



Education & Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2021 at 4:00- 4:47 p.m. CT

Virtual Meeting

[Meeting Recording](#)

Attendees

Carrie Stevenson, Vice Chair	UF/IFAS Escambia County
Matt Posner	PPBEP
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Haley Gancel	PPBEP
Emerson Cheney	PPBEP
Madi Ross	PPBEP
Amanda Croteau	UWF
Amy Newbold	EPA GMP
Barbara Albrecht	UWF, BFA
Dave Murzin	FPP
Erin Reschke	EPA GEMMD
Heather Griffin	ADEM
Jerry Newton	Community Member
Kate Dawson	Moffatt & Nichol
Lee Winchester	BWFP
Lee Yokel	EcoSolutions Inc.
Mike Mozur	Emerald Coast Clean Water Alliance
Paul Looney	WRA
Samantha Bolduc	Escambia County
Tanya Linzy	Santa Rosa County

1. Call to Order

2. Introductions

3. Approval of September 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Samantha Bolduc made a motion to approve the September 29, 2021 meeting minutes.

Barbara Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Updates

b. National Estuaries Week Summary

- Logan McDonald (PPBEP) provided a short summary of the successful series of events for National Estuaries Week. The week's celebration included:
 - East Bay Oyster Habitat Restoration Project Lunch and Learn Webinar
 - Indian Bayou Paddle
 - Perdido Islands Paddle
 - Community Grant Symposium
 - Pensacola Seafood Festival
 - Oyster Sunset Tour



c. Community Grants

The Estuary Program selected eight Community Grant Proposals for the 2021-2022 grant cycle. The funded projects began on October 1, 2021. The projects that were selected are:

- Perdido Key Coastal Demonstration Garden (Escambia County Natural Resources)
- Estuary Exhibit (Pensacola MESS Hall)
- Historical Ecology of Pensacola and Perdido Bays: Using the Past to Protect the Future of Our Bays (UWF)
- Citizen Science Water Quality and Habitat Monitoring Network: Community Deployment and Network Sustainability (Institute for Human and Machine Cognition)
- Santa Rosa County Watershed Awareness Signage and Stormwater Drain Marking Project (Santa Rosa County)
- EscaRosa OysterCorps (Franklin's Promise Coalition, Conservation Corps of the Forgotten and Emerald Coasts)
- Fischer Landing Master Plan Study (Town of Century)
- Fish Communities on Remnant and Restored Oyster Reefs of East and Escambia Bays: a Baseline for Assessing Restoration Success (University of South Alabama)

d. Trash Free Waters

- Litter booms have been installed at all three creeks: Pond Creek, Jones Creek, and Carpenter Creek.
- Litter cleanups and waterborne trash monitoring have commenced at each location.
 - Two community cleanups have been completed since the last meeting.
 - The first cleanup was at Pond Creek, held at Mayo Park in Milton with partners from Bagdad Waterfront Florida Partnership, Santa Rosa County, the Blackwater Pyrates, and community members. A total of 31 volunteers collected over 540lbs. of debris, plus 18 tires!
 - The second cleanup was at Carpenter Creek, located off Bayou Blvd. and 9th Ave. Osprey installed the litter boom for Carpenter Creek in July 2021 and boom monitoring has been ongoing. A total of 50 volunteers collected over 500 lbs. of debris.
 - A. Barbara Albrecht (BFA) asked where the Carpenter Creek litter boom was installed due to concerns about trash from bridge construction. Emerson Cheney (PPBEP) confirmed that the boom was located downstream of the construction and that monitors are documenting any inputs from the ongoing construction.

e. OAR Fest

- The first inaugural OAR Fest was successfully held on October 23rd at the Bayview Center.
- OAR Fest's main purpose is to promote water recreation and educate community members on the importance of protecting our local waterways.
- Vice Chair Carrie Stevenson shared that OAR Fest had about 800-900 attendees.



