



Policy Board Meeting

May 17, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. CT

Santa Rosa County Chambers

6495 Caroline St., Milton, FL 32570

Meeting ID: 860 5827 3137 | Password: 171855

Call In: +13092053325

[Zoom Link](#)

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Board Agenda

Recommend the Board approve the May 17, 2023, meeting agenda.

4. Approval of April 5, 2023, Policy Board Minutes

Recommend the Board approve the April 5, 2023, meeting minutes.

5. Staff Updates

- a. Director's Update
- b. Technical Update
- c. Outreach Update

6. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Waiving the Sixty-Day Termination Notice for Baldwin County's Membership**
Recommend the Board accept or deny waiving the sixty-day termination notice for Baldwin County's membership in the PPBEP Interlocal Agreement.
- b. **Approval of the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Articles of Incorporation**
Recommend the Board approve the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Articles of Incorporation.
- c. **Approval of the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Bylaws**
Recommend the Board approve the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Bylaws.
- d. **Approval of the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Consent Resolution**
Recommend the Board approve the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Consent Resolution in lieu of convening an organizational meeting.
- e. **Approval of the 2023-2027 Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy**
Recommend the Board approve the 2023-2027 Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy.



7. Discussion Items

- a. FY23-24 Local Government Contributions
Recommend the Board discuss FY23-24 local government contributions, and authorize the Chairman and Executive Director sign a letter to each governing body's jurisdiction requesting FY23-24 local contributions.

8. Committee Updates

- a. Technical Committee
 - i. Oyster Subcommittee
- b. Education and Outreach Committee
- c. Environmental Justice Committee

9. Policy Board/Agency Updates

10. Public Comment

11. Adjourn



Policy Board Minutes

April 5, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. CT

Orange Beach Council Chambers

4099 Orange Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, AL 36561

[Audio Recording](#)

Members Present

Woody Speed, Chair	City of Orange Beach
Colten Wright, Vice Chair	Santa Rosa County
Robert Bender	Escambia County
Ashley Campbell	Baldwin County
Mike Kohler	Escambia County
Kerry Smith	Santa Rosa County
Vernon Compton	City of Milton
Mike Norberg	Okaloosa County
Cherry Fitch, ph	City of Gulf Breeze

Members Absent

Jared Moore	City of Pensacola
Benjamin Boutwell	Town of Century

Interested Parties Present

Matt Posner	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Haley Gancel	PPBEP
Madi Ross	PPBEP
Molly McDaniel	PPBEP
Barb Buss	SCS
Casey Fulford	AACD
Chips Kirschenfeld	Escambia County
Darryl Boudreau	NFWFMD
Elizabeth Major	LWV
Eric Schneider	ESA
Fritz Buss	SCS
Jeannette Kelson	Wood
Joshua Smith	City of Gulf Breeze
Matthew Kelly	Escambia County
Paul Looney	WRA



1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Matt Posner (Director, PPBEP) called the roll. A quorum was present.

3. Approval of Board Agenda

Commissioner Colten Wright (Santa Rosa County) made a motion to approve the agenda. Vernon Compton (City of Milton) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of February 8, 2023, Policy Board Minutes

Commissioner Colten Wright (Santa Rosa County) made a motion to approve the February 8, 2023, Policy Board minutes. Vernon Compton (City of Milton) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Staff Updates

a. **Director's Update** (*Matt Posner, Director*)

i. **Legislative Update**

1. Appropriations

PPBEP's Appropriation Request sponsored by Senator Broxson and Representative Andrade is in the draft Senate budget in the full amount of \$750,000. Year two of the Northwest Florida Water Quality Improvement Project is also in the draft Senate budget, with \$350,000 to be allocated to PPBEP.

The Legislature is also considering funding the Resilient Florida Grant Program at \$100 million and the Department of Environmental Protection Wastewater Grant Program at \$100 million. If approved, this would provide a substantial funding opportunity to address regional priorities.

2. Senate Bill Updates

An overview of draft Senate Bills was given to the board. The Senate Bills include:

Senate Bill 1538 – Implementation of Blue-Green Algae Task Force Recommendations

Senate Bill 1420 – Sanitary Sewer Lateral Inspection Programs

Senate Bill 1632 – Environmental Protection

Senate Bill 724 – Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative

Senate Bill 1170 – Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Studies



b. **Technical Update** (*Whitney Scheffel, Senior Scientist*)

i. **State of the Bays**

PPBEP staff is working on the first State of the Bays report and will launch the digital platform at the 2nd Annual PPBEP Management Conference on May 4, 2023. The report will provide an overview of how conditions have changed over time, the current condition of the bays, and the efforts that are underway to improve the condition of the bays. The four main indicator groups are water quality (dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll-a, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, turbidity), habitat (oysters, seagrass, wetlands, longleaf pine forests), bacteria (beach advisories, sanitary sewer overflows), and wildlife (manatee sightings). The scale for ecosystem health is categorized as improving, stable, declining, critical, and undetermined. Additional indicators and metrics will be added in future State of the Bays Report iterations.

ii. **Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy**

An explanation of the framework and backup for the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy was provided to the board.

iii. **Project & Planning Updates**

Updates were presented on PPBEP projects and planning initiatives including:

1. Developing visual data summaries of completed projects.
2. Collaborating with oyster farmers to monitor water quality.
3. Planning next steps for the Pensacola Bay Oyster Restoration Initiative.
4. Developing discussion topics for the PPBEP Management Conference breakout sessions.

iv. **Northwest Florida Water Quality Improvement Project** (*Haley Gancel, Environmental Scientist*)

An overview of UF-CCS and SAS's Northwest Florida Water Quality Improvement Project workshop held March 30, 2022, at the UF Milton Campus was presented to the board. UF CSS presented 5 deliverables due at the end of June 2022:

- 1) Analyses and model outputs concerning causes of water quality impairments and potential suggested future locations for infrastructure improvement projects
- 2) Development of a web-based septic to sewer prioritization tool
- 3) Analysis looking at current stormwater capacity for the region
- 4) Development of a web-based land conservation prioritization tool with a focus on water quality and water quantity/storage benefits
- 5) Completion of living shoreline suitability models for the Florida Gulf Coast



c. **Outreach Update** (*Logan McDonald, Community Outreach Coordinator*)

i. **Estuary 101**

Staff launched the Estuary 101 Campaign in early March. The campaign includes information on estuarine habitats and wildlife, how businesses, organizations, and individuals can advocate for the estuaries, and locations for community members to explore. Membership and Sponsorship information was provided.

ii. **Outreach**

1. **Events**

PPBEP hosted a Mardi Gras Bead Cleanup in Downtown Pensacola and engaged over 30 volunteers, collecting over 400 pounds of beads. PPBEP hosted tables at the Orange Beach Seafood Festival to engage children with a hands-on activity focused on local wildlife and adults to promote the launch of the Estuary 101 Campaign.

2. **Oyster Documentary**

The Humble Oyster documentary that explores the past, current, and future conditions of oysters in the Pensacola Bay System was completed. A premiere and panel discussion event will be held with WSRE.

SAVE THE DATE:

May 23, 2023 | 6:00 PM

Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio
Kugelman Center for Telecommunications
1000 College Blvd. Pensacola, FL 32504

3. **Volunteer Programs**

Staff coordinated Bay Ambassador and Critter Collector Volunteer Training Programs in March. Additional training sessions will be scheduled for summer of 2023.

4. **Panhandle Manatee**

Panhandle Manatee is recruiting volunteers to help with outreach and education to community members on boater safety, and seagrass and manatee awareness.

SAVE THE DATE:

Panhandle Manatee Volunteer Training
Saturday, April 15, 2023 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM
Downtown Pensacola Library, Room B
239 N Spring St. Pensacola, FL 32502



iii. **Community Grant Update** (*Madi Ross, Community Outreach Assistant*)

1. **Escambia County Coastal Landscaping Native Plant Giveaway**

Starting in April, the Escambia County Community Grant began hosting Native Plant Giveaways in Pensacola and Perdido to provide native plants appropriate for coastal landscaping to community members. The first giveaway was held on April 1st and engaged a total of 200 community members, giving away around 600 native plants.

[Escambia County News Article: Escambia County to Host Coastal Landscaping Workshops, Plant Giveaways](#)

Save the Date:

Perdido Key Native Plant Giveaway

April 15, 2023 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Perdido Key Community Center

15000 Perdido Key Dr. Pensacola, FL 32507

iv. **Trash Free Waters Lesson Update** (*Madi Ross, Community Outreach Assistant*)

The final lesson of the Trash Free Waters curriculum has been scheduled for three schools in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. The implementation of the Clean Campus High School Case Study at Gulf Breeze High School and West Florida High School has been completed and has moved on to the implementation phase of school pilot projects to address current trends in campus litter. Staff is actively engaging new schools for implementation of the Trash Free Waters Curriculum.

6. **Action Items**

a. **Approval of the First Amended and Restated PPBEP Interlocal Agreement**

PPBEP's legal counsel has recommended establishing PPBEP as a not-for-profit corporation to carry out the purposes of PPBEP. As such, PPBEP would qualify as an "instrumentality of government". This structure resolves the participation and operating challenges between Florida and Alabama posed by the Special District structure.

Discussion was held on the PPBEP Interlocal Agreement in conjunction with the organizational transition and the formation of a non-profit corporation. Steps will be taken to allow for the non-profit formation under Florida State Law to be completed by June 2023. Additional action will be taken for an IRS 501C-3 designation to accommodate a federal non-profit corporation. The board received information on the process of receiving Alabama and Florida sales tax exemption, the inclusion of other entities to the board based on the decision of the current acting board, and details regarding staff benefits and additional services through contracts.

Commissioner Colten Wright (Santa Rosa County) made a motion to approve the First Amended and Restated PPBEP Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Robert Bender (Escambia County) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



b. **Approval of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant Agreement No. 22PLN35, in the amount of \$687,500, for the Compound Flood Modeling and Adaptation Planning Project**

This project will produce updated precipitation frequency estimates and compound flooding scenarios for the Pensacola and Perdido watersheds to aid local governments in identifying priority resilience projects, policy initiatives, and community outreach opportunities necessary to enhance community resilience. This project will work to ensure all local governments within the region are using the same base dataset for community resilience planning. This action will increase revenue by \$687,500; \$480,000 is included as contractual services, \$148,500 for personnel, and \$59,000 for indirect costs.

