



Technical Committee Minutes

July 26th, 2022, 10:00 – 12:00 CT

[Virtual Meeting Recording](#)

Attendees

Matt Posner	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Haley Gancel	PPBEP
Madi Ross	PPBEP
Emerson Cheney	PPBEP
Sarah Jacobs	PPBEP
Molly McDaniel	PPBEP
Cait Jennings	PPBEP
Tucker Reynolds	PPBEP
Paul Looney, Chair	WRA
Casey Fulford, Vice-Chair	AACD
Amanda Croteau	UWF
Amy Newbold	EPA
Beth Fugate	DEP
Brent Wipf	Escambia County
Brian Underwood	CBEP
Christian Wagley	Healthy Gulf
Christopher Plymale	EPA
Chris Verlinde	UF IFAS, Sea Grant
Dana Morton	Escambia County
Darryl Boudreau	NWFWMD
Elizabeth Major	Community Member
Eric Schneider	ESA
Heather Griffin	ADEM
Jacqueline Lane	Friends of Perdido Bay
Jeff Helms	Moffatt & Nichol
Jessica Bibza	NWF
Kate Dawson	Moffatt & Nichol
Katie Baltzer	TNC
Kristin Bennett	TetraTech
Matthew Kelly	Escambia County
Naisy Dolar	Santa Rosa County
Paige Harvey	Thompson Engineering
Phillip Bryars	Community Member



1. **Call to Order**
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Approval of January 25th, 2022 Meeting Minutes**
4. **CCMP Draft Overview, *Whitney Scheffel (PPBEP)***
 - a. **CCMP Draft and Public Comment period**
 - W. Scheffel presented CCMP design highlights from Background Stories. The Plan will be released for public comment in August and presented to the Policy Board in September or October for final approval.
 - Discussed was held on how long the CCMP would be open for public comment and how the final document would be presented and if there would be a CCMP summary synthesizing the main elements of the Plan.
 - W. Scheffel informed the committee that the CCMP would be available as an interactive web platform on PPBEP website, a clickable PDF, and a printed version. It will also be rolled out via social media platforms highlighting the priority goal areas and other key elements.
5. **Staff Updates**
 - a. **Management Conference Meeting Summary**

The first annual Management Conference, held on April 13 at the Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Resource Center, had over 100 participants. There were two guest speakers, Adam Blalock (DEP) and Amy Hunter (ADCNR), who presented on agency priorities. At the end of the meeting, participants split into breakout sessions to brainstorm priority project ideas. Input from the meeting will assist staff in the development of PPBEP's Annual Work Plan.
 - b. **Actionable Science Seagrass Workshop Summary**

The project team, PPBEP staff and partners from UNO and MSU, hosted a seagrass workshop at Perdido Key Community Center on May 18. There were 47 participants, practitioners, and researchers, representing Alabama and Florida agencies, organizations, and universities. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss current knowledge on seagrass genetic diversity and data gaps between academics and practitioners and collaboratively develop best practices for integrating genetic strategies into future seagrass management. The workshop helped prioritize concepts and research questions for the next round of NOAA Actionable Science funding.
 - c. **Oyster Sub-Committee Workshop Summary**

PPBEP and partners from Florida Sea Grant, FWC, and TNC hosted a Oyster Restoration Workshop to collaboratively identify sites for future oyster



restoration efforts in the Pensacola Bay System. There were over 25 participants that provided input on where oysters should be restored. Outputs from the workshop included comprehensive site maps that combined stakeholder interests and feedback to identify ideal restoration locations for fisheries enhancement, ecosystem services, and habitat. This input will assist the Program and its partners in developing future grant proposals to improve oyster resources and water quality in the PBS.

d. Grants Awarded and Proposals

i. NOAA Bay-Watershed Education Training (B-WET)

PPBEP was awarded a \$100,000 NOAA B-WET grant for Pensacola Bay Oyster Restoration, Education, and Engagement Framework (REEF) project. The two-year award will support local high school students and teachers as they explore watershed issues through the lenses of Pensacola Bay System oysters using local data sets, case studies, and field trips. The project will kick off in Fall 2022. Discussion was held regarding the B-WET project timeline and goals for both the teacher professional training/workshop and the implementation in the classroom.

ii. FDEP Resilient Florida

PPBEP was awarded a two-year, \$675,000 Resilient Florida grant from DEP for the development of a compound flood model and adaptation strategy for Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds. PPBEP will be partnering with FSU to complete this project.

iii. NOAA Actionable Science

The next round of funding for NOAA Actionable Science will focus on developing products to assist natural resource managers, fill data gaps, and implement a strategic plan for seagrass restoration in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Systems.

iv. NOAA Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

PPBEP and partners will be working to submit 2 proposals for the NOAA IIJA funding opportunity that will focus on both the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds: the implementation of a bay-wide oyster restoration plan for Pensacola Bay, and an initiative on seagrass and marsh restoration for the Perdido Bay including a living shoreline cost-share program.



v. FDEP RESTORE 3b

PPBEP submitted proposals to develop a sedimentation abatement strategy for Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds and design the restoration of Carpenter Creek/Bayou Texar.

e. Upcoming events

The new cycle for the PPBEP Community Grant program is open. Project proposal applications are due August 3rd. The funding cycle for the grant is October 3rd, 2022 – May 31st, 2023 with awards range from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

6. Around the Room/Announcements

- a. Christian Wagley (*Healthy Gulf*) announced the upcoming Hot City Cool Walking Tour through downtown Pensacola and the Land Use and Environmental Mapping Tool for Residents of Santa Rosa County Webinar.
- b. Jessica Bibza (*NWF*) is looking for volunteers to help Panhandle Manatee educate boaters and anglers at local boat ramps. Email panhandlemanatee.org@gmail.com or sign up for shifts [here](#).
- c. Jackie Lane (*Friends of Perdido Bay*) shared upcoming project ideas for toxicity studies in Perdido Bay relating to larval recruitment of oysters and algal toxicity.
- d. Amy Newbold (*EPA*) shared the GOMA Wednesday Webinar that will be focusing on the Deepwater Horizon Project Tracker.
- e. Matt Posner (*PPBEP*) announced the FLARA Annual Conference focused on resiliency. The conference is on August 3rd in Panama City. 2022 Annual Conference — Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies (flera.org)
- f. Brian Underwood (*CBEP*) invited the committee to join in on the CBEP TAC Meeting to discuss the future and progress of the CBEP CCMP. CBEP CCMP development TAC meeting - August 18th at 1:00 p.m. <https://myokaloosa.zoom.us/j/84649852775?pwd=b0NqYVY1SENVYVdWZkpPQXFZR3BVdz09>

7. Next Meeting

- a. Next Technical Committee Meeting will be October 25th at 10 AM CT