



PPBEP Technical Committee Meeting

January 25th, 2022 at 10:00 – 12:00 CT

Virtual Meeting

[Meeting Recording](#)

Attendees

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
Amy Newbold	EPA GMP
Barbara Albrecht	BFA, UWF
Casey Fulford	AACD
Celeste Lyon	Wood
Chasidy Hobbs	UWF
Christine Mehle	Wood
Christopher Anderson	Auburn University
Christopher Plymale	EPA
Chris Verlinde	UF IFAS, Florida SeaGrant
Gina Alvarez	FWC
Jacqueline Lane	Friends of Perdido Bay
Jane Caffrey	UWF
Jeanette Kelson	Wood
Jenny Paul	EPA ORISE
Jim Little	PNJ
John Kiefer	Wood
Katie Baltzer	TNC
Marcy Frick	TetraTech
Matt Deitch	UF Milton
Matthew Miller	WRA
Mollie Taylor	GeoSyntec
Nicole Love	Thompson Engineering
Paul Looney	WRA
Rick O'Connor	UF IFAS, Florida SeaGrant
Ryan Kirby	Escambia County
Samantha Bolduc	Escambia County



1. **Call to Order**
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
 - a. Participants new to the Technical Committee introduced themselves.
 - Chris Plymale (EPA) – Region 4 Trash Free Waters Program
 - Celeste Lyon, Crissy Mehle, John Kiefer (Wood) – Carpenter Creek/Bayou Texar Watershed Management Plan team
 - Chris Anderson (Auburn)
3. **Approval of November 30th, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Samantha Bolduc (Escambia County) made a motion to approve the November 30, 2021 meeting minutes. Chasidy Hobbs (UWF) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Partner Presentations**
 - a. **Katie Baltzer (TNC) – Lower Perdido Islands Management Plan Update**
 - TNC conducted a public survey to gain input on several proposed restoration and management concepts for the restoration of the Lower Perdido Islands. Maintaining access to the islands and improving public knowledge of rules and regulations were identified as high priorities.
 - TNC plans to implement several restoration concepts and conservation strategies that were informed by public input. Educational kiosks are being designed to inform community members and visitors about the islands' wildlife and habitats, rules and regulations, and sensitive areas.
 - A GIS-based app will utilize geo-fencing to notify boaters when they enter a sensitive area/zone (i.e., shallow seagrass beds) and provide information on rules and regulations.
 - TNC submitted a proposal for the NFWF ECRF funding to restore Robinson Island with PPBEP's support.
 - b. **Jeanette Kelson (Wood) – Carpenter Creek/Bayou Texar Watershed Assessment (cont'd from 11.30.21 TC Meeting)**
 - Jeanette Kelson, Celeste Lyon, John Kiefer (Wood) presented the Carpenter Creek/Bayou Texar WMP goals, stream assessment results, flood control plans, and H&H (Hydrology and Hydraulic) model development, and water quality results from trend and correlation analyses. The new model includes the unincorporated areas of the watershed and tests sea-level rise scenarios to inform prioritization.
 - J. Kelson shared the results of the flood control plans and H&H model development. The new model includes the unincorporated areas of the watershed and tests sea-level scenarios to inform the prioritization of flood control plans.
 - C. Lyon shared the water quality results. An impairment assessment, trend analysis, and correlation analysis were conducted, showing limited indication of



TN, FIB, and DO impairments; a decrease in TP in Carpenter Creek; and a lack of correlation between water quality variables and precipitation.

- J. Kiefer explained that the stream assessment identified development tipping points for the watershed to determine and point out vulnerable areas. The headwaters were identified and categorized depending on erosion level.
- General discussion and Q/A between Barbara Albrecht (BFA, UWF), Paul Looney (WRA), Chris Anderson (AU), J. Bibza and the Wood project team followed concerning severe erosion at 9th Ave., beaver dams as potential long-term erosion solution, project prioritization, and wastewater treatment facility improvements.