- Next year's OAR Fest is scheduled for October 15, 2022!

f. Auburn Land Use Workshop and Survey

- The project, funded by the Gulf Research Program of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, will develop a framework that includes 30-year land use and land cover scenarios to predict future coastal ecosystem conditions.
- The Estuary Program helped organized a Perdido-Wolf Bay Workshop, held on October 13th, that introduced the project and offered participants the opportunity to provide input on different land use change scenarios that could be used in their modelling of water quality.
- Researchers are requesting [survey input](#) to inform their research.

g. Office Space

- The Estuary Program is moving across the street to the Seville Tower, pending the arrival of furniture. Staff anticipate moving in December.

h. Grant Updates

i. NOAA Actionable Science

- The Estuary Program is partnering with Dr. Erin Cox and the University of New Orleans and Mississippi State University to develop a strategic plan for seagrass restoration considering seagrass resiliency to climate stress through genetic diversity.
- The project team has formed an advisory panel of seagrass experts/practitioners and is developing surveys to gather input from seagrass researchers and practitioners, and the public.
- A workshop for community stakeholder engagement will be held in Spring 2022.

ii. NOAA Community of Practice

- The Estuary Program was awarded a grant to support resilience readiness in Pensacola.
- This project will add qualitative information to the City's existing vulnerability assessment to support future resilience planning efforts in Pensacola, FL.

iii. NOAA Sea-Level Rise

- In partnership with Renee Collini and PLACE: SLR, staff will collaborate on sea-level rise education, outreach, and engagement through virtual reality, community dialogues, pop-in events, and other immersive activities.
- The project team is meeting in December to prepare for the project's kick off at the beginning of 2022.

5. Litter Rodeo with Clean Horizons January 22nd

- Save the date for a cleanup with Clean Horizons at the Theo Barge Bridge.
- Clean Horizon's Litter Rodeos are a fun competition to see who can pick up the most trash with prizes offered from local businesses. *As of 11/22/2021 this date has been cancelled and we will notify you when it is rescheduled.*

6. EOC Meeting Time

- The committee discussed whether the current 4:00pm meeting time should continue or change to a different time.



- A unanimous decision was made to keep the 4:00 pm meeting time.

7. EOC Chair and Co-Chair Nomination

- Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair should be submitted to L. McDonald.
- Chair and Vice Chair elections will be made at the January meeting.
- Committee chairs are responsible for helping to shape the meeting agendas, run the meetings, and serve on the Community Grant Selection Committee.
- Chairs and Vice Chairs are not prohibited from submitting a Community Grant Application, but they will not serve on the Selection Committee if they submit a proposal.

8. CCMP

- Whitney Scheffel (PPBEP) updated the committee on CCMP progress.
- A final CCMP Action Plan draft and feedback survey will be distributed next week.
- Staff will finalize the draft and supporting narrative, with the inclusion of any additional comments, between Winter 2021-Spring 2022.
- Staff plan to roll out the CCMP for public review, along with the “State of the Bays” report, by Spring-Summer 2022.
- Feedback on the overall CCMP participatory process can be submitted via our [UWF survey](#).

9. Around the Room/Announcements

- Barbara Albrecht (BFA) announced that an Impact 100 Grant was awarded to the Bream Fisherman Association and Satori Yacht Club for estuary and watershed education and outreach.
- Vice Chair Stevenson highlighted that the Impact 100 Grant provides awards of \$100,000+ and there is a category for environmental projects. The Impact 100 Grant Team is currently recruiting new members.
- Tanya Linzy (Santa Rosa County) announced that Santa Rosa County received a \$499,075 award to demonstrate the effective design, implementation, and maintenance of green infrastructure at the 8.6-acre Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex.
- Vice Chair Stevenson announced that the Escambia Extension will be partnering with the Public Library System for the Arbor Day Tree Giveaway that will be held on January 15, 2022 between 10:00 am-12:00 pm at the Tryon Branch, Southwest Branch, and the Downtown Pensacola Branch libraries.
- Vice Chair Stevenson thanked those who attended and/or tabled at the recent “Tides of Change” Event. The videos and case studies on sea-level rise will be shared online soon.
- Samantha Bolduc (Escambia County) shared progress on the Community Grant funded Perdido Key Coastal Demonstration Garden. Three tentative volunteer event dates have been scheduled and interested individuals should contact [S. Bolduc](#) for more information.

10. Next Meeting

- January 20, 2022 at 4:00pm CT, in person, location TBD.
- The next EOC meeting will focus on education and curriculum with a guest presentation from “Scientists in Every Florida School”.

11. Adjourn