



MINUTES
Education & Outreach Committee
Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program

May 20th, 4:00-5:00 pm CT

Virtual Meeting

[Recording Link](#)

Participants

Chasidy Hobbs	UWF, Chair
Carrie Stevenson	UF/IFAS Escambia, Vice Chair
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Donald Killorn	PPBEP
Matt Posner	PPBEP/Escambia County
Jimmie Jarratt	Escambia County
Chris Verlinde	UF/IFAS Santa Rosa
Katie Baltzer	TNC
Ashley Campbell	Baldwin County
Amy Newbold	EPA
Vicky Campbell	ECUA
Jessica Bibza	NWF
Samantha Bolduc	Escambia County
Sonia Vedral	PLACE:SLR

1. Call to Order

2. Introductions

3. Staff Updates

a. Trash Free Waters

i. Kick-off – June 19th at 9am, Jones Creek

- Volunteers are invited to participate in the kickoff cleanup event for the program's Trash Free Waters Project on Jones Creek at Lexington Terrace Park. Volunteers should register for the event at the following link:
<https://ppbep.wufoo.com/forms/s1kr10ld17mh1np/>
- Details: 9 am to noon on Saturday, June 19th at Lexington Terrace Park off of S Old Corry Field Rd.

ii. Boom naming contest

- The Estuary Program will be launching a boom naming contest to generate more public support and engagement surrounding the Trash Free Waters project.
- People will be invited to nominate names for each boom system and Program staff will select the name for each boom from the pool of nominated names.

- b. Sea Turtle Bay Shower – Saturday, June 5th
 - The Estuary Program will be attending the Sea Turtle Baby Shower event in Pensacola Beach. Anyone interested in assisting staff at the event can contact Logan McDonald at lmcdonald@myescambia.com for more information. The event runs from 10am-Noon.
 - c. Perdido Key World Ocean Day – Tuesday, June 8th
 - People interested in assisting staff at World Ocean Day can contact Logan McDonald for more information. The event goes from 10am-2pm.
 - d. Save the Date – Pensacola OAR (Outdoor Adventure Recreation) Fest at Bayview Park- Saturday, October 23rd
 - The OAR Fest will provide visitors with the opportunity to use and explore different outdoor recreational equipment. Individuals interested in being a vendor can contact Logan McDonald or Paul Pipes at ppipes@cityofpensacola.com. More details on this event will be shared as they are finalized by organizers.
 - e. Community Values Survey Results
 - Logan McDonald shared highlights from the community values survey.
 - f. Community Grant Program
 - In 2020-2021 the state appropriation supported 10 community projects and \$200,000 in total funding.
 - The Estuary Program expects to award \$250,000 in 2021-2022, pending the Governor’s approval of the current budget for the State of Florida.
 - The RFP will be published in July. However, interested organizations are invited to begin designing projects now. All projects must be within the State of Florida.
 - g. Bayou Marcus Creek SSO Update
 - ECUA sampled various sites in Bayou Marcus and Perdido Bay to monitor the level of contaminants associated with the sanitary sewage overflow at the Bayou Marcus water treatment facility. As of Wednesday, May 19 the sample sites met standards for the level of targeted contaminants present and the health advisory has been rescinded.
- 4. Oyster Awareness Week/ Month** – meeting on Thursday June 3rd from 11am-1pm
- The Program is coordinating with Visit Pensacola and business partners to launch an oyster awareness campaign at local seafood restaurants. Individuals interested in helping plan this campaign and associated events are invited to contact Logan McDonald for more info.
- 5. Watershed Tour Planning**
- The program is looking to develop a watershed tour that features low impact development and green infrastructure projects that support resilience. Program staff will be working with partners to identify and schedule tours.
- 6. National Estuary Week Planning** – September 18th- 26th

- PPBEP is excited to support and host a variety of estuarine activities during National Estuary Week. More details on events will be released as plans are finalized.
- Additional events for National Estuary Week:
 - Thompsons Bayou cleanup at UWF
 - Manatee awareness event at popular boat ramp (NWF)

7. Around the Room/Announcements/Public Comment

- The EPA will be announcing a funding opportunity in the summer that will fund approximately 30 projects with a total of \$9 million. The RFP will be released in summer 2021 and will be accessible on grants.gov.
- NWF will be having several interns work on the manatees and meadows project. Interns will be involved in education and outreach efforts at local boat ramps and throughout the community.
- The Nature Conservancy is seeking public feedback on their Perdido Islands plan. The plan can be accessed and reviewed by visiting www.nature.org/perdidoislands.
- The City of Pensacola is hosting a virtual workshop to discuss their Coastal Vulnerability Assessment on May 24 at 5:30 pm.

8. Next Meeting

- a. June 24th** - Strategic Plan – Meeting will be hosted virtually.
- b. July 22nd**

9. Adjourn