

Coastal Alabama Clean Water Partnership

Steering Committee Meeting

5 Rivers Delta Center

Wednesday, April 4, 1-3 PM



Attendees: Allison Jenkins, ACWP; Patti Hurley, ADEM; Tarrant Lanier, The Center for Family & Community Development; Cathy O’Neal, CFCD; Rhonda Bryars, BCSWCD; Trank Trione, BCSWCD; Randy Shaneyfelt, ADEM; Megan Mims, DRCR; Joseph Donnelly, AFC; Ken Leslie, AFC; Lee Walters, GMC; Patric Harper, UFWS; Jason Wilkins, ADEM; Beth Nichols, Baykeeper; Barbara Shaw, MAWSS; Mark Berte, ACF; Earl Norton, AL Soil&Water Conservation Committee; Leslie Lassitter, City of Foley/WBWW; Ashley Campbell, City of Daphne

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

Allison Jenkins gave the Alabama Clean Water Partnership Statewide update:

- The ACWP is working to diversify our funding base and is actively soliciting basin sponsorships from partners in all basins across the state. The funds will directly support facilitation of the ACWP’s neutral stakeholder forums and basin projects. Contact Allison for additional details regarding this great opportunity to support water quality improvements across the state.
- Waters to the Sea: Discovering Alabama - The “Demo Version” is complete and available on the ACWP web site, along with the Teacher Guide. Newest partner - ALFA Foundation (\$30,000) in support of new Animal Agriculture module.
Check it out at: <http://cleanwaterpartnership.org/news/?newsID=5&date=06/28/2010>
Assorted sponsorship levels are available with great educational value for spreading your message and PR potential for donors. Major fundraising for completing this project is underway with great opportunities for great PR and spreading your message - those interested should contact Allison Jenkins - Approximately \$600,000 is needed to complete the project.
- Show me Your Mussel: Strategic Habitat Project – The ACWP is assisting the Mobile River Basin Coalition, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Geological Survey of Alabama, AL Department of Conservation, AL Aquatic Biodiversity Center and US Geological Survey in outreach efforts designed to educate the public in designated headwater watersheds where habitat protection efforts including species delisting and/or reintroduction of species is anticipated.
- Monofilament Fishing Line Recycling Project – The ACWP continues to work with Berkley International, the AL Department of Conservation, State Lands Division and MS AL Sea Grant Clean Marina Program to place MRUs at “fishing holes” on waterbodies across the state. 300+ units have been installed to date on Alabama’s inland waterways!

- AL Rain Barrel Project – This popular “make and take” workshop is spreading across the state. Project partners include: AL Clean Water Partnership, AL Cooperative Extension System (Master Gardeners), Coca-Cola Refreshments, Inc., and the World Wildlife Fund.

Christian gave an update on projects in the Coastal basin:

- Rain barrel workshops are ongoing with two upcoming on Wednesday, April 11th at Central Presbyterian Church in Mobile and Saturday, May, 19th at the Jon Archer Agricultural Center in West Mobile. Christian is willing to work with other groups interested in hosting a workshop as long as there are at least 10 committed participants
- The World Wildlife Fund committed and additional \$5,000 to the Coastal Rain Barrel Project, funds will be used to work on another LID demonstration project at the Fly Creek Café in partnership with the Southeastern Wildlife Conservation Group, Fairhope Rotary Youth Club, and Weeks Bay Reserve.
- Funding proposals have been submitted to EPA, ACDNR Coastal Lands, and others for projects including:
 - Septic tank inventory & homeowner workshops for Eight Mile Creek Watershed
 - Threemile Creek Watershed Management Plan
 - Smart Yard, Health Gulf Program
- Invasives have been removed from the riparian buffers along the Reading Park stream restoration site. Stream channel construction and planting will take place in late 2012.

Coastal Basin Management Plan

- Allison mentioned that after reviewing several basin plans, that it may be time to review the Coastal Basin plan, but that would be up to the steering committee.
- Patti mentioned that the original plan was put together by SARPC, and was basically just a compellation of coastal watershed management plans available at the time.
- Randy & Patric suggested the plan should be reviewed in order to determine what updates need to be made
- Allison will get the basin plan to Christian to distribute to the group.

Coastal Alabama River Basin Management Plan is available here:

<http://www.cleanwaterpartnership.org/uploadedFiles/Coastal%20Basin%20Management%20Plan.pdf>

Clear Water Alabama

Earl Norton gave an overview of the Clear Water Alabama 2012 workshop, which is designed to provide training in erosion and sediment control (ESC) and stormwater management to the construction industry and other stakeholders. The main local partners will include both the Mobile and Baldwin County Soil & Water Conservation Districts and local municipalities.

- Two day seminar/field day workshop
- 5 Rivers, October 10-11, 2012

- Sponsor meetings scheduled for June 12 & August 21

Earl asked for help identifying sites within driving distance from 5 Rivers for the field day that demonstrate innovative ESC technology which should be adapted industry-wide. The AL Soil & Water Conservation Committee will look to partner with area industry to demonstrate technologies and install ESC BMPs. The Committee is looking for a mix of residential, industrial, and commercial sites to visit.

Patti said that local industry sponsors will be needed to assist with the field program

Earl said that they would like to have representation from all municipal and County government and registration forms should go out the first of May.

