



MINUTES
Technical Committee
Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program

May 26th, 2021, 10:00 am CT

Virtual Meeting

[Recording Link](#)

Jessica Bibza, Chair	NWF
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Donald Killorn	PPBEP
Emerson Cheney	PPBEP
Ashley Campbell	Baldwin County
Kate Dawson	Moffat & Nichol
Amanda Croteau	UWF
Barbara Albrecht	BFA/UWF
Barbara Cory	UF
Beth Fugate	FDEP
Brian Underwood	CBEP
Caitlin Crocker	UF
Casey Fulford	AACD
Chelsea Conley	CBEP
Chris Verlinde	UF/IFAS Sea Grant
Christian Wagley	Healthy Gulf
Darryl Boudreau	NWFWMD
Haley Gancel	UF
Jacqueline Lane	Friends of Perdido Bay
Kristin Bennett	Tetra Tech
Marcy Frick	Tetra Tech
Lee Yokel	Citizen
Matt Deitch	UF
Matt Posner	PPBEP/Escambia County
Samantha Bolduc	Escambia County
Matt Wachob	UF
Meg Goecker	Moffat & Nichol
Melody Ray-Culp	USFWS
Naisy Dolar	SRC
Tanya Linzy	SRC
Tesfay Gebremicael	UF

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of January 27th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Lee Yokel made a motion to accept the January 27th meeting minutes as printed. Sam Bolduc seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Staff Updates

a. Legislative Appropriation

- PPBEP submitted a \$250,000 legislative appropriation for 2021. The submittal was approved by the state legislature and is pending approval from the Governor (*has since been approved*).

i. Community Grant Update

- Projects are wrapping up the end of June. The FY 2021-2022 state appropriation is expected to fund the Community Grant program.
 1. Anticipated 2021-2022 RFP
 - PPBEP is expecting to release the community grant RFP in early July. Those interested in applying are encouraged to begin thinking about projects.
 - Grant awards are expected to be announced in September.

ii. NCCA/NWCA

- NCCA is due to kick off June 7. NWCA began in May and the sampling team has surveyed 7 out of 30 sites to date.
- NCCA and NWCA will provide snapshots of environmental conditions that will inform the State of the Bays report in addition to the CCMP.

b. SSO Bayou Marcus/Perdido Bay update

- ECUA reported a sanitary sewage overflow (SSO) at the Bayou Marcus Facility on Friday, May 14. ECUA water sampling data prompted a health advisory from the Florida Department of Health for Bayou Marcus. Water was sampled at freshwater and marine locations daily until contaminant levels in the freshwater bayou receded below threshold, contaminant levels never exceeded threshold at the marine sample sites. The health advisory was rescinded on Tuesday, May 18 by the DOH.
- This event highlights the role of the Estuary Program as a public-facing source of environmental data, especially in emergency response situations. PPBEP staff worked to retrieve, visualize, and present data to the community.
- PPBEP plans to work closely with local utilities, ECUA, DEP, and FDOH to coordinate community response and information after emergency situations. Staff will meet with ECUA on Thursday, May 27 to begin discussions. PPBEP would like to establish a direct pathway with ECUA so that raw data from emergency events can be sent directly to PPBEP where it can be visualized and presented to the public in a timely manner.

c. Trash Free Waters Project kick-off- June 19th 9am to noon

- PPBEP's Trash Free Waters project will be launched at Lexington Terrace Park on Jones Creek from 9am – noon on June 19th (*since postponed to July 31st*). Individuals interested in volunteering please [register online](#) or contact Emerson Cheney, edcheney@myescambia.com, for more information.

d. Oyster Subcommittee

- PPBEP will establish an oyster sub-committee that will be working towards implementing the oyster plan. The sub-committee will convene in June for their first meeting.

e. Workshop Recap

- Whitney Scheffel (PPBEP) summarized the technical workshop outputs that PPBEP and partners have hosted between Nov. 2020 and Apr. 2021. The workshops were designed to identify priority stressors and indicators for several environmental condition parameters. These workshops will inform the development of goals, objectives, and actions for the CCMP Action Plan.
- These workshops will inform the development of PPBEP's comprehensive monitoring plan.

4. CCMP Development

a. Progress Update

- PPBEP is starting to draft broader sections of the CCMP. Staff will coordinate with partners and TC members to develop and finalize components of the CCMP.
- Staff is planning to have a draft document ready to circulate in September.

5. Presentations

a. Kate Dawson (Moffatt and Nichol) – Lower Perdido Islands Restoration

Kate presented an update on the Lower Perdido Islands Restoration project. The project uses a multidisciplinary approach to plan for the restoration of the Lower Perdido Islands through organizational partnerships, environmental planning, and engineering. The project balances human use and environmental sustainability to deliver plans and models for various restoration scenarios. Hydrologic and sediment modeling informed restoration concepts that will be applied by the project. Project partners are currently seeking feedback on the restoration plan. Community members can learn more about the project and provide feedback at the following link: www.nature.org/perdidoislands.

b. Ashley Campbell (Baldwin County) - Watershed Planning in Baldwin County

Ashley shared her excitement about being involved with the PPBEP and shared her experience as a watershed planner and shared a video that highlighted a successful sediment remediation project conducted in the D'Olive watershed (MBNEP).

6. Around the Room/Announcements/Public Comment

- Jackie Lane (Friends of Perdido Bay) announced that funding was used to sample sediments at two sites in upper Perdido Bay. This work was conducted by Cardno Engineering Services. She briefly described some of the preliminary results and will share the final report once it is available.

7. Next Meeting

a. Wed. July 28 (*since changed to July 27th*) – Virtual

- i. Review of draft action plan

8. Adjourn