Commissioner Robert Bender (Escambia County) made a motion to approve the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant Agreement No. 22PLN35, in the amount of \$687,500, for the Compound Flood Modeling and Adaptation Planning Project.

7. Discussion Items

a. **Organizational Transition**

A framework of the anticipated organizational transition timeline was presented to the board. Discussions with each participating municipality will be held through the months of April and May to approve the Interlocal Agreement. In the months of May and June, the program will be amending the Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, and policies and procedures for board approval and actively engage in filing for PPBEP to become a non-profit both state and federally. The official transitioning of PPBEP into an independent non-profit corporation will be in action in the months of July through September, with all processes complete by the end of the fiscal year in October.

b. **FY23-24 Preliminary Budget**

An overview of the FY23-24 Preliminary Budget was presented to the board showing estimated changes in the budget regarding personnel, travel, and supplies. A framework for local government contributions was presented to the board adopting a population-based approach for contribution levels.

Commissioner Colten Wright (Santa Rosa County) advised the incorporation of the Town of Jay. Mike Norberg (Okaloosa County) requested clarification on the funding sources for the personnel and travel estimated changes in the budget. Personnel adjustments will be funded through acquired grants and travel adjustments will be funded through local government contributions.

8. Committee Updates

a. **Technical Committee** (*Paul Looney, WRA*)

Nominations and elections were held during the February 28, 2023, Technical Committee



Meeting for Chair and Vice Chair positions. The Committee Chair Paul Looney (WRA) and the Vice Chair Casey Fulford (AACD) will serve another year. A guest presentation on the City of Pensacola's Mayoral Environmental Transition Team Outcomes and Priorities was presented by Christian Wagley (Healthy Gulf) and Kelly Hagen (CNAPP). The committee provided feedback on the State of the Bays.

i. Oyster Subcommittee (*Whitney Scheffel, Senior Scientist*)

Nominations and elections were held at the March 30, 2023, Oyster Subcommittee Meeting for chair and Vice Chair positions. The Committee Chair Chris Verlinde (Santa Rosa County) and the Vice Chair Beth Fugate (DEP) will serve another year. Discussion included a summary from the Oyster Round Table Meeting in January and planning for the Pensacola Oyster Restoration.

b. Education and Outreach Committee (*Logan McDonald, Community Outreach Coordinator*)

Nominations and elections were held at the February 16, 2023, Education and Outreach Committee Meeting for Chairs. Rick O'Connor (UF|IFAS) is the new Committee Chair. Committee members reviewed the Estuary 101 website before launch and volunteered to review State of the Bays from a broader education scope.

c. Environmental Justice Committee (*Matt Posner, Director*)

Nominations and elections were held at the March 14, 2023, Environmental Justice Committee Meeting for Co-Chairs. Kyle Buck (EPA) and Ryan Kirby (Escambia County) are the new Committee Co-Chairs. The next Environmental Justice Committee Meeting will be at the PPBEP Management Conference on May 4, 2023, to discuss the Environmental Justice Committee Strategy and goals.

9. Policy Board/Agency Updates

Commissioner Robert Bender (Escambia County) and Commissioner Colten Wright (Santa Rosa County) made suggestions for the Estuary 101 Pledge Cards and requested that pledge cards be dispersed to the parties for increased outreach.

10. Public Comment

11. Meeting Adjourned



Agenda Item 6.a.

Approval of Waiving the Sixty-Day Termination Notice for Baldwin County's Membership

Background: On the March 6, 2023 Baldwin County Commission meeting agenda, the PPBEP National Estuary Program Designation Resolution of Support was brought before the Commission for approval. Approval of the Resolution was ultimately tabled over concerns expressed by the Commission related to the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program study area and the PPBEP study area.

On April 18, 2023, considering approval of PPBEP's first amended and restated Interlocal Agreement, Baldwin County staff brought forward a recommendation to the Commission to terminate the County's membership in the PPBEP Interlocal Agreement citing challenges working across jurisdictional boundaries related to the MBNEP and PPBEP respective study areas.

On May 1, 2023, the Commission, as prescribed in Section 4.2 of the Interlocal Agreement, approved issuing a sixty day notice of termination and also included a provision waiving the sixty day notice, if approved by the PPBEP Policy Board, so as to not impact the timeline associated with PPBEP's organizational transition.

Recommendation: Recommend the Board accept or deny waiving the sixty-day termination notice for Baldwin County's membership in the PPBEP Interlocal Agreement.

Financial Impact: None.



COUNTY COMMISSION

BALDWIN COUNTY
312 Courthouse Square, Suite 12
BAY MINETTE, ALABAMA 36507
(251) 937-0264
Fax (251) 580-2500
www.baldwincountyal.gov

MEMBERS
DISTRICT 1. JAMES E. BALL
2. MATTHEW P. MCKENZIE
3. BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD
4. CHARLES F. GRUBER

May 2, 2023

Mr. Matt J. Posner
PPBEP Executive Director
226 South Palafox Place
Pensacola, Florida 32502

RE: Baldwin County Commission Sixty (60) Day Notice of Termination of Policy Board Membership

Dear Mr. Posner:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate on the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Estuary Program's (PPBEP) Policy Board. We support the PPBEP's mission of preserving, restoring, improving, and maintaining the natural habitat and ecosystem of the bays, estuaries, and watersheds of Pensacola Bay and Perdido Bay. As we all know, coordinating work across jurisdictional boundaries can be difficult, especially when those boundaries are state lines. Given some of these jurisdictional struggles, we believe the timing is not right for the Baldwin County Commission's continued involvement in the PPBEP.

For this reason, the Baldwin County Commission, during its regularly scheduled meeting held on May 2, 2023, approved issuing a sixty (60) day written notice of termination of the County's membership on the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Estuary Program's Policy Board, termination effective July 1, 2023. The Baldwin County Commission also waived the sixty (60) days written notice requirement from Section 4.2 of the Interlocal Agreement to the extent allowed by law and accepted by the Parties to the Agreement, which would result in an earlier termination date.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Matthew Brown, Planning Director, at (251) 937-0264.

Sincerely,

CHARLES F. GRUBER, Chairman
Baldwin County Commission

CG/jb Item FR1

Mr. Matt J. Posner

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May 2, 2023

cc: Matthew Brown
Ashley Campbell
Commissioner Jeff Bergosh, Escambia County, Florida
Commissioner Colten Wright, Santa Rosa County, Florida
Commissioner Trey Goodwin, Okaloosa County, Florida
Mayor Cherry Fitch, City of Gulf Breeze, Florida
Mayor Heather Lindsay, City of Milton, Florida
Mayor D.C. Reeves, Pensacola, Florida
Mayor Benjamin Boutwell, Town of Century, Florida
Mayor Tony Kennon, City of Orange Beach, Alabama



Agenda Item 6.b.

Approval of the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Articles of Incorporation

Background: PPBEP's attorney, Mary Jane Bass, has prepared the enclosed Articles of Incorporation for Board adoption and submittal to the Florida Department of State to formally incorporate the not-for-profit corporation.

Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Articles of Incorporation.

Financial Impact: None.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
PENSACOLA AND PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM, INC.

The undersigned incorporator, for the purpose of forming a corporation under the Florida Not For Profit Corporations Act hereby adopts the following Articles of Incorporation:

ARTICLE I-NAME

The name of this Corporation is PENSACOLA AND PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM, INC.

ARTICLE II-PRINCIPAL OFFICE; MAILING ADDRESS

The street address of the initial principal place of business of this Corporation shall be 226 South Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida 32502.

The mailing address of this Corporation shall be 226 South Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida 32502.

ARTICLE III-PURPOSES

The Corporation is organized and shall be operated on a not-for-profit basis and exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes, and for the not-for-profit purposes of relieving the burdens of government, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), or in accordance with any other applicable provision of any current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder. The corporation shall have perpetual existence. The specific purposes for which the Corporation is organized are:

- (a) To guide the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan to improve water quality and living resources for the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay Systems, and for other related lawful purposes;
- (b) To attract support for and to receive grants, contributions, donations and gifts to be used to further these corporate purposes and the purposes of any not-for-profit and federally tax-exempt organization which is affiliated with the Corporation;
- (c) To promote, by distribution, donation, or loan, the interests of any not-for-profit and federally tax-exempt organization which is affiliated with the Corporation and which furthers the purposes of the Corporation, the purposes of which are not inconsistent with those of the Corporation;

- (d) To buy, own, sell, exchange, convey, assign, mortgage or lease any interest in real estate and personal property and to construct, maintain and operate improvements thereon necessary or incident to the not-for-profit mission of the Corporation;
- (e) To contract with other organizations, for-profit and not-for-profit, with individuals, and with governmental agencies in furtherance of these purposes;
- (f) To operate exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes, and for the not-for-profit purposes of relieving the burdens of government within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the IRC, or in accordance with any other applicable provision of any current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder, in the course of which operation:
 - 1. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its managers, officers, or other persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of the Corporation;
 - 2. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office except as authorized under the Code; and
- (g) Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRC or any other applicable provision of any current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the IRC;
- (h) To operate without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status or any other categories protected by federal law;
- (i) To make distributions to organizations described in Code Sections 170(c), 2055(a) and 2522(a), as amended; and
- (j) To operate, participate in and/or manage any other programs or activities that are not prohibited by law and that do not conflict with the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

ARTICLE IV – POWERS

The Corporation shall have and exercise all powers of any corporation not for profit as the same now exist or may hereafter exist under the laws of the State of Florida. No part of the assets, income or profits of the Corporation shall be distributable to, or inure to the benefit of, its directors or officers or any private individual, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation to its employees for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in the furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, the Corporation shall not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or any other applicable provision of any current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 of such Code.

ARTICLE V - DISSOLUTION ON LIQUIDATION

In the event of dissolution of the Corporation or the winding up of its affairs, or other liquidation of its assets, the Corporation's property shall not be conveyed to any organization created or operated for profit or to any individual, and all assets remaining after the payment of the Corporation's debts shall be conveyed or distributed at the direction of the then Directors of the Corporation to such other organization or organizations that are exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or any other applicable provision of any current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder.

ARTICLE VI-REGISTERED AGENT AND ADDRESS

The name of the registered agent of the corporation is Matthew J. Posner. The address of this registered agent is 226 South Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida 32502. The registered office and registered agent provided for herein may be changed from time to time in the manner provided by law.

ARTICLE VII-INCORPORATOR

The name of the incorporator is Matthew J. Posner. The address of this incorporator is 226 South Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida 32502.

