

**FEAB MEETING MINUTES**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Fairhope Civic Center Delchamps Room, Fairhope, AL**

**Member Attendees:** Gary Gover, Jim Horner, Mike Shelton, Nigel Temple, Michelle Melton

**Members not in attendance:** Jeanine Normand (warranted absence); Amy Paulson (warranted absence); Ben Frater (warranted absence)

**City of Fairhope:** Kim Burmeister, Christina LeJeune -Planning and Zoning Department;

**City Council:** Corey Martin (3:55 p.m.)

**Honored Guests:** Jennifer Foutch; Daniel Galbraith, South Alabama Land Trust

**Minutes taken by** Kim Burmeister

Gary called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**FEAB MINUTES:**

January minutes were amended per Amy's comments sent via email. Minutes and amendments approved.

**DISCUSSION OF ITEMS:**

**Introductions:**

Daniel was introduced. He works for South Alabama Land Trust, previously Weeks Bay Foundation.

**FEAB Attendance / membership:**

1. Gary: Per Lisa Hanks there is a requirement to have FEAB members reappointed every four years. These members are overdue for renewal/reappointment: Gary Gover, Mike Shelton, Tony Pritchett and Jeanine Normand. Tony has resigned via email and failure to appear for 3 meetings, unexcused. Gary opened a motion to renew Gover, Shelton and Normand. Michelle seconded the motion. Unanimously approved
2. Since Tony Pritchett has resigned, this leaves FEAB membership at eight, with one vacancy.
3. Gary made a motion to accept Jennifer Foutch's FEAB membership appointment. Michelle seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**4. MOTIONS APPROVED:**

- a. Renew 4-year appointment for Gover, Shelton and Normand
- b. Accept Jennifer Foutch as new member to FEAB

**2021 EAB Priorities and Membership Bios:**

Gary discussed Amy's draft document below. He said the Mayor has been making rounds at different committee meetings and is expected to attend FEAB soon. He feels FEAB needs to streamline a presentation to the Mayor on FEABs missions, priorities and an introduction to board members. Amy has prepared a draft for FEAB to review.

Jim had these comments:

1. The document is a little overwhelming and suggested it be trimmed down and divided into a format with small tasks.
2. FEAB should ask the council for a suggested priority list. (Mike agreed)
3. Staff positions should be added under "Maintain Connection" pg. 4.

Gary thinks FEAB would have better luck initially addressing management-level staff in the future versus first addressing Council. Currently FEAB first addresses Council liaison. FEAB needs more engagement with department heads. He envisions this working like how the City Planning Commission interacts with the Planning Department before going to Council.

Nigel asked where the priorities list items referenced in Amy draft were from? Gary said Amy pulled most of the information from past FEAB minutes.

FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD  
POC AMY PAULSON  
FEBRUARY 7, 2021

---

**DRAFT- WORKING COPY**

**MEMORANDUM**

**FROM THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD  
2021 ORGANIZATION AND PRIORITIES**

---

An organization's mission describes the overall purpose of the organization. Conversely, the vision statement pertains to where the company or organization hopes they will be going in the future if they can fulfill their mission

- Mission statements define the organization's purpose and primary objectives. These statements are set in the present tense, and they explain why you exist as a business, both to members of the organization and to people outside it. Mission statements tend to be short, clear and powerful.
- Vision statements also define your organization's purpose, but they focus on its goals and aspirations. These statements are designed to be uplifting and inspiring. They're also timeless: even if the organization changes its strategy, the vision will often stay the same.

**Mission:** (CURRENT) to provide policy advice to the City Council, Mayor, and City departments regarding environmental matters that concern the City of Fairhope.

**Vision:** to serve as a trusted, scientific resource providing a local environmental perspective to policy decisions to ensure environmental matters are given full consideration in the City's decision making processes. We strive to positively affect the quality of life for all residents, their connection to our local ecosystems, and the resilience and sustainment of Fairhope as a small town, but world-class, city.

**Role:** the FEAB is dedicated to increasing awareness of environmental issues, offering recommendations to City administrators, and providing state-of-the science consultation in the implementation of sustainable solutions.

The Environmental Advisory Board may review and make recommendations to the City Council and Mayor on environmental policy issues as follows:

- (1) Proposed ordinances and codes of an environmental nature.
- (2) Proposed changes to existing environmental ordinances and codes.
- (3) Other environmental matters affecting the City as referred to the Board by the City Council, Mayor, or City Office (and residents?).
- (4) Other environmental matters affecting the City that are initiated by the Board.

**Regular Meeting Timing/Location:** 3-4pm on the second Friday of each month / DelChamps Room, City Building, Section Street

**City Liaisons:** City of Fairhope, Councilmember, Corey Martin  
City of Fairhope, Community Development, Jessica Walker  
City of Fairhope, Planning and Zoning Department, Kim Burmeister  
City of Fairhope, Planning and Zoning Department, Christina LeJeune

