



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 20th, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Rick O'Connor seconded the motion. The motion to approve the August 20th 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 [here](#).

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. [link to meeting registration.](#)
- 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.
- Halloween 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. [Hoola One Video.](#)

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

11. Adjourn