ARTICLE VIII-MEMBERS and DIRECTORS

9.1 Members. The Corporation shall have no members.

9.2 Directors. The Directors of the Corporation shall be appointed in accordance with the Bylaws of the Corporation. The names and addresses of the initial Directors are as follows:

Woodrow Speed
4099 Orange Beach Boulevard
Orange Beach, AL 36561

Colten Wright
6495 Caroline Street
Suite M
Milton, FL 32570

Robert Bender
221 S. Palafox Street
400
Pensacola, FL 32502

Benjamin Boutwell
7995 N. Century Blvd.
Century, FL 32535

Vernon Compton
6738 Dixon Street
Milton, FL 32572

Cherry Fitch
1070 Shoreline Drive
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

Mike Kohler
221 S. Palafox Street
400
Pensacola, FL 32502

Jared Moore
222 West Main Street
Third Floor
Pensacola, FL 32502

Mike Norberg
1250 N. Eglin Parkway
Shalimar, FL 32579

Kerry Smith
6495 Caroline Street
Suite M
Milton, FL 32570

ARTICLE IX-PROPERTY HELD FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

The property of the Corporation is irrevocably dedicated for charitable purposes and no part of the net income or assets of the Corporation will ever inure to the benefit of any Director, or officer of the Corporation, or to the benefit of any private individual.

ARTICLE X-BYLAWS

The directors of the Corporation shall adopt Bylaws for this Corporation and the Board of Directors from time to time may modify, alter, amend or rescind the same by supermajority vote of the members of the Board of Directors present at any regular or special meeting or by unanimous written consent of all of the members of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI-AMENDMENTS

This Corporation may amend, alter or repeal any provision of these Articles of Incorporation in the manner now or hereinafter provided by Florida law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Incorporator has executed these Articles of Incorporation this _____ day of _____, 2023.

MATTHEW J. POSNER, Incorporator

ACCEPTANCE OF DESIGNATION AS
REGISTERED AGENT OF
PENSACOLA AND PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM, INC.

Having been named as registered agent and to accept service of process for PENSACOLA AND PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM, INC., at the place designated in the Articles of Incorporation, I hereby accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity. I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relating to the proper and complete performance of my duties and am familiar with and accept the obligations of my position as registered agent.

MATTHEW J. POSNER

Date: _____, 2023



Agenda Item 6.c.

Approval of the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Bylaws

Background: PPBEP's attorney, Mary Jane Bass, has prepared the enclosed Corporation Bylaws that replace the current Board Bylaws.

Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Bylaws.

Financial Impact: None.

**BYLAWS
OF
PENSACOLA AND PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM, INC.
(a Florida Not for Profit Corporation)**

ARTICLE ONE - DEFINITIONS

The terms set forth below shall have the following meanings unless otherwise required by the context in which they may be used.

Articles of Incorporation. The term "Articles of Incorporation" shall mean the original Articles of Incorporation of Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc. filed with the Department of State of Florida.

Chair. The term "Chair" shall mean the chairperson of the identified Board of Directors.

Interlocal Agreement. The term "Interlocal Agreement" shall mean the First Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement effective as of _____, as may be amended from time-to-time, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

Majority. The term "Majority" shall mean a sum greater than fifty percent (50%) of the applicable total number.

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program or Corporation. The term "Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program" refers to the corporation, Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc., to which these Bylaws pertain.

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program Board. The term "Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program Board" or "Board" refers to the Board of Directors of the corporation, Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc.

Quorum. The term "Quorum" shall mean a Majority of the number of Directors then serving and required for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board.

Super-majority. The term "Super-majority" shall mean a sum greater than two-thirds (66.6 percent) of the applicable total number.

ARTICLE TWO - PURPOSES

The Corporation is organized and shall be operated on a not-for-profit basis and exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes, and for the not-for-profit purposes of relieving the burdens of government, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), or in accordance with any other applicable provision of any

current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder. The corporation shall have perpetual existence. The specific purposes for which the Corporation is organized are:

(a) The development and implementation of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan to improve water quality and living resources for the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System and the associated watersheds to achieve the following outcomes:

- Water quality improvement;
- Restoration and conservation of habitat;
- Healthy ecosystems that support wildlife and fisheries;
- Improve surface and groundwater quality and quantity, and flood control;
- Enhance community resilience;
- Revitalize the coastal economy and enhance quality of life;

and for other related lawful purposes;

(b) To attract support for and to receive grants, contributions, donations and gifts to be used to further these corporate purposes and the purposes of any not-for-profit and federally tax-exempt organization which is affiliated with the Corporation;

(c) To promote, by distribution, donation, or loan, the interests of any not-for-profit and federally tax-exempt organization which is affiliated with the Corporation and which furthers the purposes of the Corporation, the purposes of which are not inconsistent with those of the Corporation;

(d) To buy, own, sell, exchange, convey, assign, mortgage or lease any interest in real estate and personal property and to construct, maintain and operate improvements thereon necessary or incident to the not-for-profit mission of the Corporation;

(e) To contract with other organizations, for-profit and not-for-profit, with individuals, and with governmental agencies in furtherance of these purposes;

(f) To operate exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes, and for the not-for-profit purposes of relieving the burdens of government, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the IRC, or in accordance with any other applicable provision of any current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder, in the course of which operation:

- (1) No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, managers, officers, or other persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of the Corporation;

(2) No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office except as authorized under the Code; and

(g) Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRC or any other applicable provision of any current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder, or (ii) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the IRC;

(h) To operate without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status or any other categories protected by federal law;

(i) To make distributions to organizations described in Code Sections 170(c), 2055(a) and 2522(a), as amended; and

(j) To operate, participate in and/or manage any other programs or activities that are not prohibited by law to be carried out by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or any other applicable provision of any current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder.

ARTICLE THREE - POWERS

All corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business and affairs of this Corporation shall be managed under the direction of, the Board. Except as limited herein, and by the Interlocal Agreement, the Corporation shall have and exercise all powers of any corporation not for profit as the same now exist or may hereafter exist under the laws of the State of Florida. No part of the assets, income or profits of the Corporation shall be distributable to, or inure to the benefit of, its directors or officers or any private individual, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation to its employees for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in the furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, the Corporation shall not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or any other applicable provision of any current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 of such Code.

ARTICLE FOUR - OFFICE

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program shall maintain its principal office in the County of Escambia or the County of Santa Rosa, State of Florida at such place as may be

determined from time to time by the Board.

ARTICLE FIVE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5.1 Powers. All of the business and affairs of Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program shall be managed by the Board in a manner consistent with these Bylaws and with the Interlocal Agreement.

5.2 Membership and Term. The directors of the Board shall be appointed by the parties to the Interlocal Agreement. Escambia County and Santa Rosa County shall each appoint and be represented by two (2) directors and all other parties shall appoint and be represented by one (1) director. Each party shall also appoint an alternate director to serve when the primary director is unavailable. Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Board, the appointing party shall fill the vacancy by appointing a successor director. Any party may, at any time, appoint a new director or alternate director upon providing written notice to the Chair of the Board. All directors shall serve at the pleasure of the respective appointing party unless or until replaced at the sole discretion of the appointing party.

5.3 Officers. The officers of this Corporation shall consist of a chairperson and a vice-chairperson, who shall have the following duties:

- (a) Chair. The Chair of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the Board and perform such other duties prescribed in these Bylaws or assigned by the Board; and
- (b) Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair of the Board shall, in the absence of the Chair, perform

the duties of the Chair as well as any other duties assigned by the Chair or Board.

5.4 Election and Tenure of Officers. Officers will be elected at the annual meeting of the Board in January of each calendar year and serve a one (1) year term. Officers may be re-elected to multiple terms. Officers may be elected by a simple majority vote of the Board.

5.5 Removal of Officers. Any officer may be removed from office prior to the expiration of his or her term by a simple majority vote of the Board whenever, in the Board's judgment, the best interests of the PPBEP will be served thereby. Newly elected officers will not be subject to removal until after serving in office for two regularly-scheduled Board meetings.

5.6 Vacancies. Whenever a vacancy in any elected office exists due to death, resignation, or removal, the Board shall fill the vacancy by electing a successor by a simple majority vote for the unexpired term of the predecessor. Officers resigning from their position prior to the expiration of their one-year term must provide written notification to the Board.

5.7 Compensation. All directors of the Board shall serve without compensation.

5.8 Executive Director. The Board shall appoint and exercise supervisory authority over the Executive Director. The Board shall conduct the Executive Director's performance review on an annual basis and establish compensation. The Executive Director shall carry out policy as established by the Board and shall also perform the duties associated with the day-to-day, general management of the affairs of the PPBEP, including acceptance of service of process. The Executive Director shall be responsible for hiring, supervising, evaluating, and/or terminating subordinate staff. The Executive Director must receive approval from the Corporation Board prior to the establishment of any new positions.

ARTICLE SIX - BOARD MEETINGS

6.1 Sunshine Law. The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program shall be subject to and all meetings of the Board shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements of Florida's Sunshine Law, Chapter 286, Florida Statutes, and the Florida Public Records Act, Chapter 199, Florida Statutes, and other comparable laws of the State of Alabama.

6.2 Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Board shall be held in January of each calendar year.

6.2 Regular Meetings. The Board shall convene not less than quarterly with a minimum of four (4) regular meetings each calendar year. A schedule of each year's regular meetings shall be distributed to all Board members in January of each calendar year.

6.3 Special Meetings. The Chair of the Board may call a special meeting of the Board upon his or her initiative or upon the request of any three Board members. The meeting will be scheduled as soon as practicable.

6.4 Notice of Meeting. Notice of all regular and special meetings of the Board and the time and location of each meeting will be timely published to the public.

6.5 Agenda. The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program Executive Director shall, after consultation with the Chair, prepare an agenda for each meeting. The agenda and any related materials shall be distributed by e-mail to each board member not less than seven (7) days before the meeting.

6.6 Voting Rights. Each member of the Board who is present or in attendance at any meeting of the Board shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

7.7 Action of the Board. Action by the Board shall only be taken at meetings where a Quorum is present. Unless otherwise specified herein, such action shall be by a majority vote of those present.

7.8 Rules of Procedure. The Board shall conduct all meetings in accordance with the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, except to

the extent any such provision is in conflict with these Bylaws or the terms of the Interlocal Agreement.

