



PPBEP Education & Outreach Committee Meeting

January 20, 2022 at 4:00- 5:15 p.m. CT

Virtual Meeting

[Meeting Recording](#)

Chasidy Hobbs, Chair	UWF
Carrie Stevenson, Vice Chair	UF IFAS Escambia County
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Haley Gancel	PPBEP
Emerson Cheney	PPBEP
Madi Ross	PPBEP
Amy Newbold	EPA GMP
Bethanne Edwards	Bethanne Edwards LLC
Brian Abramowitz	Scientist in Every Florida School
Chelsea Conley	Okaloosa County
Chris Verlinde	UF IFAS Santa Rosa County
Danielle Davidson	WB-NERR
Jerry Newton	Community Member
Samantha Bolduc	Escambia County
Stephanie Killingsworth	Scientist is Every Florida School

1. Call to Order

2. Introductions

3. Approval of November 20, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Carrie Stevenson made a motion to approve the November 20, 2021 meeting minutes.

Chasidy Hobbs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Guest Presentation: Scientist in Every Florida School, Brian Abramowitz

- Scientists in Every Florida School is an organization that aims to keep students curious about science through long-lasting partnerships with teachers/schools and scientists.
- Scientists from any background can share their passions with students through in-school or virtual visits. Livestream science series are provided to teachers to enhance the collaboration of scientists and students.
- Scientists in Every Florida School also provides teacher professional development to help foster the commitment to keeping updated science in the classrooms.
- [Join the Scientist in Every Florida School Newsletter](#) for updates and information.
- If you or anyone you know is interested in presenting as a partnering scientist fill out the [sign-up sheet](#).
- For additional information, contact [Brian Abramowitz](#) or [Stephanie Killingsworth](#).
 - A. Chair Stevenson asked if there was the possibility of forming a long-lasting school partnership through the Scientist in Every Florida School Program in Escambia and Santa Rosa County schools. Brian confirmed that this is something



that could happen in the future if teachers within the counties submit forms requesting their wants for scientists to visit.

- B.** Discussion was held between Chasidy Hobbs (UWF, Chair) and the Scientist in Every Florida School presenter about the newsletter and the process for partnering. S. Killingsworth explained the newsletter more in-depth. It is general across the state and can spotlight scientists based on lessons, overall educational efforts, or as a snapshot into the life of a scientist. B. Abramowitz explained more in-depth the process in which partnership would begin. First teachers need to voice their want for more science-based lessons. This will allow for teachers to voice what they want, and the organization to design subject matter that relates to the grade standards. Once a database of teacher contacts is created, scientists can be matched up for classrooms. Scientists in Every Florida School would be the main contact to place teachers with scientists and scientific programs.

5. Staff Updates

a. CCMP Timeline Update

- Whitney Scheffel (PPBEP) updated the committee on CCMP progress.
- A final CCMP draft will be distributed in the next couple of weeks to editors.

b. EOC Strategic Plan Update and Feedback Survey

- Feedback on the updated Education & Outreach Strategic Plan can be submitted through this [survey](#).
- Survey closes January 28, 2022.

c. Trash Free Waters Update – monitoring and curriculum

- Emerson Cheney (PPBEP) updated the committee on Trash Free Waters (TFW) progress from 2021.
 - 146 volunteers removed 3660 lbs. and approximately 344 cubic feet of trash from Carpenter, Pond, and Jones Creek in 2021.
 - The program partnered with 15 different organizations to conduct cleanup events in each watershed.
 - Installation of 6 floating litter capture booms was completed to reduce the downstream flow of floatable trash.
 - 17 litter boom monitoring events were conducted to collect data about trash accumulating in our floating litter booms.
 - In the coming year, we look forward to expanding our trash-free waters volunteer program and utilizing the data that we collect from monitoring exercises to inform the development of property trash reduction plans and other litter mitigation measures to reduce trash loading in the targeted watersheds.
 - A. Amy Newbold (EPA GMP) asked if the Trash Free Waters litter data was being put into the online tracker resource. E. Cheney confirmed it will eventually be added to the tracker, but for now, the volunteers are recording data on the ETAP datasheets.
- Madi Ross (PPBEP) updated the committee on the current TFW curriculum.



