



MINUTES
Education and Outreach Committee
Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
January 14th, 4:00-5:00 pm CT
[Recording Link](#)

Attendees

Carrie Stevenson	Co-chair/ UF IFAS Extension Escambia County
Chris Verlinde	Co-chair/ UF IFAS Extension Santa Rosa County
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Emerson Cheney	PPBEP
Donald Killorn	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Emerson Cheney	PPBEP
Matt Posner	PPBEP/ RESTORE
Kristin Bennett	TetraTech
Samantha Bolduc	Escambia County
Barbara Albrecht	BFA/UWF
Eric Schneider	ESA Pensacola
Lee Anne Winchester	BWFP/WRC
Amy Newbold	EPA
Chelsea Conley	CBEP
Katherine Dawson	Moffat and Nichol
Rick O'Connor	UF IFAS Sea Grant
Sonia Vedral	Sentinel Site Coop/MSU Extension
Darryl Boudreau	NFWFMD
Lee Yokel	GOMA

1. Call to Order

2. Introductions – Welcome our new Director, Donald Killorn!

3. Staff Updates

a. Website

Logan McDonald (PPBEP) presented the finalized website to meeting participants. The website will provide access to a variety of resources. Additional events, resources, and ideas for website content can be sent to Mrs. McDonald at lmcdonald@myescambia.com.

b. Branding

The Estuary Program received approval from Escambia County's Purchasing Office to move forward on a contract with ID Group to re-brand the program. Staff will meet with representatives from ID Group to discuss the scope of work, goals, visions, and next steps of the re-branding process.

c. Storm Drain Marking

The Estuary Program has identified two schools so far that are interested in taking up the storm drain marking project. Classes at Escambia High School will install drain markers on their campus. Staff are also coordinating with the City of Pensacola to obtain approval for storm drain marking within city limits. After receiving city approval, students and faculty at the Dixon School plan to install markers on storm drains going all the way from their campus in Pensacola to Bruce Beach. Staff are still working to identify other schools and organizations that would be interested in participating in this project. Interested individuals are invited to contact Emerson Cheney at edcheney@myescambia.com for more details.

d. December Workshop

Mrs. McDonald reminded meeting attendees about the December workshop where participants worked to prioritize education and outreach strategies. Staff will work to synthesize the information gathered in that workshop. During the March meeting, staff will present the synthesized information from that workshop and provide an opportunity for committee members to discuss, and revise those strategies.

e. Dixon School Presentation

Whitney Scheffel (PPBEP) and Logan McDonald met with teachers at the Dixon School to introduce the Estuary Program and to discuss partnership opportunities.

f. Trash Free Waters Project

Staff are awaiting approval from Escambia County's purchasing office to secure a contract to fabricate and install trash capture devices. However, staff are working to develop a high school curriculum toolkit and identify volunteers in support of the project.

g. Business Partnership Kick-Off

Staff planned to host a business partnership event at Perfect Plains in Pensacola. However, due to concerns relating to COVID-19 that event has been postponed.

h. Mini-Grants

Ten projects were funded during this mini-grant award cycle. Most projects are starting in the month of January. As these projects develop, staff will update committee members about the progress of each project.

i. Keep Pensacola Beautiful – Eco2Go

Staff met with Keep Pensacola Beautiful to discuss partnership opportunities and hope to work directly with KPB on their Eco2Go initiative. Eco2Go is an existing program that is aimed at encouraging restaurants to engage in more ecofriendly practices. This project aligns well with the business engagement component of the Trash Free Waters project and staff aim to collaborate with KPB to support and expand their current efforts.

4. Florida Arbor Day

- a. UF IFAS and Escambia County Natural Resources Tree Giveaway – Jan 23rd
Arbor Day is January 15, 2021! The annual tree giveaway will be held at the 4-H facility in Molino on Saturday, January 23rd in the morning. Individuals interested in volunteering at that event are invited to contact Carrie Stevenson (UF IFAS Extension).
- b. “Tree Planting: More than Digging a Hole” Seminar – Jan 21st at 12:00 pm
https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0gfLeX5SRpGCvJmbD_Qo0w
- c. Arbor Day Mail Art Contest – Submit by Jan 25th
Fourth annual mail art contest. Contestants of all ages are welcome to submit their tree-related artwork to the Escambia County Extension Office by January 25, 2021.

5. B-WET Grant

Chris Verlinde (UF IFAS Sea Grant) provided some background information about the B-WET funding opportunity. This NOAA grant is aimed at supporting coastal communities along the Gulf of Mexico. B-WET stands for Bay-Watershed Education and Training. The goal of this grant is to support opportunities for educators and students to engage in meaningful educational experiences. The Program is interested in collaborating with the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge to present an application for this funding. However, the program is also exploring potential partnerships with other groups in the area including the Creek Indian Tribe and the Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center.

6. Committee Chair Nomination

Ms. Verlinde, Carrie Stevenson (UF IFAS), and Mrs. McDonald presented background information about the responsibilities of the chair positions and invited nominations for the chair and vice-chair positions. Mrs. McDonald nominated Chasidy Hobbs (UWF) to be the new Education and Outreach Committee Chair. No objections were made, and Mrs. Hobbs was accepted as the new committee chair. Mrs. McDonald nominated Carrie Stevenson to be the new vice-chair of the Education and Outreach Committee. No objections were made, and Mrs. Stevenson was accepted as the next committee vice-chair.

7. Information Items

No information items presented.

8. Around the Room/Public Comment

Mary Walker has been accepted as the new executive director of the Restore Council.

Science Hour- Carrie Stevenson will be presenting about Arbor Day. On February 18th, Donald Killorn will be presenting for Science Hour. Locations of these events have not been finalized but information will be released by the extension office closer to the date of these events.

Bite-sized science – Rick O’Connor will be talking about Mangroves, Manatees, and the Unsuspected Consequences of Tropicalization on February 4th at 4:00 pm.

(https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1sW7c7WeSHi5_6QmtwBdyA)

National Invasive Species Awareness Week is at the end of February. The Escambia County extension office has an invasive species removal event tentatively scheduled for February 20th at Naval Live Oaks.

GOMA Fully Serving the Underserved – Several committee members participated in this GOMA webinar and expressed the value and quality of the workshop. Chris Verlinde stated that she would share recordings from that conference with anyone who is interested.

Sea-level rise in the classroom curriculum is now in the initial testing stages. That curriculum was provided to 10 teachers in Mississippi and Alabama who will utilize and review the current content. The curriculum is comprised of a map and teaching materials to assist in discussions about coastal flooding, sea level rise, resilience, and solutions. Contact Sonia Vedral for more information.

Bagdad Waterfronts Partnership shared the release of their new website that features the history of the city and the development of the Blackwater Heritage Trail. The website will launch formally at their next community meeting. <https://www.bagdadliving.com/>

Mrs. McDonald asked partners to send her their logo to be featured on the PPBEP partners webpage.

9. Next Meeting –March 18th.

10. Adjourn