ARTICLE SEVEN - COMMITTEES

7.1 Standing Committees. The Technical Committee, the Education and Outreach Committee, the Business Partnership Committee, and the Environmental Justice Committee shall be established upon direction of the Board to serve in a fact-finding capacity or to conduct programmatic activities as directed by the Board.

7.2 Advisory Committees. The Board may, upon a majority vote of the members present, direct any Committee to serve in an advisory capacity, in which case the Committee and its meetings will be governed by the requirements of Florida's Sunshine Law, Chapter 286, Florida Statutes, and other comparable laws of the State of Alabama.

7.3 Additional Committees. The Board may, upon a majority vote of the members present, create or abolish such additional Committees as it deems necessary, including subcommittees of the Board.

7.4 Membership and Term. Membership of the Committees is open to all interested stakeholders without term limits unless otherwise defined by the Board.

7.5 Committee Officers. The officers of each Committee shall consist of a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The officers of each Committee shall have the following duties:

(a) Chair. The Chair of each Committee shall preside at all meetings of the Committee and perform such other duties prescribed in these Bylaws or assigned by the Executive Director, Committee, or Board; and

(b) Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair of each Committee shall, in the absence of the Chair, perform the duties of the Chair as well as any other duties assigned by the Chair, Executive Director, Committee, or Board.

7.6 Election and Tenure of Committee Officers. Officers will be elected at the annual meeting of the Board in January of each calendar year and serve a one (1) year term. Officers may be re-elected to multiple terms. Officers may be elected by a simple majority vote of the Committee.

7.7 Removal of Committee Officers. Any officer may be removed from office prior to the expiration of his or her term by a simple majority vote of the Committee whenever, in the Committee's judgment, the best interests of the PPBEP will be served thereby. Newly elected officers will not be subject to removal until after serving in office for two regularly-scheduled Committee meetings.

7.8 Vacancies. Whenever a vacancy in any elected office exists due to death, resignation, or removal, the Committee shall fill the vacancy by electing a successor by a simple majority vote

for the unexpired term of the predecessor. Committee officers resigning from their position prior to the expiration of their one-year term must provide written notification to the Committee.

7.9 Compensation. All Committee members shall serve without compensation.

ARTICLE EIGHT - CONFLICT OF INTEREST

8.1 Voting Conflicts. All Board members from the State of Florida shall be held to the standards set forth in Section 112.3143, Fla. Stat., as it may be amended from time to time, or if from the State of Alabama to standards in comparable Alabama laws, as those sections apply to appointed public officers.

8.2 Financial Disclosure. Each Board member from the State of Florida and the Executive Director shall if required by law to do so file a disclosure of financial interests in accordance with the provisions of Sections 112.3144 and 112.3145, Florida Statutes, or if from the State of Alabama and required by Alabama law to do so file a disclosure of financial interests in accordance with comparable laws of the State of Alabama.

ARTICLE NINE - BUDGET

On or before September 1st of each year, the Board shall approve an annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Contributions recommended from each party shall be determined by a Super-majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE TEN - ANNUAL AUDIT

Upon approval by the Board, the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program shall cause to be prepared an annual audit of its financial statements and provide the audited annual financial statements to each Board member upon completion of the audit.

ARTICLE ELEVEN - AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

11.1 Amendment or Repeal of Bylaws. The Board may amend or repeal these Bylaws by Super-majority vote of the members present, provided that any such amendment or repeal will not become effective until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Notwithstanding the foregoing, these Bylaws shall not be amended in any manner or form which might result in the loss of the Corporation's tax exempt status under Code Section 501(c)(3) any other applicable provision of any current or future United States Internal Revenue Law and the regulations thereunder.

11.2 Writing. The Bylaws and any amendments thereto shall be memorialized in writing, either by reproduction as amended or by attachment.

ARTICLE TWELVE - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program shall commence on the first day of October and end on the last day of September.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN - SUNSHINE LAW, PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, FLORIDA CODE OF ETHICS

The Corporation, its officers, directors, and employees shall operate in accordance with the Florida Code of Ethics, set forth in Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, Florida sunshine laws, as set forth in Chapter 286, Florida Statutes, and the Florida Public Records Act, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and other comparable laws of the State of Alabama.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN - CONFLICT WITH INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

To the extent there is deemed to be a conflict between the provisions of these Bylaws and the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement, the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement shall control and prevail.

BOARD CHAIR’S CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I am the Chair of the Board of the PENSACOLA AND PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM, and the foregoing Bylaws of Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc. were duly adopted by the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc. Board of the at a meeting of said Board held on _____, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have affixed my signature this _____ day of _____, 2023.

SIGNATURE: _____

NAME PRINTED: Woodrow Speed

TITLE: Chair, Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc.



Agenda Item 6.d.

Approval of the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Consent Resolution

Background: PPBEP's attorney, Mary Jane Bass, has prepared the enclosed Consent Resolution in lieu of convening an organizational meeting.

Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Consent Resolution in lieu of convening an organizational meeting.

Financial Impact: None.

UNANIMOUS WRITTEN CONSENT TO RESOLUTIONS
IN LIEU OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF
PENSACOLA AND PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM, INC.

Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 617.0205, Florida Statutes, the adoption of the following resolutions is consented to by the undersigned, who are all of the Directors of this Corporation:

RESOLVED, that the filing of the Articles of Incorporation of this Corporation in the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Florida on May __, 2023, is ratified and consented to;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bylaws for this Corporation that are attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof are hereby adopted.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following persons be and hereby are elected to the office or offices set forth opposite their names, effective the date hereof, to serve until the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors or until their earlier resignation, removal from office, or death:

Woodrow Speed	Chair
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Colten Wright	Vice Chair
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FURTHER RESOLVED, that all of the acts and proceedings of the officers of this Corporation, for and on behalf of this Corporation, are hereby approved, ratified and confirmed in every respect;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that any officer of this Corporation is hereby authorized to adopt a seal for this Corporation;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair and Vice-Chair are authorized:

(a) to designate such bank or banks as depositories (a "Depository") for the funds of this Corporation as they may deem necessary or advisable;

(b) to open, keep and close general and special bank accounts and safe deposit boxes with any Depository;

(c) to cause to be deposited in accounts with any Depository from time to time such funds of this Corporation as the Chair and Vice Chair may deem necessary or advisable;

(d) to designate from time to time officers and agents of this Corporation authorized to sign or countersign checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money issued in the name of this Corporation against any such account; and

(e) to make such general and special rules and regulations with respect to such accounts (including, without limitation, authorization for use of facsimile signatures) as the Chair and Vice Chair may deem necessary or advisable.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any Depository requires a prescribed form of preamble, preambles, resolution or resolutions relating to any accounts described in the foregoing resolution or to any application, statement, instrument or other document connected therewith, each such preamble or resolution shall be deemed to be adopted by the Board of Directors, and the Chair or Vice Chair of this Corporation is authorized to certify the adoption of any such preamble or resolution as though it were presented to the Board of Directors at the time of adopting this resolution and to insert all such preambles and resolutions in the minute book of this Corporation as though they were so presented;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of this Corporation are, and each of them is, authorized to pay all fees and expenses incident to and necessary for the organization of this Corporation;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Matt J. Posner, whose address is 226 South Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida 32502, is hereby appointed as Registered Agent of this Corporation to accept service of process within the State of Florida. For the purpose of authorizing this Corporation to do business in any other state, territory or dependency of the United States or any foreign country in which it is necessary or expedient for this Corporation to transact business, the officers of this Corporation are, and each of them is, hereby authorized to appoint and substitute all necessary agents or attorneys for service of process, to designate and change the location of all necessary statutory offices and, under the corporate seal or otherwise, to make and file all necessary certificates, reports, powers of attorney and other instruments as may be required under the laws of any such jurisdiction to authorize this Corporation to transact business therein, and whenever it is expedient for this Corporation to cease doing business therein and withdraw therefrom, to revoke any appointment of agent or attorney for service of process, and to file such certificates, reports, revocation of appointment or surrender of authority as may be necessary to terminate the authority of this Corporation to do business in any such jurisdiction;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this corporation file IRS Form 1023 or 1023EZ for purposes of seeking tax exemption for federal income tax purposes; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of this Corporation are, and each of them is, authorized to proceed to carry on the business of this Corporation and, in

order to fully carry out the intent and accomplish the purposes of the actions to which the undersigned have consented hereby, to take all such further action and to execute and deliver all such further instruments and documents, in the name and on behalf of this Corporation and under its corporate seal or otherwise, and the officers of this Corporation are, and each of them is, authorized to pay such expenses and to obtain such governmental and regulatory licenses and approvals, as in their or his judgment shall be necessary, proper or advisable therewith.

Effective as _____, 2023.

Woodrow Speed

Colten Wright

Robert Bender

Mike Kohler

Cherry Fitch

Kerry Smith

Jared Moore

Benjamin Boutwell

Vernon Compton

Mike Norberg

EXHIBIT A

BYLAWS
OF
PENSACOLA AND PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM, INC.
a Florida Not for Profit Corporation



Agenda Item 6.e.

Approval of the 2023-2027 Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy

Background: As part of the EPA Cooperative Agreement to establish the Estuary Program, development of a Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy was necessary to demonstrate to EPA the monitoring priorities of the Estuary Program. Staff has prepared a five-year strategy consistent with guidance available from the EPA National Estuary Program.

Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve the 2023-2027 Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy.

Financial Impact: None.



**PENSACOLA & PERDIDO BAYS
ESTUARY PROGRAM**

**COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING
STRATEGY
2022-2027**



BACKGROUND

The 2022-2027 Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy is an appendix of the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program's (PPBEP) [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#) (CCMP) and supplements the six established goal areas identified to address priority issues across the watersheds. This strategy will assist Program staff and partners with prioritizing monitoring needs to effectively assess the progress and effectiveness of CCMP actions.

Integrating a participatory framework into an adaptive management strategy provides an opportunity for increased community engagement and support. During the early stages of program establishment, PPBEP collected stakeholder feedback from various sectors of the community (e.g., state and federal agencies, NGOs, local community organizations, academia, teachers, community members, etc.) to help shape the Program's Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy. PPBEP staff and partners at the University of Florida (UF) and University of West Florida (UWF) hosted virtual workshops to gather feedback from stakeholders to help guide CCMP development and future Program actions. The purpose of the workshops was to 1) Identify and prioritize stressors across the watersheds based on impact and urgency and 2) Identify data gaps, needs, locations of interest and/or concern, and actions. The outputs from these stakeholder workshops fed directly into the CCMP Action Plan.

