



Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

November 30th, 2021, 10:00 – 12:00 CT

[Virtual Meeting Recording](#)

Jessica Bibza, Chair	NWF
Ken Heck, Vice Chair	DISL
Matt Posner	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Emerson Cheney	PPBEP
Haley Gancel	PPBEP
Madi Ross	PPBEP
Amanda Croteau	UWF
Amy Newbold	EPA GMP
Anne Birch	TNC
Ashley Campbell	Baldwin County
Barbara Albrecht	BFA/ UWF
Beth Fugate	DEP
Bethanne Edwards	Bethanne Edwards LLC
Brandon Jarvis	EPA
Brent Wipf	Escambia County
Brian Underwood	CBEP
Caitlin Turnbull	UF
Casey Fulford	AACD
Cassie Bates	Mobile Baykeeper
Chasidy Hobbs	UWF
Chips Kirschenfeld	Escambia County
Christian Wagley	Healthy Gulf
Darryl Boudreau	NWFWMD
Elizabeth Major	Community Member
Eric Schneider	ESA
Erin Reschke	EPA
Heather Griffin	ADEM
Jacqueline Lane	Friends of Perdido Bay
Jeanette Kelson	Wood
Jeff Helms	Moffat & Nichol
Jessica Graham	SASJBEP
Justin Bousquin	EPA GEMMD
Kate Dawson	Moffat & Nichol
Keith Wilkins	City of Pensacola
Lyndsey Benton	City of Milton
Marcy Frick	TetraTech



Mark Jackson	City of Pensacola
Matt Deitch	UF
Matthew Kelly	Escambia County
Mollie Taylor	GeoSyntec
Natalie Jernigan	RESTORE Coordinator/ AFCD
Nigel Temple	WSP
Rick O'Connor	Florida Sea Grant/ UF IFAS Extension
Samantha Bolduc	Escambia County
Shelley Alexander	Santa Rosa County
Tesfay Gebremicael	UF
Webb Jackson	Anchor QEA

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Haley Gancel, Environmental Scientist
- b. Madi Ross, Community Outreach Assistant
- c. Matt Posner, Executive Director

3. **Approval of September 28th, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

- Barbara Albrecht (BFA) made a motion to approve the September 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Chasidy Hobbs (UWF) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Partner Presentations**

- a. *Jeanette Kelson (Wood)* – Carpenter Creek/Bayou Texar Watershed Management Plan
 - Matt Posner (PPBEP) presented an overview of the Carpenter Creek & Bayou Texar Watershed Management Plan on behalf of J. Kelson. The project team plans to present more details on the project at the January meeting once their assessments and recommendations are completed.
 - The presentation covered project goals, current impacts on the creek and bayou, ongoing assessments, project phases, and upcoming project touchpoints.
 - General discussion followed concerning catalytic project activities, stormwater initiatives/management, and severe creek bank erosion and DOT's remediation plans.
- b. *Casey Fulford (AACD)* – Overview of District and Alabama Projects
 - C. Fulford presented an overview of the history of the Alabama soil and water districts, organizational structure, local and state committee priorities, and ongoing projects within both Baldwin County and statewide efforts including Alabama Envirothon, the Coastal Planning & Support Program, and ongoing Septic Tank Programs.



- General discussion followed on RESTORE funding opportunities, Baldwin County septic tank inventory status, and the Coastal Planning and Support Program involving all Gulf states.

5. **CCMP Progress Update & Action Plan Revisions** – *Whitney Scheffel and Haley Gancel*

- i. CCMP Progress and Next Steps
 - Staff will finalize the Action Plan draft and supporting narratives, with the inclusion of any additional comments, between December 2021 and February 2022.
 - A Management Conference meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 13, 2022 to discuss CCMP and the Program’s Annual Work Plan with PB members and committee members.
 - Staff plans to roll out the CCMP for public review in May 2022.
 - The State of the Bays report will be released to the public at the Gala fundraiser event in August 2022.
 - General discussion followed on plans for the initial editing of the CCMP draft and Management Conference attendees.
- ii. Process Evaluation Survey
 - H. Gancel clarified the difference between the [Process Evaluation Survey](#) and the Workshop Series Surveys (Fall 2020, Spring 2021). The Process Evaluation Survey hopes to reach anyone that was part of the participatory process for CCMP development. The survey intends to provide important information on how best to engage stakeholders in the development of the Program’s current and future CCMPs.
- iii. Action Plan Feedback Survey
 - H. Gancel discussed the incorporation of feedback from the survey and previous Technical Committee meetings.
 - The previous PPBEP [newsletter](#) provided clarity on new elements added to the CCMP Action Plan spreadsheet.
 - The new [Action Plan Feedback Survey](#) is brief and aims to gather additional feedback from stakeholders on partners and overall agreement on goals, objectives and actions. Feedback will be incorporated before finalizing the Action Plan draft in 2022.
 - Haley Gancel urged committee members to fill out and review the Action Plan one last time before editing and public roll-out take place.
 - Staff request that reviewers complete the survey even if they have no edits. Input can be provided as “no comment”.

6. **Staff Updates** - *Whitney Scheffel*

- a. Community Grants
 - The Estuary Program selected eight Community Grant Proposals for the 2021-2022 grant cycle. The funded projects began on October 1, 2021.
 - Save the Date: Perdido Key Coastal Demonstration Garden (Escambia County Natural Resources) project area clearing & prep for future planting (January 29, 2022).



