

FEAB MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2017
3 p.m.
Delchamps Room, Fairhope, AL

Attendees: Gary Gover, Ron Allen, Tony Pritchett, Rick Frederick, Shawn Graham, Jimmy Conyers (City Council Representative), Nancy Milford, (City of Fairhope Planning Department)

Honored Guests: Riva Fralick, Nicole Love

FEAB MEMBERSHIP:

Gary Gover conducted the meeting in Mike Shelton's absence.

Requested changes to the meeting minutes.

Gary move to approve the minutes with the name change.
Ron Allen seconded the motion.

Elections were held for the chairman. Gary opened the meeting for the nominations. Ron Allen nominated Mike Shelton. Shawn Graham nominated Gary Gover.

A vote was held. Gary abstained from the vote. Mike Shelton received 3 of the 5 members votes and Mike Shelton was elected as Chairperson of the Committee.

Discussion of Items:

1. **Watershed Management Plans:** Rick Fredrick presented a general update of the Watershed Management Plans. Rick said that the next area in line for the Watershed Management Study is Wolf Bay. A request for proposal is going out the 2nd quarter. Fly Creek will most likely be in the 2nd or 3rd round.

There is 1.8 million dollars available to study 7 watersheds:
Bon Secour (Completed); Bayou La Batre (in progress), Weeks Bay, Fish River, Dog River (in the works), Wolf Bay, and Fly Creek.

In the second pot of money, the Tensaw area may be addressed.

Rick generally discussed what is covered by the Watershed Management Plan. The plans are all science based. They address the following:

- Sediment Analysis
- Request for Proposal and hire an Engineering Firm such as Thompson Engineering, Volkert, or Goodwyn Mills and Cawood so far.
- The Engineering Firm is charged with performing an outreach meeting component.
- A steering committee of stakeholders is formed.
- The entire process takes 12-15 months to complete using the data available.
- Some of the items covered include: environmental issues, sediment runoff, invasive species, development impact, public access and land acquisition.

Currently completed plans include D'Olive Creek, Three mile Creek, and Fowl River. There is a Public Comment period for Watershed Management Plans.

Fly Creek should be approximately a year away if funding is left. The goal is to eventually cover all intertidal watersheds from Mississippi to Florida.

Gary added at the end of the meeting that he felt that Tatumville should have the highest level of concern for the City's watershed management study.

2. **Clean Marinas:** Gary Gover brought up the clean marina program. Gary would like to see the City address the clean marina requirements in the upcoming contracts for the Leases for Shux and the Eastern Shore Marina on Fly Creek. He felt that FEAB should volunteer to review the contracts for the Harbor Board. He said Christian Miller (Auburn Extension) may be an asset in the review of the contracts as well.

Ron Allen was concerned with the financial obligation to the marinas if they take on the entire clean marinas program. He would like the marinas to look at the Clean Marinas assessment and report back to the City as to what is reasonable that they can afford.

Tony Pritchett said he will call Bob Riggs to see if they can go to the City docks to perform a self assessment using the clean marina form.

3. **Living Shoreline:** Gary Gover generally discussed the Fly Creek Marina and their dredging project. Gary expressed his desire that FEAB talk to the Harbor Board about living shorelines. Gary suggests the approach to these projects should not be just about cleaning out, but should instead be about maintaining the shorelines.

Gary said that the City is looking at upgrading the electrical system for the marina. During hurricanes the water will rise and facilities will go under water. If they look at upgrading the electrical then they should consider protection in storm situations.

Ron moved for adjournment.

Rick seconded.

The meeting adjourned just after 4pm.