Additionally, technical partners assisted staff in completing a crosswalk of existing monitoring activities being conducted across the watersheds, which identified key metrics of each monitoring project or program including parameters measured, methodologies, monitoring frequency, and other key attributes (Appendix A). This information allowed the Program staff to evaluate temporal and spatial gaps in monitoring efforts and develop a strategy for expanding monitoring throughout the watersheds to effectively answer key questions on the status and trends of the ecosystem.

OVERVIEW

It is critical to assess progress made toward PPBEP CCMP goals and assess the outcomes of CCMP actions. For each CCMP goal, measurable objectives were developed collaboratively with stakeholders to help evaluate progress towards meeting those goals. Each goal and objective are linked to one or more specific action in the CCMP.

Measuring the effectiveness of those actions in bringing about environmental change is accomplished with consistent monitoring of a suite of indicators. These indicators are used to report progress toward meeting specific goals and targets and evaluate the status and trends of environmental conditions across the watersheds.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Long-term monitoring of the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds (Figure 1) is critical for PPBEP to assess environmental status and trends, and track implementation of actions and programmatic success towards achieving measurable goals as part of the CCMP.

According to EPA guidance, comprehensive monitoring programs have the ability to:

- Assist managers with improving their Programs by identifying current and emerging programs.
- Provide accountability to elected officials and the public relating to the progress toward watershed protection.
- Help identify the programs and projects that are successful.
- Provide a framework for assessing the Program as a whole.

The purpose of this Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy is to:

- Develop the structure and parameters needed for a comprehensive monitoring program.
- Expand coordination and partnerships with entities conducting monitoring throughout the watersheds to fill critical data gaps.
- Provide guidance and recommendations for improved data comparability.
- Enhance cross-state coordination.
- Assist in the evaluation of the effectiveness of CCMP actions.
- Provide the data necessary to routinely track trends and assess the health of the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds.

The 2022-2027 Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy serves as a living document and will be adaptively managed over the five-year planning horizon. It incorporates existing guidance documents and resources developed by state, regional, and local organizations to ensure cross-state inter-agency coordination of monitoring activities. Refined actions will be identified in PPBEP's Annual Workplan.

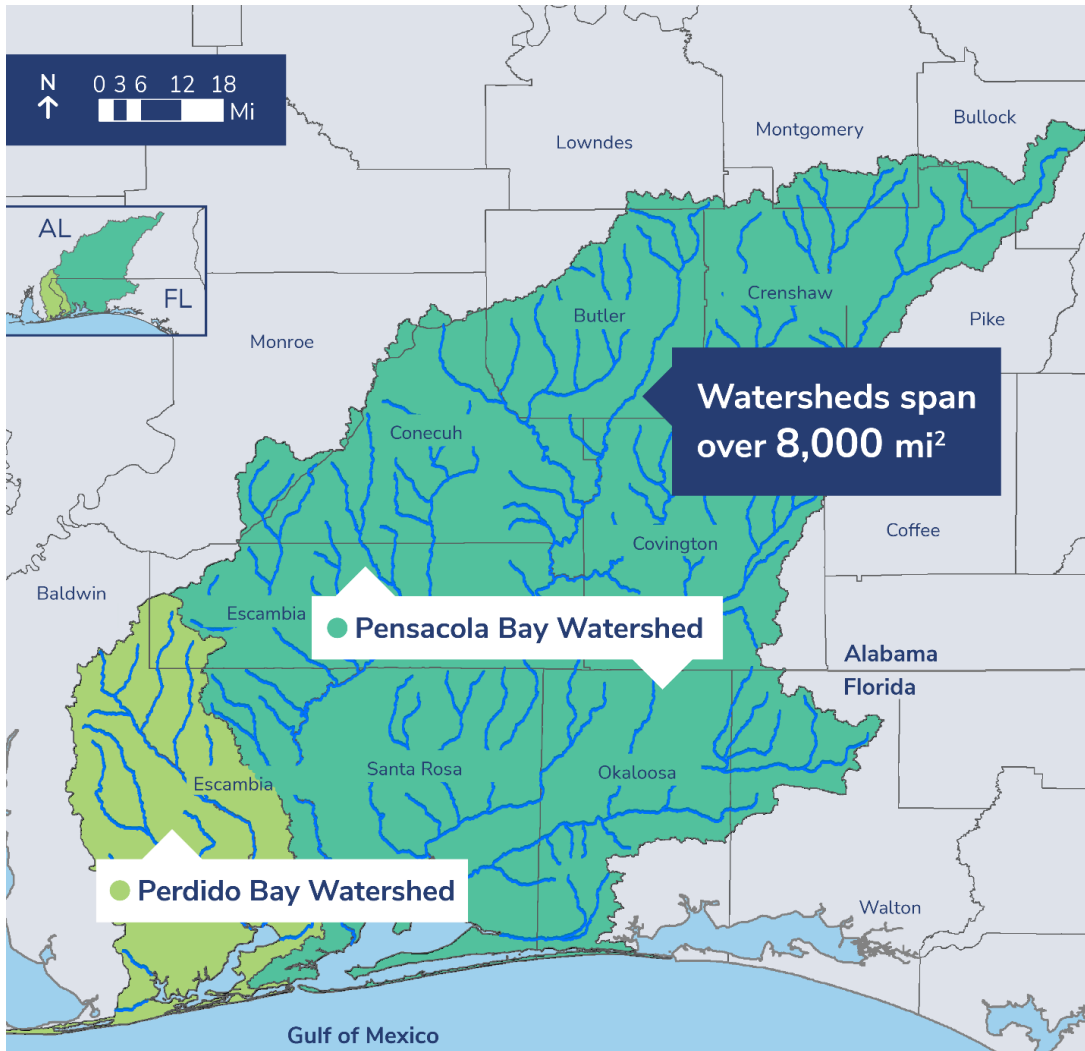


Figure 1. Pensacola Bay and Perdido Bay Watersheds.

COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING PROGRAM

The monitoring program devised and implemented by PPBEP and partners continues to build on existing efforts to assess progress of the recovery more completely and clearly and/or change in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Systems. This Strategy provides a framework that builds on existing monitoring programs within the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds. Actions addressed within the existing monitoring programs, responsible entities, data collected, sampling frequency, etc. can be found in the Appendix A. PPBEP will continue to work with partners to obtain, share, and evaluate monitoring data, and to communicate findings to the public, decision makers, and stakeholders.

Existing Monitoring Programs

There are numerous monitoring programs carried out by multiple entities in Perdido and Pensacola Bay watersheds (Appendix A). This Strategy does not intend to be an integrated monitoring plan that pulls all those activities together. Rather, the Monitoring Strategy describes current monitoring efforts conducted by federal, state, local government, and non-governmental organizations within the watersheds, as well as recommendations for expanding existing programs or establishing new ones to address gaps or needs.

Data Gaps and Evaluation

To evaluate data gaps and compile existing information on watershed and Gulf wide research, restoration, and monitoring activities, staff and technical partners developed a bibliography of existing gray and peer reviewed literature, monitoring programs, and reports. PPBEP staff compiled metadata from existing inventory databases, including the RESTORE Council Monitoring and Assessment Program (CMAP) administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the Statewide Ecosystem Assessment of Coastal and Aquatic Resources (SEACAR). The bibliography fed into the technical characterization of the watersheds, which is entitled “Watersheds 101” in the CCMP. Watersheds 101 describes the features of the watersheds, habitats and communities, ecosystem stressors, and the restoration efforts that have aided ecosystem recovery.

Additionally, the outcomes of the workshop series hosted by PPBEP staff and partners from UWF and UF identified stakeholder concerns and critical data gaps to inform the development of actions to improve the health and resilience of natural systems and the economy of Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds. Based on feedback from stakeholders, the top priority ecosystem stressors that were selected based on urgency and impact are outlined below (See Table 1).

Table 1. List of prioritized stressors by focus area from PPBEP’s stakeholder workshop.

Focus Area	Prioritized Stressors
<i>Water Quality and Quantity</i>	Pathogens Eutrophication Land-use change Flooding Urbanization Poor development practices Impervious surfaces Infrastructure Sanitary sewer Stormwater
<i>Sediment Quality and Quantity</i>	Land-use change Impervious surfaces Poor agricultural practices Sedimentation Contaminants Polychlorinatedbiphenyls (PCBs) Heavy metals Legacy contaminants Erosion Sea-level rise Increased flooding
<i>Habitat</i>	Water quality Altered hydrology Development Poor development practices Shoreline hardening Improper habitat management Boating practices Old growth forest loss
<i>Fish and Wildlife</i>	Water quality and quantity Turbidity Stormwater runoff Salinity Pollutants Invasive species Urbanization/land conversion Habitat fragmentation

Following this workshop, data and information for specific indicators relating to the top priority stressors were compiled from open-source databases, reports, literature, and management plans, or provided directly from partner agencies and organizations (Figure 2). Data were synthesized to provide a baseline or update for stakeholders on the status and trends across the watersheds. Information was presented as a series of watershed-scale maps and figures indicating historical and current sampling efforts, indicator means, habitat extent, etc. This information not only provided a summary for workshop participants, but also provided the foundation for evaluating gaps and resource assessments needed for CCMP development and baseline data for State of the Bays report. Data needs/gaps, locations of interest, and actions for each indicator group were discussed and prioritized by stakeholders during each workshop. The top priority needs/gaps for each indicator group can be found in Table 2.

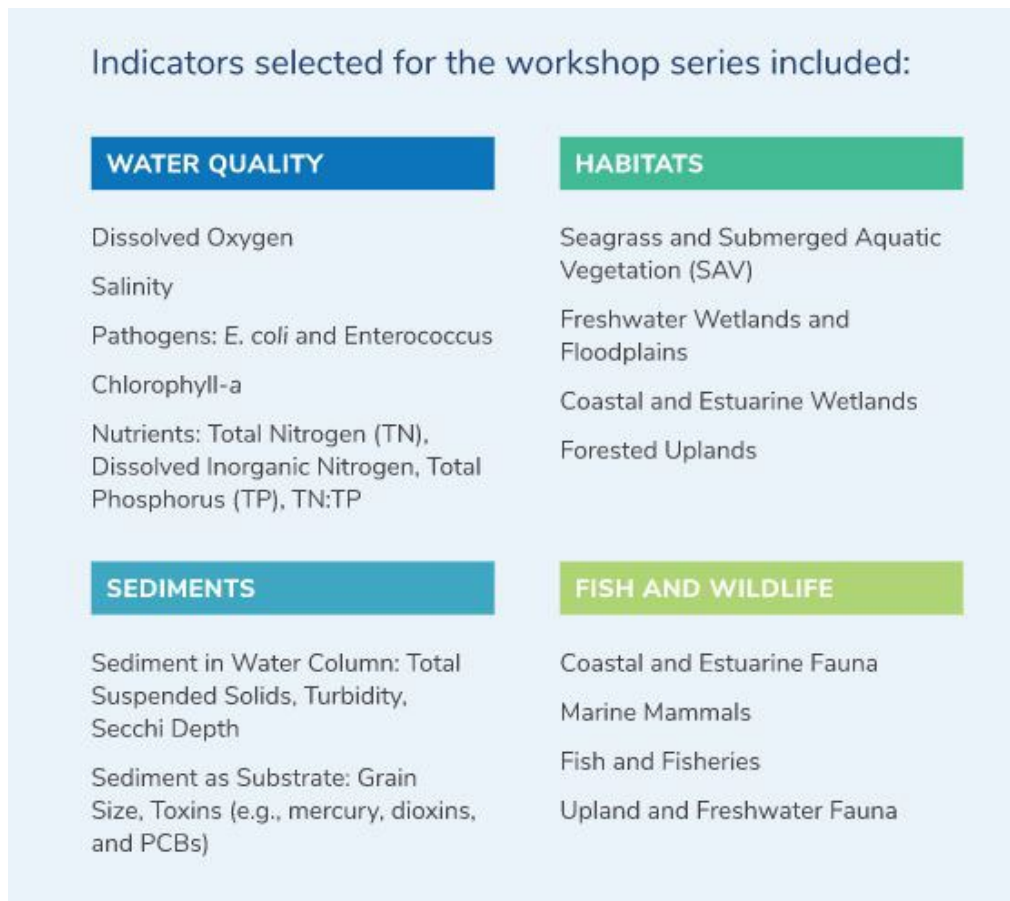


Figure 2. Environmental indicators selected for stakeholder workshop series to determine priority data needs, locations of interest/concern, and actions for incorporation into the CCMP.

Table 2. Top priority needs and data gaps identified by stakeholders in PPBEP’s virtual indicator workshops.

Focus Area	Watershed	Prioritized Needs/Data Gaps
<p><i>Water Quality and Quantity</i></p>	<p>Perdido Bay</p>	<p>Standardization of monitoring among monitoring groups across Alabama and Florida</p> <p>Short term, high frequency water quality monitoring in response to events (e.g., storms, oil spills, etc.)</p> <p>Stream monitoring throughout watersheds, especially in the Alabama portions of the watersheds</p> <p>Microbial source tracking data</p> <p>Wastewater infrastructure spatial data to identify root causes of impairments</p> <p>Quantify stormwater runoff hot spots and potential impacts</p>
	<p>Pensacola Bay</p>	<p>Microbial source tracking data</p> <p>Expansion of water quality monitoring - upper watershed tributary and coastal bay-wide scale</p> <p>Continuous seasonal monitoring data to better inform regional models</p> <p>Quantify stormwater runoff hot spots and potential impacts</p>
<p><i>Sediment Quality and Quantity</i></p>	<p>Perdido Bay</p>	<p>Sediment fingerprinting</p> <p>Sediment oxygen demand</p> <p>Sedimentation rates</p> <p>Soil characteristics</p> <p>Microbial source tracking data</p> <p>Biological (benthic and nekton) monitoring</p>

Focus Area	Watershed	Prioritized Needs/Data Gaps
<i>Sediment Quality and Quantity</i>	Pensacola Bay	<p>Comprehensive watershed scale monitoring for turbidity and total suspended solids (TSS)</p> <p>Sedimentation rates</p> <p>Unpaved roads assessment and prioritization</p> <p>Sediment quality monitoring (e.g., toxins, legacy contaminants)</p>
<i>Habitat</i>	Perdido and Pensacola Bays	<p>Consistent extent mapping (e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), oyster reefs, shorelines, wetlands, etc.)</p> <p>Comprehensive monitoring</p> <p>Conduct consistent condition assessments (e.g., wetlands, oyster reefs, seagrasses/SAV)</p> <p>Identify priority areas for conservation (e.g., wetlands, forested uplands)</p> <p>Track land use land cover changes</p>
<i>Fish and Wildlife</i>	Perdido and Pensacola Bays	<p>Continue tracking manatee sightings and behavioral patterns</p> <p>Expand Fisheries Independent Monitoring (e.g., freshwater and marine species)</p>

Opportunities for Filling Gaps and Expanding Monitoring

PPBEP staff have been working collaboratively with partners across Alabama and Florida to expand monitoring and outreach efforts and fill critical data gaps and therefore, have made notable progress toward activities outlined in the CCMP Action Plan. Funding provided by the Florida State Legislature and EPA supported several projects that focused on water quality and habitat monitoring across Perdido and Pensacola Bays watersheds, which include:

- Expansions of EPA's National Aquatic Resource Surveys (*partners: Escambia County, EPA, FWC, UF, UWF/BFA*)
 - [National Coastal Condition Assessment](#)
 - [National Wetland Condition Assessment](#)
- [Pensacola Bay System oyster reef mapping and condition assessment](#) (*partners: The Nature Conservancy, Marine Research Ecological Consulting Environmental, LLC*)
- [Tier I and Tier II](#) seagrass landscape scale mapping and site-specific monitoring (*partners: Dauphin Island Sea Lab and University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab*)
- Upper watersheds water quality monitoring (*partners: University of West Florida and Bream Fishermen Association*)
 - Perdido, Conecuh, Shoal, and Yellow River watersheds
- [Living Shoreline Suitability Model](#) for Pensacola and Perdido Bays (*partners: Troy University and Santa Rosa County*)
- Juvenile fish trawling survey in seagrass habitats (*partner: Dauphin Island Sea Lab*)
- PPBEP's Community Grant Program (2020-2023)
 - Projects are selected based on several criteria including CCMP action plan alignment, project approach, estuary/watershed impact, demonstration of applicant ability, community impact, and cost justification.

PPBEP staff and partners will also work towards supporting and expanding existing monitoring programs. Some of these include:

- Alabama Water Watch – expand community science water quality monitoring sites across the Perdido Bay watershed and explore community volunteer opportunities.
- Escambia County Water Quality and Land Management Division's Bays, Bayous, and Sounds water quality monitoring program – assist in field activities and expansion of sampling sites (Santa Rosa and Baldwin Counties) and use data outputs in future State of the Bays reports and funding proposals.
- Santa Rosa County's Water Quality Improvement Program – assist with data synthesis (GIS web-based application) and communication of results to public and technical audiences.
- Bream Fishermen Association water quality monitoring – support the continuation and use of this long-term dataset and work to expand sites throughout the watersheds.

- Continuous water quality monitoring at local oyster farms in the Pensacola Bay System – assist oyster farmers with continuous water quality monitoring of key parameters of interest for oyster health including pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity, temperature, and turbidity.
- Eyes on Seagrass – support existing community science seagrass monitoring program led by UF/IFAS Extension, Sea Grant, and University of West Florida, expand volunteer opportunities, and integrate community science efforts into annual Tier II monitoring.

Specific actions identified in this Strategy are to:

- 1) Convene a Monitoring Working Group to provide guidance and expertise for future restoration target setting, CCMP progress tracking, and facilitation of new monitoring partnerships.**
- 2) Integrate and expand existing monitoring programs across Alabama and Florida to fill critical data gaps.**
- 3) Provide comprehensive working list of environmental indicators, including methodologies, recommended sampling frequencies, etc. (Appendix B)**
- 4) Leverage funding to support watershed scale monitoring.**
- 5) Establish methods for data standardization and reporting.**

SHARING, REPORTING, AND USE OF DATA

The first goal of PPBEP’s CCMP is to be the public’s source for watershed-related information, which includes several actions that lay the framework for providing easily accessible resources to the scientific community, educators, and the community.

Data collected across the watersheds as part of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program will be shared by participating partners conducting monitoring through their agency’s website and/or database and by PPBEP via regional data platforms (e.g., GOMA’s Gulf of Mexico Open Data Platform, GOMOD), the Program’s website, and upon request. PPBEP will also share results from projects that the Program funds, partners, or leads in the form of visual summary documents on the website to highlight project goals and outcomes. PPBEP will work with partners to develop a dashboard to visualize data collected throughout the watersheds to inform a broader audience. In the next 5 years, PPBEP will host a biennial watershed science and outreach symposium with support of the Management Conference for stakeholders and students to share information on their ongoing programs and projects in the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds.

PPBEP and its partners will use monitoring data in reports and presentations to provide information to technical and public audiences regarding the success of programmatic activities and effectiveness of CCMP actions. Data will also be used to describe and assess the conditions

of our bays in our biennial State of the Bays reports and publications. Staff will continue to share monitoring results and project outputs through social media platforms (i.e., Facebook, Instagram), PPBEP newsletters (i.e., Pelican Post), and regularly scheduled “Lunch and Learn webinars hosted by PPBEP and partners. Data will also be used to inform future project proposals to implement CCMP actions.

INDICATORS AND PERFORMANCE METRICS

The Program’s first [State of the Bays report](#) released in May 2023 provides a snapshot of key ecosystem health metrics for the Pensacola and Perdido Bays. It features a series of infographics defining the interconnected indicators and various maps and graphs visualizing the best available historical and current information for 13 indicators. This report will be updated every two years to incorporate new datasets for existing indicators and to feature additional indicators that are of interest to the community. This report will allow us to:

- Determine if our waters are declining, improving, or staying the same.
- Identify areas where more information is needed to evaluate conditions.
- Ensure the community’s quality of life.

Based on feedback received by our committees and community stakeholders and the priority actions identified in the CCMP, there were four indicator groups and 13 indicators selected for the report, which include:

- Habitats
 - Oyster reefs
 - Seagrass Beds
 - Wetlands
 - Longleaf Pine Forests
 - Habitat Change
- Water Quality
 - Total Nitrogen
 - Total Phosphorus
 - Chlorophyll-*a*
 - Turbidity
 - Dissolved Oxygen
- Bacteria
 - Beach Advisories
 - Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)
- Wildlife
 - Manatees

For each watershed, indicators were assigned a condition based on a scale of ecosystem health. The condition was described as either improving, stable, declining, critical, or undetermined based on available data for specific bay segments. For more information on the indicators and methodologies associated with State of the Bays, please visit stateofthebays.org.



