

**FEAB MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 8, 2018**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Board Room, Public Library, Fairhope, AL**

**Member Attendees:** Gary Gover, Jim Horner, Nicole Love, Jeanine Normand, Ron Allen, and Rick Frederick

**City Council:** Jimmy Conyers

**City of Fairhope:** Kim Burmeister, City of Fairhope Planning and Zoning Department; Lynn Maser, Special Projects Manager; Drew Craze, Fairhope Docks Manager

**Honored Guests:** Bob Riggs, Harbor Board; Skip Jones; Philip Hinsley, Sea Grant; Will Underwood, AL Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources; Jeremiah Kolb, AL Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources; JJ McCool, Wildlife Solutions; Brad Young, Allen Engineering

**Minutes taken by:** Kim Burmeister

**FEAB MINUTES:**

May's minutes were approved as amended. Jim Horner requested the following information be added under the Open Meeting topic:

*As per Jimmy Conyers and Lisa Hanks:*

- 1. Don't establish any sub-committees.*
- 2. Meetings must have less than the quorum of the standing committee to avoid open meeting requirements.*

**Discussion of Items:**

**1. Clean and Resilient Marinas**

Allen Engineering representative, Brad Young, spoke about Allen Engineering's experience with Clean and Resilient Marina programs in MS. MS has state of the art marinas, many of them with Clean and Resilient Marina status. This is a step above the Clean Marina program. Resiliency is the ability to bounce back. Brad passed out a Clean and Resilient Marina checklist and an initiative brochure (attached). Marina must score 80% in each of the categories listed in the checklist. Philip Hinsley said that there are only three "Clean Marinas" in AL and all three are due to renew their Clean Marina status, which should be renewed every 5 years. Dog River, Delta Marina, and Zeke's are the marinas that have achieved Clean Marina status in the past. Jimmy asked Drew how the Fairhope Docks would score if they completed the checklist today. Drew said the Fairhope Docks would not score well, as they still have a lot of work to do. Lynn said she is

in support of the Clean and Resilient Marina program and would like the Fairhope Docks to move towards obtaining certification. The marina needs funding. Lynn said the city is adding Clean Marina language in the lease RFP paperwork, for any future leases of the marina. Brad said Allen Engineering can help the City:

- a. Evaluate marina assets
- b. Map vulnerabilities
- c. Prioritize areas of concern
- d. Prepare for worst case scenarios
- e. Educate citizens/employees/businesses/visitors

For more information on the Clean and Resilient Marina program, visit:

[www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org](http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org)

Jim said city boat slips need better storm surge protection. Lynn said floating docks are a wish list item but are expensive. She would like the redesign of the marina to include portable buildings, if possible. She would like to work with the Harbor Board on upcoming redesign efforts. Bob said that progressive and state of the art marinas (i.e. MS marinas, for example) have portable offices and/or restrooms. He also reminded everyone that ADEM registration will be required of the marina lease holder and this may help achieve Clean Marina (or Clean and Resilient Marina) status. Bob said the next Harbor Board meeting is July 11<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 p.m. (Delchamps Room @ Civic Center).

## **2. Nature Based Tourism (Eco-Tourism)**

Brad with Allen Engineering spoke about nature-based tourism and its importance to coastal areas. He passed around a guideline book for eco-tourism developed by Allen Engineering for Coastal MS. This booklet, produced by Allen Engineering in partnership with GOMA, also mentioned Clean and Resilient Marinas. Philip will email a link to the booklet to Rick to share with the group. Nature based tourism has great economic benefits. Wildlife viewing based businesses, for example, bring in more money than hunting and fishing combined, according to Brad. Allen Engineering can help the City of Fairhope:

- a. Identify and map resources
- b. Connect nature-based tourism businesses and resources
- c. Define coastal characteristics
- d. Plan for growth
- e. Develop the process
- f. Gather feed back (from the task force, sub committees, stake holders and net providers).
- g. Advertise
- h. Train workforce to promote eco-tourism
- i. To invest in infrastructure to support eco-tourism

Grahams Creek in Foley was mentioned as a good example of promoting eco-tourism. The interpretive center and park area offer archery, frisbee golf, and a kayak launch area.

Skip asked how Fairhope could get involved in pursuing a nature-based tourism program. The first start is funding. Lynn said Sherry-Lea is working on grant opportunities for nature-based tourism. Nicole asked Philip if someone from Sea Grant could come speak with the city (Council?) about starting such an initiative. Philip said Sea Grant would love to come discuss this with the City.

Gary said nature-based tourism is definitely something City needs to pursue, and he wants FEAB to follow up on these discussions.

### **3. Fly Creek Bacterial Monitoring**

Gary said the Mobile Bay Keeper bacterial monitoring program appears to be somewhat limited in what it will accomplish. Mike has sent a note asking council to consider allowing FEAB to make recommendations on future testing efforts (before any future contracts are signed). Nicole seconded the concern that the Bay Keepers testing efforts, if they continue, will likely be redundant. Gary said "let's design it before we buy it". FEAB should be allowed to review monitoring program before the city decides on the program. Jimmy said he will discuss this with the city council. Gary did not think a motion was necessary. Jim said #1 concern for Fly Creek and determining bacterial contamination sources is to establish an inventory of septic tanks in the Fly Creek watershed.

### **4. Habitat Restoration of Fly Creek**

JJ McCool, Wildlife Solutions, discussed his line of work, which includes habitat restoration. He has worked recently with many stream / habitat restoration projects in Daphne and MS. He is interested in working on Fly Creek restoration efforts. Rick said a steering committee will be formed for the Fly Creek Watershed management program. JJ said he is willing to donate his time to locate funding/grant sources. Rick said grantors might be reluctant to offer funding for Fly Creek since the watershed management plan is almost underway. Lynn said City is working with Eco Solutions for the dredging of Fly Creek (working on acquiring / verifying USCOE permits). Jim thinks CR 13 construction at Fly Creek several years ago has led to continued degradation of Fly Creek.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for **July 13<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m.** (Board Room, Public Library)

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