

Meeting Notes
Bayou Chico Basin Management Action Plan - Kick-off Meeting
Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Northwest District Office
February 10th, 2009, 2pm CST

Action Items:

- *Anita - A map with a list of completed projects will be developed over the next couple of months for the collection of specific information. In the meantime, create base map for “maps on the table” type exercise.
- *Anita, post NFWFMD Dredge project report when available.
- *Anita, post Dr. Snyder’s reports to ftp and power point presentations from the meeting. (v)
- *Bonita, contact missing agencies to find rep. for technical stakeholders meetings.(v)
- * Determine locations of marina pump-out stations and where pump-out boat is stationed and routed

Acronyms:

BCA Bayou Chico Association
BMAP Basin Management Action Plan
BMP Best Management Practices
DEP Florida Department of Environmental Protection
ECUA Emerald Coast Utility Authority
NFWFMD North West Florida Water Management District
TMDL Total Maximum Daily Load

Welcome and Introductions – Bonita Gorham/Kathleen Harrigan

Bayou Chico TMDL – Description of Impairment and Direction for Implementation – Bonita Gorham (* Bayou Chico Management Action Plan – Kickoff Meeting February 10th, 2009 PowerPoint presentation posted on the DEP ftp site:

ftp://ftp.dep.state.fl.us/pub/water/BMAP/Pensacola/Bayou_Chico/Meetings/2009FEB10/)

TMDL Definition

TMDL Listing Process

TMDL Development Process

Key points of the Bayou Chico fecal coliform TMDL discussed were:

- **TMDL period of record (for data collection) 1998 – 2005**
- **TMDL Fecal Coliform reductions: point sources must meet NPDES permit, stormwater and nonpoint sources must reduce contribution by 61%.**

John Naybor of BCA suggested: Is the TMDL going to dictate the remedies of the BMAP? Some stake holders disagree with the TMDL suggestion that dog feces is a large part of the problem. The BCA would like to be sure the BMAP will address storm water run off and other major sources.

Response: During creation of the BMAP, DEP asks the stake holders for better direction and suggested solutions and detective work. There is flexibility in development of the BMAP to address sources beyond those identified during TMDL development.

Understanding the Basin: Status of Current and Ongoing Projects in the Bayou Chico Watershed:

Ron Bartel, Director, Division of Resource Management, NFWFMD

Ron shared projects that the NFWFMD has been working on in the basin:

Removal of direct waste water discharge around 1987

Storm water treatment / sediment trap

- **NWFWMD purchased the Clark Sand Pits, Escambia County has completed a stormwater retrofit for Jackson Branch using one of the pits**
- **NWFWMD completed a retrofit of Maggie's Ditch that treats stormwater from the upper 'T' portion of the Bayou**

Railroad tresses pulled back and removed old turret Bridge at mouth (with DOT): allowed better flushing of the bayou.

Wetland preservation

Dredged the lower portion of Bayou Chico, partnered with US Army Corps of Engineers

- **Spoils to the north pond at the Clark Sand Pit (extensive monitoring program in place to possible track saltwater movement into lower water zone and nearby wells (no evidence of movement))**

In order to determine potential to dredge the west or north wing of the bayou, sampling of sediments and water quality was required for permit, and requirements for follow-up sampling.

Bob Peterson of Peterson Boats noted: The west side of the Bayou has quickly accumulated sediments going from 8' to 4' water depth in the past 5 yrs. Also, at the upper T, at low tide, there is no flushing. He noted that it has been dry enough to jump across during low winter tides. Another observation off W Street, during low tide I can see, the weir is rusted out underneath, and needs replacement. (Al Garza, acknowledged need but stated no funding currently available)

Taylor "Chips" Kirshenfeld, Sr. Environmental Programs Manager, Escambia County

Chips shared projects that Escambia County has been working on in the basin:

Wetland Restoration Project and Cultural Center (Muscovy Indians) and Trail Continuation

- **Fairfield drive, purchased 2 parcels, adjacent to the Jones Swamp Preservation Area**

Jones Creek Stream Restoration Project, improved stream design and water quality and biology

- **Restoring the natural bio habitat, spread storm water to keep sheet flow**

Glynn Key Storm Wetlands Project and East Jones Creek Restoration

- **Boardwalk and storm water treatment area behind Sonny's BBQ.**

Lexington Terrace Amphitheater and potential wetland storm water treatment area

- **Part of a 12 mile greenway from Lexington Park to Perdido Bay**
- **Jackson Branch Storm Water Diversion Project using old sandpit/borrow pit south of the dredge fill pond.** The county plans to divert storm water through the middle sand pit to use the pond as a settling pit. The overflow will be from the west pond to the south stormwater pond before being discharged to Jackson Branch.