- The TFW curriculum will focus on watershed function and dynamics, water quality, and marine debris.
- Curriculum will be introduced to high schools in Escambia County and Santa Rosa County this spring. The students will participate in a trash reduction case study within the school grounds.
- In the fall of 2022, the curriculum will be introduced to elementary and middle schools in Escambia County and Santa Rosa County through interactive educational videos.
- If committee members have any teacher recommendations, please contact [Madi Ross](#).

d. B-WET 2022 Application

- Logan McDonald (PPBEP) introduced PPBEP's progress with the B-WET 2022 application.
- The proposal will be including teacher professional development and an educational aspect that includes the creation of a new oyster curriculum to foster long-lasting student scientific knowledge and participation.
- PPBEP is looking into partnering with Scientists in Every Florida School. If anyone else wishes to partner, please contact [Logan McDonald](#).

e. Perdido Key Visitor Center Planting Prep Workday – Tentatively January 29th

- Samantha Bolduc (Escambia County) informed the committee on the upcoming Perdido Key Volunteer Workday.
- It will be a prep day to get the site ready for the demonstration garden. Contact [Samantha Bolduc](#) if you wish to volunteer.

f. Litter Rodeo with Clean Horizons January 22nd postponed

- Save the date for 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 canceled and we will notify you when it is rescheduled.*

g. Orange Beach Seafood Festival – February 19th

- PPBEP will be hosting two booths at the Orange Beach Seafood Festival this year.

h. Business Partnership Kickoff - February 24th

- The PPBEP Business Partnership Kickoff meeting will be held at Perfect Plain on February 24, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.
- We are looking for more business partnership recommendations.

i. Biking for the Bays Fundraiser - January 22nd

- L. McDonald will be biking 100 miles to help raise money for PPBEP's future programs and projects.
- She is currently halfway to her goal of \$1,500. If you would like to support PPBEP [donate here](#).



- j. **New Office**
 - The Estuary Program has moved across the street to the Seville Tower. The arrival of office furniture was delayed but is now tentatively arriving in mid-February which will complete PPBEP's move-in process.
 - k. **Library Programming**
 - The West Florida Public Libraries are hosting an Ocean of Possibilities Summer Reading & Science Program that PPBEP will be participating in.
 - PPBEP will be joining children in June and July for ocean-themed story times and activities to help educate younger community members throughout Escambia County.
- 6. Chair Nominations/Election**
- C. Hobbs opened the floor for new EOC Chair nominations.
 - After discussion, both current Chair (Chasidy Hobbs) and Vice-Chair (Carrie Stevenson) positions agreed to continue as is.
- Chelsea Conley (Okaloosa County) made a motion to renominate the current chairs. Bethanne Edwards (Bethanne Edwards LLC.) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 7. Around the Room/Announcements**
- a. **Healthy Gulf Beach Walk – February 12th**
 - b. **Weeks Bay K-12 Survey**
 - Danielle Davidson (WB-NERR) is sending out a K-12 Needs Assessment to teachers in Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi to gauge what the new Week's Bay curriculum should cover.
 - There will be incentives, like gift cards, for teachers filling out the surveys.
 - Week's Bay requests help in spreading the word to local teachers.
 - [K-12 Needs Assessment Survey](#)
 - c. **Okaloosa County Job Opportunities**
 - C. Conley presented the committee with multiple job opportunities for the Okaloosa County area for members to spread the word.
 - The jobs focus on business partnerships and education.
 - <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/okaloosa/jobs/3379220/destination-stewardship-coordinator?page=1&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>
 - Contact [Chelsea Conley](#) for more information.
- 8. 2022 Meetings & Dates**
- a. **April 13th Management Conference Meeting – location TBD**
 - b. **May 5th Meeting - NEW planning begins,**
 - c. **May 11th, 13th, 24th, and 25th - CCMP engagements rollouts**
 - Each CCMP public engagement will be held in different locations throughout the watershed.



- Tentative locations and topics include Milton, for a sedimentation video, and Santa Rosa, for community resilience and sea-level rise. PPBEP is still brainstorming two other locations and topics for discussion.
- d. August 25th, 26th, or 27th - State of the Bays Fundraiser Gala**
 - PPBEP is asking for thoughts on which date would work best, based on committee members' experience in public engagement planning.
- e. September 1st Meeting – National Estuaries Week final prep**
 - Bay Day was discussed between L. McDonald, C. Stevenson, and Chris Verlinde (UF/IFAS, FL SeaGrant). Field trips and traveling exhibits were questioned on whether they will be possibilities in the upcoming event. The answer is unclear at this time.
- f. November 17th - Meeting**

9. Adjourn