



MINUTES
Education & Outreach Committee
Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program

July 22nd 4:00-5:00 pm CT

[Virtual Meeting Recording](#)

Attendees

Chasidy Hobbs, Chair	UWF
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Emerson Cheney	PPBEP
Donald Killorn	PPBEP
Matt Posner	PPBEP/Escambia County
Samantha Bolduc	Escambia County
Amanda Croteau	UWF
Jeanell Varnadore	UWF
Lee Yokel	Community Member
Sonia Vedral	Sentinel Site Coop, MSU
Ashley Campbell	Baldwin County
Gary Baine	Community Member
Heather Griffin	ADEM
Jessica Bibza	NWF
Lee Winchester	BWFP/WRC
Lindsey Steck	Visit Pensacola
Darryl Boudreau	NWFWMD
Haley Gancel	UF

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of May 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- Lee Anne Winchester requested to be added to the participants list.
- Jessica Bibza, NWF, made a motion to approve the May 20, 2021 meeting minutes as amended. Samantha Bolduc, Escambia County, seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Staff Updates

- Trash Free Waters
 - PPBEP's kickoff cleanup was rescheduled to July 31 due to weather. The cleanup is planned to run from 9am-noon at Lexington Terrace Park, 700 S Old Corry Field Rd, Pensacola. E-mail Emerson Cheney, edcheney@ppbep.org, for more information.
- Community Grant Program
 - PPBEP is now accepting applications for the 2021/22 Community Grant Program. Applications are due August 3 by 11:59pm CT.

- More information about the grant program, including the RFP and application materials can be found on the [PPBEP website](#).
- Community Grant Symposium- September 23rd 5:30-8pm at the Pensacola Bayview Center
 - In celebration of the successful community grant projects from 20/21, PPBEP will host a Grant Symposium at the Bayview Center. The symposium will highlight projects from last year and announce the recipients of 21/22 grant cycle.
- Outreach Assistant position
 - Escambia County HR posted the job opening for the PPBEP [outreach assistant position](#). The position has been extended until 8/18.
- TNC East Bay
 - The East Bay Oyster Habitat Restoration project is scheduled to begin soon. The project will install 33 reef segments along 6.5 miles of shoreline in Blackwater and East Bays.

4. National Estuary Week Planning and Sign-ups – September 18th- 26th

- PPBEP is developing a robust schedule of events in celebration of National Estuaries Week.
- PPBEP and partners will hold a variety of activities throughout the week to promote estuarine awareness. Events include cleanups, paddle trips, outreach events, grant symposium, and more! People who are interested in helping out with any of the events during National Estuaries Week can reach out to Logan McDonald, PPBEP, lmcdonald@ppbep.org, for more details or sign up to participate at the following website, <https://signup.com/go/DFJCFvT>.
- Scheduled Events (updated after the meeting):
 - September 18th
 1. International Coastal Cleanup, various locations in the morning
 2. MESS Hall Estuary Stations, 1-4pm
 3. Keep Pensacola Pieces a Drift Art Show, evening
 - September 19th: Indian Bayou kayak trip with City of Pensacola Parks and Recreation, AM
 - September 20th: Lunch & Learn: Oyster Mapping
 - September 21st: Navarre Beach Marine Science Station Open House, 4-6pm
 - September 22nd
 1. Perdido Islands Paddle and Seining (tentative) in the morning
 2. Escambia River Documentary (tentative – Beardless Brewhaus has encountered construction delays and a new location is needed), evening
 - September 23rd: Community Grant Symposium, 5:30-8:00pm, Bayview Center, Pensacola
 - September 24th-26th: Pensacola Seafood Festival Booth
 - September 25th: National Public Lands Day
 - September 26th: Oyster Natural History Bay Tour, 5:30-7:30 (tentative)

5. Committee Structure Discussion

- Chair Hobbs asked for input concerning whether the committee should establish roles for individual committee members to improve the committee's impact.

- Jessica Bibza, NWF, recalled that the committees were established with open membership due to Florida Sunshine Law. Several meeting participants echoed the concern of transitioning the committee to an advisory capacity. The committee agreed that individual roles could be established without needing to transition to an advisory committee.
- Chair Hobbs suggested several committee member roles, including a youth role, K-12 role, events role, and fundraising role. Jessica Bibza suggested that committee leadership roles reflect CCMP objectives and groups focusing on one CCMP objective may be called action teams.

6. Around the Room/Announcements/Public Comment

- Chair Hobbs asked staff how the litter-boom naming contest is going. Logan McDonald shared that several name submissions have been received and new suggestions are still being accepted. Name suggestions can be submitted at [Litter Boom Naming Contest \(wufoo.com\)](http://Litter Boom Naming Contest (wufoo.com)).
- Jessica Bibza reminded meeting participants to send in feedback on the draft CCMP Action Plan.
- Jessica Bibza shared an update on NWF's panhandle manatee outreach project. Several interns are working at local boat ramps on Saturdays, talking to boaters about manatee awareness and asking them to go slow where seagrasses grow.

7. Next Meeting

- **September 2nd** – In person, SCI Community Room

8. Adjourn