Tim Haag, Emerald Coast Utility Authority

Tim shared some projects ECUA has been working on in the basin:

Facility Replacement Project and Sewer Pipe Relining: The Main Street treatment plant will be moved and on line by the end of 2010. Capacity will be increased slightly (22.5 MGD from 20 MGD). The new plant will be above the Category V flood level and will be relocated to large land tract south of Cantonment. Plans are complete and construction is underway. They will be regaining some capacity at the plan through rehabilitation of the collection system. Some sewer pipes have been rehabilitated and some will need relining in the Bayou Chico Basin. When there is a leak in the sewer pipes here, the ground water seeps into the pipes causing excess water at the wastewater treatment plant. Smaller amounts of sewage seep into the ground where sewer pipes leak.

Sewer Expansion Program: Septic tanks work where soils allow, but for this region, it has been determined that sewer expansion is more appropriate. The sewer expansion program is directed by several priorities: location within 0.5 miles of a surface water, well head protection areas, and known operational problems. Before the Sewer expansion program, most septic tanks were not working to full capacity. Edgewater and Lakewood are part of the sewer expansion program on the bayou, both are phased programs (although there is a part of the Edgewater area that can not be sewerred). As of September 2008 approximately 80% of the houses in Edgewater and more than 90% of the houses in Lakewood connected to the available sewer service. Additional project phases are still planned for the Lakewood area. Currently the industrial area is all sewerred as is the residential area north of the industrial area. ECUA is working to identify areas that still need to be addressed.

Though ECUA has not taken before and after analysis, they believe this will greatly benefit the bayou due to the water table elevations and septic elevations. \$3.5 million has been spent on sewer retrofitting these areas.

Al Garza with City of Pensacola asked: How many septic tanks are estimated in the Bayou Chico watershed? Response: DOH is assisting ECUA in determining this. Estimated septic tanks in the basin could be in the thousands.

Taylor "Chips" Kirshenfeld of Escambia County asked: Who enforces sewer hook up via time requirements? Response: ECUA waves the sewer impact fee (near \$1700) if a household hooks up within the 365 days of notification. DOH requires an owner to connect within 365 days of initial notification.

When a septic tank fails, then DOH won't permit replacement of septic tank in areas of sewer service, forcing home owners to hook up to sewer. Many homes in the area are near 50 years old.

Additional information will be obtained from Tim regarding the number of units taken off line and the extent of the service area throughout the basin.

Louvi Donado of the Florida Department of Health asked: Do you have vacant properties or areas where people can not afford to hook up?

Response: Yes. There is at least one financial aid program (ie. Rebuild Florida gives grants)

John Naybor, Current President, Bayou Chico Association & Marina Owner/Operator

John shared the roles and projects the BCA and Marinas are involved with in the basin:

The Association represents home owners' and business interests in the basin.

The BCA looks for grant moneys

BCA is currently looking for funding to remove creosote pilings under the water and old train trestles. BCA is also looking for funding for removal of derelict vessels in the bayou: 3 wooden barges and some metal barges.

The BCA was a catalyst to dredging project and created accountability during the dredging

BCA notices changes in the bayou on a daily basis due to the BCA's physical proximity to the bayou. John noted that water clarity is getting better, but sediment is filling quickly. Flow has increased to 2-3 knot flow with higher and lower tides and attributes better flow to the dredging project. There has also been an increase in wildlife in the area.

Promotes participation in Clean Marina programs and implementation of BMPs

There are 11 marinas in Bayou Chico and 4 boat yards.

