

FEAB Minutes
May 13, 2016
3:00 pm
Delchamps Room, Fairhope, AL

Attendees: Gary Gover, Ron Allen, Tony Pritchett, Jeanine Normand, Rick Frederick, Terry Hargroder and Shawn Graham

Honored Guests: None

City Representatives: Kim Burmeister, City of Fairhope Planning Department

City Council Members: None

Gary Gover called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

April 2016 minutes were approved as written (with a minor edit: Terry Hargroder was mentioned twice).

BMP's related to Marina's:

Tony visited with Jonathan Smith (Planning and Zoning Director) regarding BMP requirements for the City marina at Sea Cliff Drive on Fly Creek. The main concerns are the lack of BMPs in regards to boat maintenance, washing, sand blasting, etc. Jonathan told Tony he wasn't aware of anything written specifically for marina use BMPs, but he would look into it.

Tony said James Gillespie (City representative for the Harbor Board) has been invited to a FEAB meeting. Kim said someone on the committee should call James the day before the next meeting and offer a verbal invitation.

Gary said there does not appear to be anything written in the lease contract (which is reportedly coming up for renewal soon) with marina business regarding rules of use and BMPs. He said there appears to be a void of BMP regulations for marinas in Fairhope. FEAB would like a Clean Marina program concept to be part of any upcoming lease.

Gary noted that the boat slips at Sea Cliff Drive are owned by the City as well, but are not operated by the marina. These slips also have a written agreement. BMPs (if written into lease / slip rental agreements) could apply to slip rentals as well.

Gary asked Kim what her role as Code Enforcement was in regards to marina operations. Kim said that if there is a violation (water quality or otherwise) then she would get involved and has been involved in the past with marina issues. But the daily use of the marina for maintenance on boats is an operations issue that needs to be addressed with the Harbor Board and James Gillespie, first and foremost. The main issue appears to be the washing or sand blasting of boats into the gravel parking area, without a designated wash area (which would capture the rinse water for treatment instead of releasing rinse water into the gravel area).

Gary asked how the marina fits into our MS4 program. Kim said the MS4 program requires City fleet vehicles to be washed only in designated wash racks, but she is not sure if this would apply to privately owned boats at the marina. Kim suggested we all look at other area marinas for examples of how to operate our City marina better. Are there options for appropriate wash racks for large boats, etc.? How are other marinas addressing wash and maintenance issues?

Ron suggested Lu Lu's at Orange Beach as a good example. Maybe they would have an example of boat marina BMPs.

Rick handed out information on the MS/AL Sea Grant Consortium Clean Marina program (attachment). If City were to obtain the "Clean Marina" designation, then this would be a start for guidelines that could be included in the marina lease / slip rentals. Clean Marinas are given a flag to post at the marina and this would be good publicity for the City. Rick said he will contact Christian Miller with Auburn Extension (he handles the Clean Marina program) to see how the FEAB can get started in promoting this designation with the City Harbor Board. Rick will also invite him to the next meeting.

Gary will contact the Harbor Board president prior to June FEAB meeting to invite him to attend. These questions will be asked and the FEAB may also present information on the Clean Marina program as well:

- 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

Actions to be taken by next meeting:

1. Invite Harbor Board representative to next meeting
2. FEAB (Rick) to contact Christian Miller with Sea Grant / Clean Marina Program, possibly invite him to next meeting, or at least get more information on the Clean Marina Program
3. Pursue Clean Marina designation for City marinas (Sea Cliff Drive and the big pier)

Fly Creek "Retreat at Fairhope Village" Apartment Complex:

Gary said this project has been approved by Council and the next step will be permitting of the project. He wondered if the City required any type of assessment of Fly Creek (Rick did not think they did), or would require or perform any baseline turbidity testing. Kim said the developer / contractor has not applied for the land disturbance or site work permit as of yet. The state (ADEM) requires turbidity testing (monthly) on some projects, but she is not sure if this will be a requirement of the ADEM permit for the Retreat. Kim referred Gary to Jonathan or Emily in the Planning Dept. for more information on what was approved and/or required. The file on this project is public record and anyone is welcome to come view, with appointment, the information that the City has on file. To get a copy or copies of files, there is a requirement to submit a "Request for Public Information" form which goes to Lisa Hanks, City Clerk. There are

associated fee for copies. The Fly Creek Watershed Restoration Project from 2013 is on line (City of Fairhope website), and may have some baseline information on the watershed as well.

Water Sampling / Fly Creek:

Gary is still looking for volunteers or volunteer groups to provide water sampling on Fly Creek, through the Alabama Water Watch. Mike Shelton previously said that Weeks Bay could provide the training. Gary recently contacted the Fly Creek Preservation Association but they did not have an interest, or feel it would be effective, at this time.

Kim said that AL-DOT placed a sondes (electronic water testing device) on Fly Creek for a few months, but AL-DOT has since removed it because of a need at another location. Rick said the NEP has had problems with theft of sondes units recently, and they are very costly devices (about \$8,000).

Gary said that the Fly Creek watershed is complicated (has tidal influences, etc), and is not well understood.

Beach Management Meeting:

Gary said the City is still holding meetings on beach restoration / management projects, and will let the group know if another meeting is announced.

Local Events:

No one with FEAB attended the Alabama Coastal Foundation “Where did the oil go?” seminar, April 14; or People Against a Littered State (PALS) statewide cleanup, April 16-23.

Weeks Bay Watershed Planning Effort Update: Gary said he will be conducting a visual mapping of cattle / donkey / mule farms in Baldwin County, but needs some more information regarding data collection. Kim noted that Jennifer Fidler was the City of Fairhope representative with this group, and he should call her for a specific contact on his data needs. Shawn gave him a contact as well.

Cemetery Preservation:

Shawn is working on preservation efforts of a privately owned cemetery (“Tatumville Cemetery”), which is on the bay side of Scenic Hwy. 98 in the general area of Wintzell’s. The property is still owned by the Sawyer family and dates back to the 1700’s. There are reportedly Civil War soldiers buried here, as well as a teacher from the original Organic School. Shawn said he has relatives buried there as well. Many markers are still in place. The cemetery should be of interest to several special interests groups.

Other Issues:

Tony reported that North Beach Park, specifically the duck pond, needs to be cleaned up. It has a lot of trash and debris in and around the pond. Kim will relay this information to Jennifer Fidler / Public Works.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

5/13/2016

masgc.org/programs/clean-marina-program



Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium



Summary

The Clean Marina Initiative is a voluntary, incentive-based program promoted by NOAA and others that encourages marina operators and recreational boaters to protect coastal water quality by engaging in



environmentally sound operating and maintenance procedures. While Clean Marina Programs vary from state to state, all programs offer information, guidance, and technical assistance to marina operators, local governments, and recreational boaters on best management practices (BMPs) that can be used to prevent or reduce pollution. Marinas that participate in the Clean Marina Program are recognized for their environmental stewardship.

Participation in the Clean Marina Program is entirely voluntary, but participating marinas receive a weatherproof Clean Marina flag to fly at their facility and authorization to use the Clean Marina Program logo on company publications. Clean Marinas will also be recognized on this web site, through press releases, and at public events. In addition to working with marinas, the Clean Marina Program encourages the state's boaters to learn about and use clean boating techniques when operating and maintaining their boats. Questions about this program can be directed to: Christian Miller, Phone: 251-438-5690, e-mail: christian@auburn.edu.