**Goal 1:
Source of Watershed-Related Information**

Objective 1.1 Become the central repository for watershed data and visualization		
Action	Partners	Expected Deliverables
1.1.1 Develop a publicly accessible bibliography of existing gray and peer reviewed literature, reports, and oral histories for the Pensacola and Perdido watersheds	UF/UWF (FLRACEP)	Published annotated bibliography on website or alternate platform
1.1.2 Create an open science digital dashboard for tools, data, and status and trend reporting that are transparent and accessible	TBEP; FWC; Counties; Community of Practice (CoP) groups; NFWFMD	Protocol for inclusion and maintenance of dashboard; Links on PPBEP website to partner resources and available datasets/metadata; Project maps; Status and trend figures (if applicable)
1.1.3 Create an accessible list of current and relevant programs/projects and grant opportunities within our watersheds	All partners	Protocol for inclusion and maintenance of dashboard; Interactive map with project descriptions and locations hosted on PPBEP website; Inventory of grant opportunities

Objective 1.2 Be a trusted and reliable source for relaying pertinent watershed-related environmental issues to the community

Action	Partners	Expected Deliverables
1.2.1 Coordinate the communication of post pollution or post natural disaster event monitoring and use social media and other digital platforms to inform the public of current watershed related environmental issues	FDOH; DEP; ADPH; ADEM; Local utilities; Counties; NFWFMD; NOAA; FEMA; Community groups; EPA	Communication and Information Sharing Agreement among agencies/organizations/local governments and PPBEP
1.2.2 Strengthen media relations and feature PPBEP program activities through local and regional media outlets	All media partners (e.g., PNJ, SR Gazette, WUWF, etc.)	Published social media posts, newsletters, press releases, and other media products
1.2.3 Participate and contribute to regional working groups and data sharing communities of practice	FWC; GOMA; NOAA; DISL; EPA; PLACE: SLR; NFWFMD; DEP	Published chapters of regional or state-wide reports with PPBEP as partner or co-author and products/outputs

Objective 1.3 Provide regular reports of ongoing monitoring and restoration efforts and results to the public

Action	Partners	Expected Deliverables
1.3.1 Develop State of the Bays Report	UF/UWF (FLRACEP); Technical Committee	Published final State of the Bay report (interactive web-based platform); updated every 2 years
1.3.2 Provide Community Grant Program updates via social media platforms and annual symposium	Funding agencies; States; Sponsors; Awardees	Published social media posts; Community Grant symposium event; Articles posted on PPBEP website
1.3.3 Host watershed science and outreach symposium	All partners	Biennial symposium
1.3.4 Use social media and other digital platforms to update the public on current watershed information	All partners	Published social media posts, presentations, and other outreach products

Implementation Strategy

PPBEP partnered with UF/UWF (FLRACEP project team) to develop an open-source database of current and relevant literature using Zotero bibliography software and worked with local partners to digitize pertinent historical records. PPBEP staff and UF/UWF post-doctoral researchers developed a protocol for design, inclusion, and regular maintenance/updating of the bibliography and will be working on next steps to share the product with the public and Program partners. This bibliography was developed to help identify what other local groups are monitoring in the watersheds. In 2024, PPBEP will coordinate with neighboring Estuary Programs and other supporting programs and organizations to assist in building an effective dashboard and relevant tools for data analysis and visualization. Staff will collaborate with partners to create and maintain a list of current projects within our watersheds using ArcMap or other open-source platform to host on the Program’s website to track the success of CCMP actions. PPBEP staff will assess watershed data, literature, and status and trends of selected indicators and communicate with various audiences using social media, newsletters, presentations, and other digital platforms. PPBEP’s future science and outreach symposium will provide a venue for stakeholders and students to share information on their ongoing programs and projects within our watersheds.



Goal 2: Strengthen Community Resilience

Objective 2.2 Facilitate wastewater management improvements throughout the watersheds		
Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
2.2.1 Extend central sewer service to priority areas near surface waters and retrofit existing failing wastewater infrastructure	Local utilities; AACD; Counties; Cities; ADOH; FDOH; EPA; NWFWMMD	Number of identified and/or funded projects; Amount of grant funding identified and/or acquired; Number of septic units identified to be updated or converted; Measured changes in water quality post conversions or upgrades

Objective 2.3 Promote the use of green infrastructure or other low-impact designs into community planning

Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
2.3.1 Enhance stormwater management by expanding the use of Green Infrastructure practices	Academia; Local government; Cities; Counties; Community organizations; Local utilities; NFWFMD	Number of green infrastructure practices and projects implemented; Amount of funding acquired; Estimate of acres treated; Volume of stormwater captured
2.3.2 Promote and facilitate the development of living shorelines (LS) as a sustainable alternative to shoreline armoring to reduce erosion and sediment inputs	Sea Grant; NWF; Local government; Academia; Extension; TNC; DEP; Community groups; Homeowners; Marine contractors; NFWFMD	Number of trainings offered and number of attendees; Number of outreach initiatives and campaigns; Number of LS projects implemented; Miles of shoreline converted to LS; Amount of funding received for public and private LS projects

Implementation Strategy

Staff will coordinate with partner organizations and local utilities to acquire maps of existing septic systems throughout the watersheds, prioritize areas for conversion or retrofits, and identify and acquire funding sources to assist with priority projects. The Program and its partners will track the locations of septic to sewer conversions as improvement projects are funded and completed throughout the watersheds. The Program will work with partners to prioritize areas that would benefit most from regional Green Infrastructure and Living Shoreline restoration techniques in terms of water quality improvements and shoreline protection and to develop and acquire funding to implement priority projects. Staff will encourage the use of appropriate tools (e.g., Compound Flood Modeling) and existing assessments to identify vulnerable areas to flooding and foster partnerships with EPA, academic institutions, and other organizations to assess and communicate outputs of current watershed hydrodynamic models.



**Goal 3:
Improve Water Quality**

Objective 3.1 Develop a comprehensive water quality watershed monitoring program throughout the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds		
Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
3.1.1 Implement the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy by establishing a comprehensive watershed monitoring program that encompasses both watersheds across state lines	EPA; FWC; DEP; ADEM; MBNEP; Baldwin, Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa Counties; Academia; Community Science organizations; BFA; Friends of Perdido Bay; AWW	Number of Water Body Identification numbers (WBIDs) and sites monitored; List of parameters monitored; Number of partner organizations and agencies engaged; Amount of funding dedicated and leveraged for water quality monitoring
3.1.2 Develop water quality targets for Pensacola and Perdido Bays to meet surface water classification designations	All partners; Technical Committee	List of measurable goals or targets for water quality parameters; Progress towards reaching targets; Amount of funding dedicated or leveraged for water quality monitoring and improvements

Objective 3.2 Identify root causes of water quality impairments and implement priority projects		
Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
3.2.1 Investigate sources of microbial pollutants in the watersheds	Academia; Counties; State agencies	Number of microbial pollutant hotspots identified; Percentage of watersheds assessed
3.2.2 Evaluate and identify point and nonpoint source hotspots for nutrients in the watersheds	DEP; ADEM; Academia; Counties; State agencies; Community science organizations; NRCS	Number of nutrient pollutant hotspots identified; Percentage of watersheds assessed
3.2.3 Implement water quality projects to meet state designated uses	City and county governments; Utilities; DEP; ADEM; EPA	Number of projects identified and planned; Number of priority source areas addressed; Percentage of areas attaining standards

Objective 3.3 Assess water quality seasonal trends to understand impacts to natural resources, including habitats and fish and wildlife

Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
3.3.1 Evaluate seasonal trends of nutrients, chlorophyll- <i>a</i> , dissolved oxygen, and harmful algal blooms and their impacts to habitats and fish and wildlife	Academia; Counties; State agencies; Organizations	Number of sites evaluated; Number of water quality parameters assessed; Spatial extent of water quality impairments identified; Percentage of watershed assessed

Implementation Strategy

PPBEP will integrate local system knowledge into monitoring efforts and sampling designs. The Program will implement intensifications across our watersheds (expanded sampling designs) for EPA’s National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS), specifically the National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA) and the National Rivers and Streams Assessment (NRSA). Staff will also work with Escambia County’s Water Quality and Land Management Lab to implement their Bays, Bayous, and Sounds Program, which will collect data on several water quality indicators throughout watersheds and coordinate with partner agencies and community science groups to increase current monitoring coverage and parameters sampled (e.g., enterococcus sampling). The Program and partners will develop and implement Microbial Source Tracking (MST) studies in priority areas across watersheds (e.g., impaired WBIDs) to identify root causes of bacterial impairments. Staff will collaborate with universities and other partners to synthesize existing data (e.g., seasonal water quality trends) and conduct relevant research projects and assessments (e.g., tracking). PPBEP will work with federal partners (e.g., NOAA, USGS, EPA) to establish additional sites to increase long-term continuous monitoring throughout the Pensacola and Perdido Bay systems. This would supplement existing efforts including NOAA’s environmental monitoring stations, Alabama’s Real Time Coastal Observing System (ARCOS) locations, USGS’s continuous water quality monitoring network, and EPA’s continuous monitoring buoy system.