4 marinas are clean marinas and 2 are using BMPs

1 clean shipyard

3 pump out stations and a pump out boat which services the bayou

Recognition of Dr. Richard Snyder's work

Dr. Snyder has performed bacterial contamination studies on the bayou. It was noted that UWF may be able to help with future monitoring efforts in the BMAP. Dr. Snyder's work documented concentrations of fecal bacteria decreased in the bayou near mouth, and indicated freshwater inputs and residential areas may be the sources to the system.

General Discussion

Barbara Albrecht of the Nature Conservancy suggests: Planners need to be involved with BMAP needs and direction to prevent retrofitting.

Al Garza of the City of Pensacola voiced concern: Addressing the fecal bacteria problem by putting in storm water ponds will not fully address the fecal bacteria input to the bayou. We must address all sources including septic tanks. Al also feels that storm water runoff is not contributing much to fecal contamination, but the City's street sweeping will help some to reduce sediment loads, and feels sampling has not detected the definite sources. Restoration efforts will have to be huge and we may or may not have the tools to reach the reduction goals.

Response: The BMAP will pull suggestions from the stakeholders and identify the knowns and unknowns to formulate a plan of action. Further investigation is a key piece of the BMAP.

Tim Haag of ECUA asked: Is there state funding available for implementation?

Response: There is a fund set up for this, but the doc stamps are not currently fully funding this allotment.

Chips Kirshenfeld of Escambia County suggested: Let's monitor the disease causing pathogens themselves rather than the fecals so we will know if it's safe to swim in the water. His hunch is that we have a resident bacteria living in the sediment of the bayou. He believes that elimination of 100 percent of the input sources we will still have fecal exceedances, unless if something is done with the sediments.

Barbara Albrecht of the Nature Conservancy suggests: A healthy system will have the capacity to correct the fecal problem, addressing all pollutants including the heavy metals would be better to address to fix the whole problem. Addressing only the fecals is only a band-aid.

John Naybor pointed out: Sometimes local entities have to dump grant moneys quickly, so it would be good to have projects ready and planned to possibly take advantage of these moneys as well as remove some of the financial burden from the agency which may be behind the project, i.e. sewer pipe retrofitting may be funded by a grant from an agency other than ECUA.

Barbara Albrecht of the Nature Conservancy noted that on the cover of a distributed brochure [Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries] is picture of a non-native species and stated that the Fertilizer BMP should be recommending native landscaping.

Basin Management Action Plan Overview – Bonita Gorham (* part of DEP PowerPoint presentation posted)

BMAP Principles

BMAP Components

BMAP Structure

Example Management Actions

What Stakeholder involvement means – Kathleen Harrigan, SAIC (* part of DEP PowerPoint presentation posted)

BMAP Process and Estimated Timeline

Goals for Stakeholder Involvement

Potential Stakeholders

Examples of Past and Current Involvement

Estimated Timeline

Next Steps (estimated timeline)

- Identifying Interested Parties (forming a Basin Working Group - ongoing)
- Understanding the Basin (additional data compilation and assessment – 9/08 – 6/09)
- Identifying Responsibilities (3/09 – 9/09)
- Developing Management Actions (3/09 – 9/09)
- Securing Stakeholder Commitments (9/09 – 12/09)
- Revisiting the BMAP (9/10 – and beyond)

Who is missing from our Stakeholder list?

Industry

Federal Agencies

Army Corps of Engineers/Dredging and Wetland Permitting

Academia

Bay Area Resource Council: Mary Gutierrez

Meeting Facilities Suggested:

Sanders Beach facility Grotto is a community center owned by the Shriners

Island Cove Marina meeting facility: See John Naybor.

The group seems to prefer morning meetings.

References:

Richard A. Snyder, PhD, 2006. Analysis of Fecal Loadings Into Bayous Grande, Chico, and Texar, Pensacola Bay System, Florida, Center for Environmental Diagnostics and Bioremediation, University of West Florida. <http://uwf.edu/rsnyder/reports/bayouchico.doc>

Ron Bartel and Wood, K.A. 1994. Bayou Chico Sediment and Water Quality Data Report, Escambia County, Florida. Technical Report 94-3, Northwest Florida Water Management District.

Amn/KH/BG