- Fish Communities on Remnant and Restored Oyster Reefs of East and Escambia Bays: A Baseline for Assessing Restoration Success (University of South Alabama) was funded in addition to the seven originally approved projects.
- b. Trash Free Waters - *Emerson Cheney*
 - Litter booms have been installed at all three creeks: Pond, Jones, and Carpenter Creeks.
 - 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.
- c. Auburn Land Use Workshop Summary 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 and impacts to water quality.
 - The Estuary Program helped organized a Perdido-Wolf Bay Workshop, held on October 13th at the Perdido Key Community Center, 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 and input on the applicability of model outputs to end users.
 - Auburn researchers are requesting [survey input](#) to inform their research.
- d. Office Space
 - The PPBEP is moving across the street to the Seville Tower, pending the arrival of furniture. Staff move-in date is tentatively scheduled for late December.
- e. Grant Updates
 - i. NOAA Actionable Science Grant (*Lead: Erin Cox, UNO*)
 - The Estuary Program is partnering with 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 on restoration techniques, data needs, and perceptions on the status of seagrasses across the watersheds and restoration.
 - A stakeholder workshop will be held in Spring 2022.



- ii. NOAA Community of Practice (*Lead: PPBEP*)
 - 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 Environmental Literacy Grant (*Lead: Renee Collini, PLACE: SLR*)
 - In partnership with PLACE: SLR and City of Pensacola, 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 in 2022.
- f. EPA Funds – Upcoming Project Contracts
 - W. Scheffel briefly discussed the following project contracts that staff and partners plan to execute in 2022, pending Policy Board approval:
 - Address data gaps in the upper watersheds
 - Bays, Bayous & Sounds Program
 - Seagrass mapping & monitoring
 - Juvenile fish & shellfish trawl surveys in seagrass habitats
 - Oyster documentary
 - Ecosystem service valuation of habitats within Pensacola & Perdido watershed
 - State of Bay web platform design
 - CCMP design
 - Idgroup promotion & marketing

7. 2022 Leadership Nominations

- Voting will be held for chair and co-chair positions at the January meeting. Send self or partner nominations to PPBEP staff for consideration.
- J. Bibza provided an overview of Chair and Co-Chair roles and responsibilities.
- Chairs and/or vice chairs are asked to provide committee updates at Policy Board meetings.
- Chair and/or vice chair serve on the selection committee for Community Grant proposals. This does not mean the chair or vice chair cannot apply for a community grant; however, they would not be able to serve on the selection committee.

8. Newsletter Mailing Lists

- Contact [Logan McDonald](#) or choose your [mailing lists](#) to ensure you are receiving the correct newsletters. PPBEP is updating the mailing lists to send registered members information preferable to the member's needs: Watershed news and updates; Technical Committee, Education and Outreach, and Volunteer Opportunities.

9. Suggestions for Future TC Meeting Presentations

- Contact PPBEP staff to submit future presentation ideas.



10. Around the Room/Announcements

- Shelley Alexander- Santa Rosa County
 - Santa Rosa County received the Green Infrastructure Grant to create a project of innovative green stormwater infrastructure practices to address and improve impaired waterways within the Pensacola Bay Watershed. It will help educate community members on how best to help mitigate stormwater impacts through green infrastructure.
- Brain Underwood- CBEP
 - CBEP will hold a follow up interview with a candidate for the Public Outreach Specialist position next Tuesday.
 - Close to having a consultant team for CCMP drafting & development.
 - Tentative December 13th Technical Advisory Committee meeting for CCMP Drafting Process. Zoom links will be sent out when the date is determined.
- Barbara Albrecht- BFA
 - Bream Fisherman Association in the running for a rebrand through idgroup.
 - Idgroup will decide between three organizations for the brand “make-over”. Please place your vote ([survey link](#)).
- Jessica Graham- SASJBEP
 - SASJBEP’s Scientist position will be open through December 13th. Links for the position can be found online at the FSU Job Board or the Estuary Program website.
 - The Program will be announcing their Outreach Coordinator position within the next few weeks.
- Anne Birch- TNC
 - The Pensacola Oyster Habitat Restoration Project update is now available. Three reefs for the East Bay project have already been started, follow the [link](#) to see the progress so far.
- Heather Griffin- ADEM
 - The Alabama Non-point Source Conference will be held on January 26th, 2022. Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Florida will be represented at the conference. Contact [Heather Griffin](#) to have your name included as a presenter or speaker.
- Logan McDonald- PPBEP
 - Logan McDonald thanked everyone for their participation and support with the PPBEP and all the upcoming and ongoing projects.
 - L. McDonald highlighted Giving Tuesday and invited anyone who is able and willing, to donate to the PPBEP’s efforts. Donations can be made by contacting [Logan McDonald](#).
 - L. McDonald is holding a Bike for the Bays fundraiser for PPBEP in January 2022. You can [sponsor Logan](#) while she bikes 100 miles for the PPBEP!

11. Next Meeting

- SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, January 25th, 2022
- Virtual or in-person:
 - J. Bibza suggested alternating between virtual and in-person meetings throughout the next year.



- A. Newbold suggested continuing the option for virtual for those who cannot travel to in-person meetings.
 - H. Griffin preferred virtual due to out-of-state travel restrictions.
- Meeting Frequency:
 - General discussion followed on the frequency of meetings changing to quarterly meetings once the CCMP was finalized in summer 2022. Staff announced that there would not be a TC Meeting in March 2022. April's meeting will be the in person PPBEP Management Conference meeting.