservation	Aquatic Resources
Middle Fish River	Tensaw Apalachee River (D’Olive)	Bon Secour River
Fowl River	Toulmins Spring Branch – Threemile Creek	Sandy Creek – Wolf Creek
Bayou La Batre	Graham Bayou	Graham Bayou
	Juniper Creek	Tensaw Apalachee River (D’Olive)
	Halls Mill Creek	

Partner Updates

Randy Shaneyfelt – U of South Alabama is working with Thompson on a project for the Campus RainWorks Challenge Competition. It is a project similar to the step-pool implemented at Joe’s Branch. Go to the Website and vote (need a website address). More info here:

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=316589581779478>

Evan Corneille – ACF is currently training volunteers to give Bay Buddy presentations. The Coastal Kids Quiz is scheduled for April 19th. A 100/1000 spring project is being planned for Pelican Point on April 6th. ACF is hosting a “Connect to the Coast” event in Montgomery on February 26th.

Lee Walters– Still working with the City of Foley on the restoration of Wolf Creek.

Teddy King– The Health Dept is continuing to monitor water quality at area beaches. See the website for updates.

Patric Harper– We have a new employee – Robert Smith. Looking for volunteers to help plant at Weeks Bay NERR.

Coen Perot– MDEQ is currently working on a Coastal nutrient reduction project.

Barbara Shaw – The MAWSS Board has appointed Charles Hyland to be the new Director once Malcolm retires. Malcolm should be around until the end of May, watch for details of an impending retirement party. MAWSS is also in the process of conducting several studies as part of the Big Creek Lake WMP.

Donna Jordan – Baykeeper is continuing their efforts associated with 100/1000, also working on citizen stormwater education programs

Mike Shelton – Working on a Weeks Bay NERR plan rewrite. Also working on Upper Fish River pathogen strategy plan and stormwater education efforts. There is a need for some type of cost-share program for homeowners interested in living shorelines as an alternative to traditional bulkheading.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10

2013 Alabama Clean Water Partnership – Coastal Basin Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 29th 1-3 PM @ 5-Rivers

Wednesday, August 7th 1-3 PM @ 5-Rivers

Wednesday, November 6th 1-3 PM @ 5-Rivers