Soil & Water Conservation Updates

Mobile County:

- Farm Safety Day – February 3 -- 250 fourth graders at the Jon Archer Ag Center
- Mobile's 4th Annual Water Festival - last Thursday, March 29 -- 540 fourth graders from 10 elementary schools. Thanks to everyone helped us out!
- Who Works the Rivers Career Fair Day – April 10 -- 120 high school students from Faulkner Vocational and Bryant CTC tour Cooper Marine & AL Port Authority
- Organic Growers Workshop – April 10 at the Jon Archer Ag Center
- Tri-County Forestry Field Day – May 10 in Washington County
- RiverWorks Discovery presentations scheduled before the end of this school year for numerous schools in Mobile, Washington, and Escambia Counties.

Baldwin County:

Election of Basin Chair & new Basin Rep for the State CWP Board

Allison mentioned that the Coastal Basin has not had a functioning Basin Chair in several years. Randy agreed that there was a need for Basin Chair. Frank Trione said he is willing to serve as a Basin Chair, but suggested checking with the Mobile County Soil & Water Conservation District to see if they would be interested in appointing a Co-Chair to serve, alternating annually.

Allison then noted that Malcolm Steeves has asked to step down from his role as Basin Chair on the Statewide Board due to increased obligations with MAWSS and an inability to attend State CWP Board meetings regularly.

Mark Berte indicated his willingness to serve in this role, and noted that he would first need to seek approval from the ACF Board.

Patti and Allison suggested taking further nominations and holding a final vote at the next Basin Steering Committee Meeting.

Partner Updates

Barbara Shaw/MAWSS – The 4th annual Mobile County Water Festival was a success. The new water color contest is kicking off soon, and details can be found on the MAWSS website.

<http://www.mawss.com/waterColorcontest.html>

Tarrant Lanier/The Center for Family & Community Development – The CFCD has several programs, including organic urban gardening, that promote clean water and clean soil and are excited to have a seat at the table and interested in partnership opportunities.

Lee Walters/Goodwin, Mills & Cawood – Draft plans have been completed for the Wolf Creek stream restoration in Foley. There is a need for additional \$60K in funding to complete the actual restoration.

Megan Mimms/Dog River Clearwater Revival –

- Great Drift takes place on April 14th
- Additional signage and kayak launches are being added as part of the Scenic Blueways project.
- Funds have been raised to purchase a bandalong litter trap, but DRCR is still seeking support from the City of Mobile for maintenance.
- Looking to increase AWW monitoring within the Watershed
- DRCR has received a grant to participate in a national leadership rally
- Will be participating in a Keep Mobile Beautiful event on April 28th from 8 AM – 12 PM

Randy Shaneyfelt/ADEM – ADEM's Coastal Program is working to have their Coastal NPS program approved nationally. Continuing to work in projects in the Basin:

- Implementation projects in the Eight Mile Creek Watershed (septic tanks)
- Continuing to work with the City of Semmes in adapting new ordinances including wetland buffers, retention pond designs, and green space requirements.
- The Coastal Section also helped to complete a new Forestry pre harvest workshop guidebook which will be available for distribution soon.
- EPA/Gulf Coast Task Force
- Army Corps Mitigation Review Bank

Jason Wilkins/ADEM – ADEM has updated it's 303(d) map and fact sheet which is available online. TMDL has been completed for Little Lagoon and TMDLs are scheduled to be completed for Three Mile Creek (pathogens) and D'Olive Creek (sediment) in 2013.

Ashley Campbell/City of Daphne

- Need help seeking funds for a wetland project
- Joe's Branch, Daphne is handling the wetlands permitting
- Well Rd. Project, Daphne is handling LID outreach/education
- City of Foley/Daphne is partnering with Mike Shelton/Weeks Bay NERR on an invasive species workshop

Leslie Lassiter/City of Foley/Wolf Bay Watershed Watch – Several projects are ongoing at the Graham Creek Preserve.

- Invasive species removal
- Educational components
- Earth Day “Jog the Bog”, April 14 starting at 9 AM
- “Our Wonderful Wetlands” – Wolf Bay WW has worked with area schools on projects at the Graham Creek Preserve and has created curriculum to be distributed to other schools.

Partric Harper/USFWS

- Working with partners on projects at the Graham Creek Preserve
- Working with MAWSS on a stream restoration project in the Big Creek Lake Watershed
- Pitcher plant bog restoration project ongoing in Weeks Bay Reserve
- Planting black needle rush as part of a nitrogen remediation project in association with agricultural runoff.
- Program is looking at a 40% funding cut for the next fiscal year

Patti/ADEM – The Joe’s Branch project is the largest NPS funded project in the state this year.

Mark Berte/ACF – ACF has been working to increase their exposure in other areas in the state. A recent event in Birmingham was successful and there is a similar event planned in Tuscaloosa.

- Alabama Coastal Seafood Craze –April 26th 4:30-7:30 in Bienville Square promoting local seafood/restaurants.
- ACF has worked on projects to remove privet in South Baldwin County
- Participating in Coastal Kids Quiz on April 27th
- Working to kick off Estuary Corps pilot project in a couple local schools next year

Kenneth Leslie/AL Forestry Commission – Working with the Mobile County Soil & Water Conservation District on a forestry Field Day for Mobile and Washington Counties scheduled for May 10th. More details are available from the Mobile District folks. AFC is partnering with ACES to put together a weeklong forestry camp for kids ages 14-18 in Sumter County.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM