

# Coastal Alabama Clean Water Partnership

## Steering Committee Meeting

### 5 Rivers Delta Center

### Thursday, July 19, 2012, 1-3 PM

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**Attendees:** Allison Jenkins, ACWP; Mark Berte, 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; Kelley Barfoot, MBNEP; Kathy Eddy, MBNEP; April Griffin, Mobile County Soil&Water; Barbara Shaw, MAWSS; Brian Keller, Mobile County Soil&Water; Ashley Campbell, City of Daphne; Leslie Lassitter Gahagan, City of Foley; Joyce Nicholas, NRCS; Coen Perrott, MDEQ

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

Allison Jenkins gave the Alabama Clean Water Partnership Statewide update:

- **Basin Sponsors Needed!!!** 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) and Legacy (\$10,000) 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. 400+ 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.
- **ACWP 2012 Board of Directors Meetings: September 5 (in conjunction with AL Water Resource Conference, Orange Beach) December 5 (in conjunction with ACWP 2012 Watershed Conference)**

Christian Miller gave the Coastal Basin Update:

- Upcoming rain barrel workshops are being held in Fairhope on 7/20, Daphne on 8/24, and Spanish Fort on 9/15. Work is also underway to establish a residential stormwater BMP demonstration site in Fairhope.
- Watershed plans have been completed for Eightmile Creek and D'Olive Creek and are in the process of being implemented. Work is underway to begin a comprehensive watershed plan for the Threemile creek Watershed.
- A pilot project at Zeke's Marina is underway that will keep 60,000 lbs/week of fish carcasses out of area landfills. Fish waste disposal is a major issue on the coast, and this pilot project will hopefully be able to expand to include other marinas and the State fishing pier.
- 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>

April Griffin gave a report for the Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District, and introduced Brian Keller who will be serving on their board and represent them on the Clean Water Partnership. Brian mentioned that he was looking forward to serving in whatever capacity needed by the Coastal Basin. April mentioned that Joyce and Marshall have recently obligated over \$1 million towards gopher tortoise conservation projects in the County.

Frank Trione gave an update for the Baldwin County Soil & Water Conservation District. They are working to close out a grant with Margaret Sedlecky at the Weeks Bay NERR related to teachers education programming on estuaries.

#### **Election of Basin Chair & new Basin Rep to the Statewide nonprofit ACWP Board of Directors**

Frank Trione and Brian Keller were nominated to serve as basin chairs on a annual rotation. Mark Berte motioned to accept the nominations with Randy Shaneyfelt seconding.

Mark Berte was nominated to serve as the Basin representative on the Statewide Cleanwater Partnership Board. Frank Trione nominated April Griffin for the same position. A secret ballot was conducted and April Griffin was selected to serve as the Coastal Basin representative on the State ALCWP Board.

Randy Shaneyfelt, ADEM- Busy with GOMA Task Force duties. Has also been working on urban technical projects which address stormwater and water quality issues.

Allison, ACWP – The Statewide partnership is paying for a second printing of stickers for MRUs, which will be available to groups who need them.

Barbara Shaw, MAWSS – The water color contest results are up on the MAWSS website. The winner has traditionally been selected to use on the Water Festival Tshirts.

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

MAWSS is also working on several projects in the Big Creek Lake Watershed, details will be forthcoming.

Kara Lankford, Ocean Conservancy – Restore Act info graphic is available from the Ocean Conservancy.

Ashley Campbell, City of Daphne – Working with the MBNEP on the Joe’s Branch restoration which should begin construction in October. Also working on completing a stormwater management plan. The City of Daphne is also looking for money that would help to preserve a section of wetland to help remediate stormwater runoff issues.

Leslie Lassitter, City of Foley, Wolf Bay WW – Wolf Bay WW is working with Auburn University on several research projects and would like to present them at a “State of the Bay”. They are also working on a stormwater survey and an update of their watershed management plan.

Lee Walters, GMC – Working on stream restoration projects with MAWSS and in the City of Foley (Wolf Creek)

Mark Berte, ACF – This has been a record year for Bay Buddies, raising \$42K in scholarship money with Kids Quiz. Working on “Estuary Corps” with MBNEP which is an environmental education program for middle school students in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. ACF is also teaming with Mike Shelton/Weeks Bay NERR to hold a Wetlands Compliance workshop. ACF will also hold a fundraiser at Wintzell’s in Tuscaloosa on Sept 12 from 6-8 PM.

Coen Perott, MDEQ – Working on a nutrient reduction strategy for the Delta, uplands, Coast, as well as Statewide guidance. Rotten Bayou watershed project contains both urban and agricultural components.

Teddy King, AL Dept of Health – Continuing to monitor public beaches, the majority of samples have been good. Continuing to monitor health effects related to the BP oil spill – information available on the web.

Joyce Nicholas, NRCS – Working up CRP contracts and a long-leaf pine initiative

Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay NERR – Wetlands Compliance workshops are upcoming, working on a climate vulnerability assessment workshop with Moss Point. Living shorelines with USFWS and Magnolia Springs has been completed. This project would serve as a good example of issues involved with living shorelines projects involving multiple private property owners. Also working on a revision of the Reserve's management plan.

Kathy Eddy, MBNEP – Working on a stormwater education/branding campaign for grassroots groups with CAST (Coastal Alabama Stormwater Team).

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.