5. 2022 Leadership Vote

a. Chair and Co-Chair election

- Paul Looney (WRA) and Jessica Bibza (NWF) were nominated for the 2022 Chair position. Paul Looney was elected based on a majority vote.
- Mollie Taylor (GeoSyntec), Casey Fulford (AACD), and J. Bibza were nominated for the 2022 Vice-Chair position. Casey Fulford was elected based on a majority vote.

6. CCMP Progress Update, *Whitney Scheffel (PPBEP)*

a. CCMP Draft and updated timeline

A final CCMP draft will be distributed to selected editors in February.

7. Staff Updates

a. Grant proposals

• NOAA B-WET

- Logan McDonald (PPBEP) notified the committee that the Program will be submitting a proposal for the 2022 NOAA B-WET Program.
- The proposal will include teacher professional development in Year 1 and Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWESS) for students in Year 2 that are focused on Pensacola Bay oysters.

b. Trash Free Waters monitoring

- Emerson Cheney (PPBEP) provided an update on Trash Free Waters (TFW) project progress from 2021.
 - 146 volunteers removed 3,660 lbs. and approximately 344 cubic feet of trash from Carpenter, Pond, and Jones Creeks in 2021.
 - The program partnered with 15 different organizations to conduct cleanup events in each watershed.
 - Six floating litter booms were installed to reduce floatable trash downstream.
 - 17 litter boom monitoring events were conducted to collect data on trash accumulation in each of the creeks.
 - In 2022, the PPBEP looks forward to expanding the TFW Volunteer Program and utilizing the monitoring data to inform the development of



property trash reduction plans and other litter mitigation measures to reduce trash loading in the targeted watersheds.

- Madi Ross (PPBEP) is creating a TFW curriculum to administer to Escambia and Santa Rosa County schools this Spring.

c. Grant Updates

- **NOAA Actionable Science Grant (Lead: Erin Cox, UNO)**

- The PPBEP 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 accomplished the following:

- Conducted literature review.
- Conducted survey to gather feedback from community users, practitioners, and researchers on seagrass restoration, perceptions, and needs.
- Team meeting Thursday, Jan. 27th to discuss survey results.
- Advisory Panel meeting Wednesday, Feb. 16th to discuss survey results and plan for future stakeholder workshop in May 2022.

- **NOAA Community of Practice (Lead: PPBEP)**

- This project supports local resilience efforts by conducting surveys and community engagements to assess residents' perceptions of risk surrounding sea-level rise, climate change, and resilience readiness
 - A kick-off meeting was held with UWF partners (Dr. Jocelyn Evans, Dr. Kwame Owusu Daaku, Dr. Derek Morgan)
 - UWF Honors Core II students are assisting with survey development and distribution
 - The UWF students will participate in a classroom Community Resilience discussion panel on February 15th
 - Project team is drafting questions for the community survey and will be distributed to communities in Spring 2022.

- **NOAA Environmental Literacy Grant (Lead: Dr. Renee Collini, PLACE: SLR)**

- This project will support Pop-Ins utilizing virtual reality and other immersive activities and Community Connection Dialogues to engage local leaders and residents on sea-level rise.
 - The project team is currently planning future engagements for Summer 2022.

d. Upcoming events

- April 13th Management Conference Meeting
 - Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Resource Center from 11:00 AM – 04:00 PM CT (coffee & lunch provided) followed by sunset social on the Pensacola Bay ferry from 06:00 – 08:00 PM CT.
- **May 10th, 12th, 22nd, and 24th – CCMP rollout engagements**



- Each CCMP public engagement will focus on a CCMP goal
 - The engagements will be held in different locations throughout the watershed (TBD).
- **August 25th, 26th, or 27th (TBD) - State of the Bays Fundraiser Gala**
8. **Around the Room/Announcements**
- There were no around the room announcements during this meeting.
9. **Next Meeting**
- a. **SAVE THE DATE: Management Conference Meeting (in-person), April 13th**
 - The April Management Conference will be held in lieu of a March Technical Committee. The next Technical Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, June 28, 2022.