

FEAB Presentation Notes
April 8, 2016
3:00 pm
Delchamps Room, Fairhope, AL

Attendees: Mike Shelton, Gary Gover, Ron Allen, Tony Pritchett, and Shawn Graham, Terry Hardgroder

Honored Guests: James Watkins, Erik Mann

City Representatives: Nancy Milford

City Council Members: None

Mike Shelton called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Ron Allen moved to accept the minutes for the March 11, 2016 meeting and Tony Prichett seconded the motion. The minutes stand as approved.

BMP's related to Marina's:

Mike found some best management practices (BMP) information related to Marine Industries. Ron Allen found some addition information as well. Mike referenced the Clean Marinas Program as a resource for setting some general BMP techniques for the Marina. Mike said that he invited James Gillespie to the FEAB meeting as he handles the marina for the City. The next Harbor Board meeting is April 13th, 2016 at 4:30pm. Mike won't be able to attend, but mentioned it would be good to have some FEAB member representation at the Harbor Board meeting.

He suggested the FEAB members make a list of questions to ask the Harbor Board such as:

- 1) What type of boat maintenance activities related to BMP's are done at the marina?
- 2) Does the marina have a BMP plan on site?
- 3) Who is responsible for BMPs at the marina?
- 4) Who is enforcing those BMP's (this may be something James Gillespie can address.)

Terry mentioned these are the same questions that should be asked for the main Fairhope Pier. Mike Shelton would like to know how the LID ordinance would tie to the marina/industrial activities.

Tony Pritchett said that the City has done some work to clean up the parking area of the marina due to some recent complaints. Per Mike, FEAB expressed need for cleaning up at the harbors. FEAB will consider compiling a list of BMPs for consideration by COF and deliver through Rich Mueller when the list is completed.

Fly Creek Apartment Complex:

FEAB discussed the proposed apartment development on Parker Road. Members voiced concerns about the changing of zoning at site, traffic, runoff, excavation and negative effects on Fly Creek. Members expressed concern about similar negative effects caused during the construction of Publix shopping area. Gary Gover pointed out that apartment plan included buffers and other BMPs to reduce effects on Fly Creek.

Tony said that he is concerned about the damage done from the Publix. He said that there has already been some major damage from that project. He wants to know what type of more proactive environmental protection steps the City will take on the proposed apartment project. Tony said that the City is only asking for 1 million dollar bond but Tony does not believe this is enough for covering potential environmental damage. The PUD from a conceptual level is something the City can request additional information Mike said that he has also heard that from a storm water development the site is better.

Tony said that a million dollar bond is not much and one has to question that this is a token gesture for such a big project. This amount will be insignificant to the developers. Per Mike, they will have to have plans to handle the long term run off. Mike said the vote will take place on April 11, 2016. Gary said that before there were setbacks along the creek, but now there are buffers instead of setbacks. Gary said the important thing is how the land will be graded and at this stage the project is not down in the details. Tony also expressed concern for the access for the development. Traffic is a big deal and a concern. Ron Allen added that traffic is definitely a concern. Tony wants to know what the City plans to do with regards to the traffic as there was some previous discussion with regards to connection to Rock Creek.

Mike encouraged FEAB members to attend Monday night's meeting (April 11th, 2016) to attend, if they are so inclined. Mike does have concerns about the bond being adequate. One member said that putting a road through Rock Creek wetlands would negate any buffer benefit. Mike said that if you look to the north (the apartments in Daphne) you can see that if grass slopes are not terraced properly, it will be a challenge. The Daphne apartments have been having particular trouble with their grading.

Nancy Milford had to leave the meeting early due to scheduling issues. Mike took over the meeting minutes at this point.

Beach Management Meeting:

Terry Hargroder updated the FEAB about the Beach Management meeting held on March 24. At the meeting, the audience was given an overview of the beach management plan funded by the COF and ADCNR. Southcoast Engineers developed the plan that includes BMPs to protect beaches from erosion. In addition, the plan helps with FEMA reimbursement for future damage if necessary. FEAB requested that Public Works Department Superintendent, Jennifer Fidler, be asked about the timeline for completion and implementation of plan.

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Upcoming Events:

FEAB members brought up a series of upcoming events that might interest member and others:

Alabama Coastal Foundation announced the “Where did the oil go?” seminar, April 14; People Against a Littered State (PALS) statewide cleanup, April 16-23.

Water Testing on Fly Creek:

FEAB discussed the need for water testing on Fly Creek. The Board suggested inquiring of the Fly Creek Preservation Association to form a testing group. Mike said he would contact the Association and offer an Alabama Water Watch training if the group wanted to participate.

Weeks Bay Watershed Planning Effort Update: Shawn Graham asked for an update on the Weeks Bay Watershed Planning effort. Mike updated the group of progress and of a summary of the extended stakeholder meeting held on March 3 in Robertsedale. FEAB discussed ways to participate in the process.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm

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