



MINUTES
Education & Outreach Committee
August 29, 2024 at 11:00 AM CT
Virtual
[Meeting Recording](#)

Present Parties:

Matt Posner	PPBEP
Logan McDonald	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Paige Lansky	PPBEP
Haley Gancel	PPBEP
Bailey Walkinshaw	PPBEP
Rick O'Connor, Co-Chair	Florida Sea Grant
Thomas Derbes, Co-Chair	Florida Sea Grant
Robin Birdsong	Department of Transportation
Darry Boudreau	NFWFMD
Kristin DeReuil	Tetra Tech Inc.
Jarah Jacquay	Bluffline
Ryan Kirby	Escambia County
Christina Laird	Pensacola Rowing Club
Shannon McGlynn	Community Member
Stephen Moody	Community Member
Gerald Newton	Community Member
Julie Parsons	Community Member
T.S. Strickland	Bluffline
Benjamin Van Der Like	Community Member
Chris Verlinde	Santa Rosa County
Adrienne Walker	Community Member
Bill Wein	Community Member
Bonny Wolfg	Community Member

1. Call to Order

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Approval of February 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Thomas Derbes (Florida Sea Grant) made a motion to approve the December 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Ryan Kirby (Escambia County) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



4. Building Pensacola's Greenway: Lessons Learned from the Grass Roots Bluffline Project (*T.S. Strickland, Bluffline*)

Guest presenter T.S. Strickland with Bluffline gave a presentation on the lessons learned from the Bluffline Project. Discussion was held on potential expansion of the Bluffline Project into Gulf Breeze and Pensacola Beach.

5. Staff Updates & Discussion

a. Living Shorelines Assistance Program (*Paige Lansky, Assistant Project Coordinator*)

Staff provided an update on the Living Shorelines Assistance Program and requested committee member feedback to incorporate into the funding prioritization and outreach strategies.

b. National Estuaries Week (*Logan McDonald, Community Outreach Coordinator*)

Staff shared the upcoming National Estuaries Week events:

i. Sunday, 9/22 – Kayak Tour

Staff tentatively planned a kayak tour in the case that the Program vehicle arrived in time to announce the event, but due to a delivery delay the kayak tour was cancelled.

ii. Monday, 9/23- Lunch & Learn: Seagrass, Scallops, and Fish Surveys

Dr. Haley Gancel (PPBEP Environmental Scientist) will be presenting with Rick O'Connor (FL Sea Grant) and Thomas Derbes (FL Sea Grant) on Monday, September 23rd from 11:00am-12:00pm CT for the virtual Lunch & Learn. Registration is available on the Program's website event calendar and was shared in the monthly newsletters.

iii. Tuesday, 9/24 Trivia Night at Alga

Staff are collaborating with Alga Beer Co.'s Trivia Host "Ranger Brandon" on a nature-themed trivia night on September 24th from 7:00-9:00pm CT, with trivia team sign-ups starting at 6:30pm CT. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

iv. Thursday, 9/26 Community Grant Symposium

The 4th Annual Community Grant Symposium will be held on Thursday, September 26th at the Bayview Community Center in Pensacola, FL from 5:30-8:30pm CT. Grant recipients from the 2023-2024 award cycle will share their project findings and the new awardees for the 2024-2025 award cycle will be announced. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served and the event is free and open to the public. Registration is required.

v. Friday-Sunday 9/27-9/29 Seafood Festival

Staff will be tabling at the Pensacola Seafood Festival in downtown Pensacola from September 27th through September 29th.



c. Save the Date: October 17th Evening for the Estuaries Gala

The 2nd Annual Evening for the Estuaries Gala will be held on October 17th at the Coastal Arts Center of Orange Beach from 6:00-9:00pm CT. Early bird tickets are on sale through September 13th before ticket prices increase.

6. Around the Room/Announcements

Rick O'Connor (FL Sea Grant) provided updates on the recent surveying efforts including the Great Scallop Search held in July with a record-breaking number of 183 scallops and the Summer Survey of Invasive Species held in August. This year, the Summer Survey of Invasive Species included surveying for tilapia in Bayou Chico in addition to the beach vitex, cogon grass, and lionfish surveys. In September, Terrapin Tours will start back up.

Thomas Derbes (FL Sea Grant) shared a new event, Edible Invaders, which will be held on September 21st-22nd on Pensacola Beach with Ocean Strike Team to showcase ways to eat invasive species such as lionfish and iguana with live Chef demonstrations and food platters for purchase.

7. Meeting Adjourned