

# MINUTES Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Education & Outreach Committee

Zoom Virtual Meeting October 22, 2020 4:00 pm CT Video Link

#### Attendees

Carrie Stevenson, Chair UF/IFAS
Chris Verlinde, Chair UF/IFAS
Logan McDonald PPBEP
Charlene Mauro NBMSS

Rick O'Connor UF/IFAS Sea Grant

Elizabeth Walker ECSD Jessica Bibza NWF

Kate Dawson Moffat and Nichol

Matt Posner PPBEP

Samantha Bolduc Escambia County
Sonia Vedral NGoMSSC
Lee Winchester WRC/BWFP

Barbara Albrecht BFA
Emerson Cheney PPBEP
Amy Newbold EPA

Darryl Boudreau NWFWMD

#### 1. Call to Order

#### 2. Introductions

# 3. Approval of August 20th, 2020 Meeting Minutes (p. 2)

Samantha Bolduc made a motion to approve the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Rick O'Connor seconded the motion. The motion to approve the August 20<sup>th</sup> minutes passed unanimously.

## 4. Welcome our new Trash Free Waters Project Volunteer Coordinator, Emerson Cheney!

#### 5. Staff Updates

## a. Website

Logan McDonald (PPBEP) gave committee members a sneak peek of the new website. Partners were encouraged to send Ms. McDonald transparent logos to be featured on the website.

#### b. Promotional Video

Ms. McDonald informed the committee that the Estuary Program Facebook promotional video reached 18,000 people and was watched all the way through by 4,000 people.

#### c. Branding

The Escambia County Purchasing Department should have the program's rebranding solicitation posted by Friday, 10/30.

## d. Estuary Icon Quiz

Staff posted an estuary icon quiz on the Estuary Program Facebook page in celebration of National Estuaries Week. The quiz generated a lot of engagement and staff will develop similar content for future events and campaigns.

## e. Trash Free Waters Project

#### i. Ocean Hour

Staff met with Ocean Hour Pensacola to coordinate volunteer efforts.

## ii. Osprey Initiatives

Staff met with Osprey Initiatives for preliminary scouting trips and to discuss trash capture device options.

## iii. 10/30 Scouting Trip

Staff will scout the three creek systems with Osprey Initiatives on October 30th to identify locations for boom installation and cleanups.

## f. Educator survey is live

i. The educator survey was sent out just before Hurricane Sally, so staff received minimal responses from local educators. Ms. McDonald encouraged committee members to share the educator survey link with their educator contacts.

Link to educator survey.

#### g. Downtown Pensacola Meeting

Staff met with Downtown Pensacola prior to Hurricane Sally to discuss partnership opportunities. Staff will reengage with the Downtown Improvement Board to move forward with those initial conversations.

## h. Mini-Grant Program

Proposals are due by 11:50pm on November 6, 2020. Applications and additional information can be found here.

## i. Haas Center Survey

i. The Community Perspectives of the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Watersheds Survey has launched. Individuals interested in sharing their input about the values and uses of the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds can take the survey <a href="here.">here.</a>

## j. Halloween social media and pumpkin carving

Staff will engage social media followers in the spooky season with fun Halloween style estuary program posts. Committee members are invited to share photos of their best estuary themed pumpkin carvings!

#### 6. National Estuaries Week – events rescheduled

- a. 2020 Great Estuary Scavenger Hunt TBD
- **b.** The Bays are Listening October 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm

# 7. Pensacola Seafood Festival November 8th - 10th

The program will host a photobooth at the 2020 Pensacola Seafood Festival to engage community members.

# 8. Community Engagement Plan

# a. Working group met on October 13th

Staff will compile input from the workshop to draft a strategic outline of topics. Another workshop will be held in December to prioritize goals identified in the October 13<sup>th</sup> workshop.

## 9. Discussion

#### a. Preliminary educator survey results

Ms. McDonald shared the results from the initial push of the estuary program educator survey. Survey respondents expressed interest in field trips and providing out of classroom experiences to educate students. Meeting participants discussed field trips as a viable and engaging way to educate students. One of the biggest barriers to field trips was funding and transportation.

Barbara Albrecht (BFA) recommended utilizing the Mini-Grant Program to fund field trip transport. Staff will ask DEP for guidance, as transportation costs are not eligible in the Mini-Grant Program. The committee highlighted locations for potential fieldtrips.

#### b. Scavenger Hunt

Committee members were enthusiastic about the potential the event has to become a keystone citizen science and community engagement event. Committee members suggested having more dates throughout the year to capture data on seasonal wildlife and plants. Citizen efforts in completing the scavenger hunt can support TAC efforts in identifying sensitive species or other identifiers that the program would like to inventory. The event will be rescheduled in the spring, potentially around Earth Day.

## c. Hurricane Sally

Jessica Bibza (NWF) asked if Darryl Boudreau (NWFWMD) would be willing to host a lunch and learn webinar event to present his aerial footage of post-Sally damages.

Charlene Mauro (NBMSS) shared that their students made videos about species that washed up on beach in Navarre after Hurricane Sally and the videos were well received. This activity could be extended to other schools and community groups and estuary program partners to reinforce education related to coastal resilience and storm impact mitigation.

Carrie Stevenson stated that the UF/IFAS extension would be promoting information related to the value of trees and their role in reducing the negative impact of high energy storm events. This information is important to spread after a large storm when many people want to cut down large trees. In January, the extension will be hosting and promoting Arbor Day events in support of tree preservation and replanting.

## d. Storm drain marking

Staff shared Chasidy Hobbs's suggestion to engage schools with storm drain marking. Committee members agreed that storm drain marking operations could be applied at schools throughout the watershed. Carrie Stevenson suggested make storm drain marking an inter-neighborhood or school competition to encourage competition.

# e. Community meeting topics and locations

Staff would like to offer location-based community meetings to present topics and issues related to specific communities within the watershed. Committee members agreed that identifying specific groups (entities not necessarily always involved in conversations with the PPBEP) should be a priority (including businesses and chambers of commerce). It will be important to engage and inform groups that are not typically present in conversations with the estuary program. Pond Creek and Blackwater River pavilions were recommended as locations for community meeting areas.

#### 8. Information Items

No information items were offered.

## 9. Around the Room/Announcements/Public Comment

- Santa Rosa County will have a virtual community input meeting on the coastal flooding assessment project on October 29th. <u>link to meeting registration.</u>
- Lee Winchester is developing a website to highlight the cultural and environmental heritage of Bagdad.
- Science Hour Monday, October 26, 2020 at noon.
- Terrapins FWC is interested in the genetics of the terrapins in our area. Groups will be doing terrapin trapping to collect data in order to determine whether the terrapins in our area are genetically isolated from other terrapins in the state of Florida. If the terrapins in our area prove to be genetically isolated they may be identified as a different taxonomic classification from other terrapins in Florida.
- Halloweed event on October 31 and Naval Live Oaks (Event cancelled due to Zeta).
- Microplastic removal- Jessica Bibza shared a video about a device that some are using to remove and sort microplastics from marine ecosystems. <u>Hoola One Video.</u>

10. Next Meeting – Working group on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Next full committee meeting is on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

## 11. Adjourn