**Goal 4:
Reduce Sedimentation**

Objective 4.1 Develop a comprehensive watershed monitoring program throughout the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds to assess sediment inputs

Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
4.1.1 Develop a comprehensive sediment monitoring program that encompasses both watersheds across state lines	EPA; FWC; DEP; ADEM; MBNEP; Baldwin, Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties; Academia; Community science organizations; NRCS; Friends of Perdido Bay	Number of WBIDs and sites monitored; List of parameters monitored; Number of partner organizations and agencies engaged; Amount of funding dedicated and leveraged for sediment monitoring

Objective 4.2 Conduct a sediment study to assess sources of sediments and erosion in the watersheds

Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
4.2.1 Identify the impact of land use land cover on the rate of soil erosion and sediment loading	Academia; FDOT; ADEM; DEP; NFWFMD; NRCS; USGS	Areas throughout watershed represented; Quantified annual sediment load
4.2.2. Identify major sediment sources within the watersheds	Academia; FDOT; ADEM; DEP; NFWFMD; NRCS; TNC	Number of sediment sources identified

Objective 4.3 Address sources of sedimentation		
Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
4.3.1 Identify unpaved roads and their contributions to water quality impairments and prioritize for paving or low impact designs	DEP; Academia; FDOT; ADEM; NFWFMD; NRCS; BFA; Counties; Cities	Number of unpaved roads identified as sediment sources; Number and/or miles of unpaved roads prioritized for future remediation
4.3.2 Collaborate with partners to prioritize, develop, design, and implement sediment reduction and remediation projects to address gully and streambank erosion	DEP; ADCNR; NRCS; FDOT; Counties	Number of projects identified and planned; Number of priority source areas addressed

Objective 4.4 Assess the effects of sediment dynamics and resuspension on benthic habitats		
Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
4.4.1 Conduct benthic sediment mapping and synthesize existing data to assess sediment type, grain size, transport, and contours	TNC; EPA; NRCS; Academia	Total acreage and percentage of benthic habitat surveyed

Implementation Strategy

PPBEP will integrate local system knowledge into future sediment/soil sampling designs. Staff will work alongside partners, including community science groups, to develop new or expand existing sediment and benthic monitoring programs to increase spatial coverage and parameters monitored. We will investigate possible correlations among contaminants to identify if one contaminant is indicative of another contaminant to minimize the number of contaminants analyzed and maximize monitoring efficiency. The Program will partner with universities and other relevant organizations to understand the impact of land use land cover (LULC) dynamics on soil erosion and sediment loading throughout watersheds. It is also a priority to identify sources of sediments (e.g., aerial photography, sediment fingerprinting, modeling, sediment budgets), develop a framework for prioritization, and collaborate with partners to develop future sediment remediation projects for available funding sources.



**Goal 5:
Conserve and Restore Critical Habitat**

Objective 5.1 Improve and support the health and resilience of oysters, including wild, farmed, and restored oysters, to promote a sustainable oyster fishery in the Pensacola Bay System (PBS)		
Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
5.1.2 Create a comprehensive restoration approach for Oyster Plan implementation including an analysis for future grant funding and implementation strategies	TNC; FDACS; DEP; Private sector; Aquaculture farmers; Wild harvesters; Community Science groups; Cities; Counties; Academia; Oyster Sub-Committee	Number of partners engaged; Number of proposals submitted
5.1.3 Conduct long-term monitoring to assess oyster condition and spat production and assess the effects of oysters on long-term environmental change	Academia; Community science groups; FWC; FDACS; TNC; FDA; Aquaculture farmers; Florida Oyster Recovery Science Steering Committee; Oyster Sub-Committee	Number of locations monitored; Number of parameters assessed
5.1.4 Host and support oyster restoration projects in the PBS to improve native oyster populations	Oyster Sub-Committee; UWF; College and University students; FWC; DEP; Escambia and Santa Rosa County oyster shell recycling programs; Sea Grant; DEP; Plastic-Free Restoration of Oyster Shorelines (PROS) working group; UF/IFAS	Number of oyster restoration projects; Number of volunteers engaged; Tons of recycled oyster shell deployed; Restore 2.3 mi ² (600 ha or ~1,500 acres) of oyster reef within 10 years

Objective 5.2 Assess seagrass health and distribution and develop a restoration strategy for long-term protection and recovery

Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
5.2.1 Conduct seagrass mapping and surveys (aerial and ground truth) to assess the current extent, distribution, and condition of seagrass species in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay systems	DISL; GCRL; NPS; GOM Seagrass Community of Practice; Academia; UF/IFAS Sea Grant Extension; UWF; FWC	Maps of percent cover and acreage of seagrass and species diversity; Tier I and II metrics

Objective 5.3 Improve and support the health and resilience of native ecosystems in the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds

Action	Partners	Performance Metrics	Expected Deliverables
5.3.1 Conduct regular monitoring to assess the condition of wetlands and buffer zones in the watersheds	Academia; EPA; Community Science groups	Acreage and percentage of wetlands in each wetland condition category	Evaluation report of wetland condition indices
5.3.2 Conduct a shoreline assessment of both watersheds to assess living versus armored shorelines	Counties; Troy University	Linear feet of living and armored shoreline assessed	Shoreline maps; Report of LSSM outputs and ArcGIS Story Map; Recommendations for living shoreline prioritization
5.3.3 Conduct intensification for EPA's 2028-2029 National Rivers and Streams Assessment (NRSA)	EPA; FWC; Academia; Community Science groups	Area or extent of stream condition for each classification	Evaluation of river and stream condition indices in the State of the Bays report
5.3.4 Coordinate and facilitate efforts to track expansion of mangrove species and synthesize data to communicate to the public	Sea Grant; NERRs; County extensions; USM; USGS; TNC; Northeastern University	Number of mangroves present in Pensacola and Perdido Bay systems	Map of mangrove expansion of both species (black, red) updated annually; Annual report on seed production and mangrove growth indices

Implementation Strategy

PPBEP participates in various working groups and Communities of Practice groups focused on the recovery and restoration of oyster and seagrass habitats across the Gulf of Mexico. The Program's staff are members of the Florida Oyster Recovery Science Steering Committee, Gulf of Mexico's Seagrass Community of Practice, Gulf of Mexico Alliance's cross teams (i.e., Data and Monitoring, Habitat Resources), Plastic-Free Restoration of Oyster Shorelines (PROS) Working Group, and the Panhandle Estuarine Restoration Team (PERT). The intent of these groups is to facilitate collaboration and coordination among experts and practitioners to connect monitoring, mapping, research, restoration, and management efforts; share and leverage resources and information; and compile and implement best management practice recommendations. Staff will also utilize the expertise and guidance of the Program's Oyster Sub-Committee to develop a strategy for future project implementation. The Program will continue to engage committee participants in the expansion of monitoring and the development of oyster restoration targets using existing regional oyster planning documents and handbooks.

Staff will work with EPA and TNC partners to conduct an oyster filtration model utilizing existing work of both agencies across the PBS. PPBEP and TNC funded oyster reef extent surveys and condition assessments to collect data on bottom type and oyster condition. In addition to these assessments, PPBEP will work with partners at FWC to expand oyster spat monitoring and develop a vertical oyster gardening program across the bay systems. The Program plans to host shell bagging or oyster spat monitoring array construction events and have volunteer events to construct and deploy plastic free oyster reef prisms. Staff will participate, coordinate, and engage with partners on existing oyster restoration and living shoreline projects across the bays to track progress and successes. The Program, in partnership with university researchers and the National Park Service, will continue to conduct [Tier I and II seagrass monitoring](#) in the Pensacola and Perdido Bays to continue to build a long-term dataset for the area. The Program will continue to engage partners to set short and long-term restoration goals for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay systems.

To meet objectives for wetlands and other native ecosystems, PPBEP will conduct intensifications (every 5 years) of EPA's National Wetland Condition and Rivers and Streams Assessments for both watersheds to assess the condition of these habitats and use the data to inform future projects and management priorities. Staff will work with program partners to synthesize existing information, fund future projects, and conduct shoreline assessments and develop a Living Shoreline Suitability Model for both bay systems. PPBEP will continue coordination and training for the northern Gulf of Mexico (nGOM) Mangrove Survey Network, established in 2018 by researchers at Mississippi State University to monitor mangrove presence in the nGOM.



**Goal 6:
Restore and Conserve Fish and Wildlife**

Objective 6.2 Coordinate and expand fisheries monitoring capacity within the Pensacola and Perdido Bay systems		
Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
6.2.1 Conduct seagrass trawling surveys to assess juvenile fish and shellfish communities and habitat quality	DISL; FWC/FWRI; EPA	Number of monitoring events; Sampling effort; Species composition and abundance; fish length frequency

Objective 6.3 Increase regional monitoring capacity for marine mammals		
Action	Partners	Performance Metrics
6.3.1 Increase long-term monitoring of manatee sighting coverage in Pensacola and Perdido Bay systems using PanhandleManatee.org	DISL; NWF; Sea Grant Extension; Community science groups	Change in annual manatee sightings over time; Change in geographic extent of sightings; Number of Panhandle Manatee website hits and reports through website; Number of people reached through outreach campaigns

Implementation Strategy

PPBEP will leverage existing efforts and identify funding for the continuation of trawling surveys (long-term dataset) within seagrass habitats in our bays to collect juvenile fish and crustacean data. Staff will also work with state agencies to expand Fisheries Independent Monitoring (FIM) to Pensacola and Perdido Bays to fill a critical data gap for the Northwest Florida. PPBEP, in partnership with DISL’s Manatee Sighting Network (MSN), NWF, and Sea Grant Extension will continue to update and maintain the MSN database and the Panhandle Manatee website with current data and reporting resources.

Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy 2022-2027 Milestones

Milestone	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Biennial State of the Bays Report						
Fill critical water quality and habitat data gaps						
Biennial Research and Outreach Symposium						
Coordinate continuous water quality monitoring at oyster farms (Pensacola Bay System)						
Technical Committee restoration target setting (e.g., water quality, habitats)						
Develop data dashboard for technical and public audiences						
EPA's National Coastal Condition Assessment Intensification						
EPA's National Wetland Condition Assessment Intensification						
EPA's National Rivers and Streams Assessment Intensification Planning						

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Monitoring Program and indicator matrix for watershed related efforts.

Appendix B. Comprehensive list of monitoring parameters for each monitoring type (e.g., water quality, sediments/soils, habitats, etc.) including specific methodologies and sampling frequencies.



Agenda Item 7.a.

FY23-24 Local Government Contributions

Background: Local government contributions are critical to PPBEP operations and implementation of the PPBEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

Current FY22-23 contributions include:

City of Gulf Breeze	\$1,500
City of Milton	\$10,000
City of Orange Beach	\$10,000
City of Pensacola	\$30,000
Escambia County	\$60,000
Santa Rosa County	\$60,000
Total:	\$171,500

At the April 5, 2023 Board meeting, the Board discussed implementing a population-based formula for determining contributions for the FY23-24 budget. Based on that scenario, with minimum contributions proposed for jurisdictions, the following scenario is proposed for Board discussion:

City of Gulf Breeze	\$10,000
City of Milton	\$10,000
City of Orange Beach	\$20,000
City of Pensacola	\$30,000
Escambia County	\$133,000
Okaloosa County	\$10,000
Santa Rosa County	\$86,000
Total:	\$299,000

Recommendation: Recommend the Board discuss FY23-24 local government contributions, and authorize the Chairman and Executive Director sign a letter to each governing body’s jurisdiction requesting FY23-24 local contributions.

Financial Impact: None.