

**FEAB MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 11, 2016**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Delchamps Room Fairhope, AL**

**Members:** Gary Gover, Jeanine Normand, Ron Allen, Rick Frederick, Terry Hargroder, Tony Pritchett

**City Liaison:** Kim Burmeister (City of Fairhope Planning Department)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Minutes of last meeting were unanimously approved (February 2016)
2. Marina at Sea Cliff Drive: Tony met with James Gillespie, City General Superintendent, who is the City representative for the Harbor Board. Discussions were on marina activity at Sea Cliff Drive. James told Tony that there is bulkhead work in progress at the marina.

Tony was under the understanding from the last meeting (visitor) that this bulkhead work was approved in the budget in 2015 and is ongoing).

City owns this property and leases half of it to Eastern Shore Marine. Tony is concerned about these things:

- a. Boat maintenance activities might cause water quality problems. Should there be a designated area for rinse on site? Rinse area that goes to treatment.
- b. Dredging of marina – are spoils removed or left on site?
- c. Upkeep and maintenance of the marine pump out – who is the contact for the pump out? Who ensures it is operating correctly? Kim said Public Works has historically been the contact for the pump out unit, which operates on tokens. She will check with Jennifer to see if Public Works is still in charge of the pump out. The City has previously acquired pump out units through the Clean Marina program (AL) and is therefore obligated to keep it operating.

Gary did some research on marina practices. There is a Clean Marina Program in Florida and Alabama. He has information on the Florida program, including BMPs for operating a “clean marina”. The City of Fairhope does not appear to include these documents with their marina leases or practices. Gary noticed that other marinas are managed more carefully than ours. City has two marinas: Sea Cliff Drive and the one on the big pier. Gary said these documents for clean marina practices are easily available and could be included in the City’s operation plan for the City marinas. <https://marinaassociation.org/>

Mike said that ADEM has a clean vessel program as well, which is geared towards pump out stations (to pump out sewage and gray water from boats with holding tanks). The marine police are usually the ones involved in enforcement of

littering or illegal dumping from vessels. Littering can also include disposal of fish waste in area waters.

Ron suggested each member get a copy of the BMP sheet for clean marina practices from Tony, and study it to see if FEAB feels it might be helpful for City use.

Kim suggested that if FEAB feels these or additional practices need to be incorporated into marina practices, then this should be mentioned to the Harbor Board (a public meeting, usually monthly, listed on the City calendar of events) and James Gillespie.

Gary mentioned zoning: the marina's industrial use might also be a zoning issue. Is this area at end of Sea Cliff zoned for industrial use? Are marina activities considered industrial? There are two uses here at Sea Cliff: boat storage and boat maintenance. The second marina (pier) has boat storage only. This is a question for Jonathan Smith, Planning and Zoning Director.

Tony asked who would issue enforcement for marina violations. Mike said ADEM. Kim said that the Planning Dept. is involved with compliance with the City storm water permit (MS4) but the Harbor Board is ultimately the managing board for the marinas. If there is a need for rinse out area, for instance: that would have to be approved by the Harbor Board if it were to be written as a requirement to renewing existing lease. That is also question for James. Kim said she is not sure if rinse out areas are required at Marinas (for general washing of boats and maintenance), but City vehicles must be washed in designated rinse areas (which go to treatment).

Kim suggested they invite James to an upcoming FEAB meeting and also consider having one FEAB member attend an upcoming Harbor Board meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Beach Renourishment Project – Public Meeting: Mike said there is a public meeting to discuss the upcoming beach renourishment project (Magnolia Beach, at Pier Street Boat Ramp). Meeting will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4 p.m. at the Fairhope Public Library. Mike encouraged everyone to attend, if interested.
2. Weeks Bay Watershed Management Meeting: there was a community input meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and there was a big turnout. Lots of good information was received from different aspects of the community: elected leaders, developers, government workers, environmental groups, etc. Changes in land use was main topic of discussion, and these were defined as the main issues: water quality, flooding and habitat loss. Feedback will be used to guide the Steering Committee (led by Thompson Engineering) which will formulate an action plan.

Mike noted that the impairments in Fish River / Weeks Bay currently are: pathogens and mercury. Mercury is from atmospheric deposition, no point source. But coal burning is a likely factor. Mercury is a natural by-product of most all burning activity.

Rick discussed the recent activity with a similar watershed plan in Mobile County: Fowl River. The action plan is completed and is currently in draft form. Marshes are dying around Fowl River so the action plan drafted is to study the marshes to determine and address the cause. NEP will recommend that BMP funding be used for projects similar to this.

Gary asked if the County is active with the environmental efforts of Weeks Bay watershed projects. Mike said the County does have representation on the Steering Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.