**Member Information (FEAB Member bios requested):**

- **Gary Gover, Board President, MS Business Administration, MS Public Administration, BS Biological Science.**  
Electronics technician instructor and supervisory computer systems analyst. Leads Mobile Bay Earth Day and participates in the City Bike and Pedestrian Committee, [and others?]. Lived in Fairhope 24 years and *FEAB since 2006*.
- **Ben Frater, MS, Fish and Wildlife Biology**  
He moved here from Panama City, Florida 10 years ago to raise a family and work on Deepwater Horizon related restoration projects through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Gulf Restoration Office. He currently serves as the Chief of Planning and Compliance for the Department of the Interior on activities throughout the Gulf related to the RESTORE Act, NRDA, and Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. Earlier in his Fish and Wildlife Service career, Ben worked with city and county planners to permit mitigation banks and habitat conservation preserves for endangered species in California and Florida. Ben has also worked many years in fisheries management and as a Forest Planner for the U.S Forest Service. His love for his community and interest in outdoor recreation, compromise, urban conservation, and green space drew him to volunteer for FEAB. He lives with his wife and three daughters within walking distance to many gullies and the Fly Creek/Dyas property, and is eager to see them properly celebrated as a lure to citizens and visitors to Fairhope. *FEAB since 2017*
- **Mike Shelton, MS Biology / BS Biology**  
is the Training /Watershed Program Coordinator at Weeks Bay Reserve in Lands Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and a component of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Estuarine Research Reserve System. He has worked in environmental science, research, and compliance for over 30 years. Since coming in Weeks Bay Reserve in 2001, Mike has collaborated with agencies, decision-makers, and area residents to achieve better use of the natural resources of coastal Alabama. Duties include professional training, water quality monitoring and research, and assisting watershed stakeholders with on-the-ground pollution prevention and restoration projects.  
Mike has been a resident of Fairhope for over 26 years and has served the City as a member and chairman of the Environmental Advisory Board. Wendy, spouse, and Mike raised their two sons, James and Charles, in Fairhope. Mike earned a master's degree in Biology at Emory University and undergraduate degree at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. Prior to Weeks Bay Reserve, Mike managed the applications and environmental testing laboratory for an engineering firm in Charlotte, North Carolina. He worked with both the regulators and the regulated communities on stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater treatment issues.
- **Amy Paulson, MS Conservation and Sustainable Development / BS Ecology**  
25+ years in environmental planning, including project analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act; sustainability, resiliency, and watershed plans; pollution prevention and environmental compliance; military installation master planning; renewable energy systems; and conflict negotiation and facilitation. Worked special environmental projects for EPA; the Mayor of Denver, CO; and various federal, state, local, and international agencies. *FEAB since 2019*.
- **Michelle Melton**

- **Nigel Temple**
- **Jim Horner**
- **Jeanine Norman**

**2021 Priorities:**

The FEAB will focus on a handful of priorities in 2021, organizing our energy (monthly agenda, action items, individual labor, Board discussions, and government interactions) around making real progress on these select initiatives. Additional priorities may be added to this list as they arise in 2021. Note that POCs are designated to lead an effort but may be assisted by other FEAB members or assemble a community subcommittee as desired.

<b>PRIORITY ISSUE</b>	<b>DESIRED OUTCOMES</b>	<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>FEAB LEAD</b>
Dyas Triangle	(1) City of Fairhope makes definitive decision and initiates action on Dyas Triangle restoration and public use. (2) Dyas Triangle is restored to appropriate ecological endpoint and developed as greenspace for the City of Fairhope.		Michelle Melton; Tony Pritchett
Fairhope Wetlands Protection	(1) City of Fairhope is empowered and equipped to protect local wetland resources.	a. Assist Erik Cortinas, City of Fairhope Building Official, in planning charrette for City of Fairhope Wetlands Ordinance review.	<b>TBD</b>
Community Resiliency Index	(1) The City of Fairhope rescors the 2017 Community Resilience Index (CRI) in light of 2020 hurricane season. (2) The City sets triggers (e.g., Cat 2 hurricane makes landfall within 50 miles) or schedule for next update.	a. Designate City liaison for effort b. Review/prepare materials c. Schedule review d. Perform review e. Document and communicate findings	Mike Shelton
Meaningful Participation in City Planning Efforts	(1) The FEAB provides Meaningful participation in ongoing City planning efforts, including designating FEAB liaison to participate in/report on the following Plans. (2) The FEAB provides objective input to City governing members on these initiatives.		
(1) <i>Fly Creek Watershed Management Plan (WMP)</i>	(1) FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ONGOING implementation of Fly Creek WMP. (2) Fly Creek WMP implementation recommendations are continuously	a. Attend all stakeholder group meetings. b. Review and provide comments on all draft documents (solicit discussion and recommendations from FEAB and compile for WMP Study Team).	Kim Burmeister



PRIORITY ISSUE	DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD
	pursued and implemented by City of Fairhope.		
(2) <i>Land Use Plan (LUP)</i>	(1) FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ONGOING implementation of City of Fairhope LUP. (2) City of Fairhope policy, zoning, and permitting decisions are continuously informed by LUP.	a. Attend all stakeholder group meetings. b. Review and provide comments on all draft documents (solicit discussion and recommendations from FEAB and compile for LUP Study Team).	TBD
(3) <i>State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)</i>	(1) City of Fairhope protects and develops adequate variety and volume of greenspace and recreation options that serve all residents, protect ecosystem functions, and invest in natural capital as commensurate with growth projections.	a. Partner with other Fairhope advisory boards, committees, and departments, including bike and pedestrian committee, transportation board, and recreation department. b. Identify local SCORP participants and encourage them to take SCORP engagement seriously, including response to surveys and requests for grant funding.	TBD
(4) <i>Climate Action Plan (CAP)</i>	(1) City of Fairhope prepares, implements, and promotes a CAP, including our risks FROM and our contribution TO climate change.	a. Integrate CRI b. Find funding / hire consultant (?)	TBD
(5) <i>Alabama Community of Excellence (COE) designation</i>	(1) City of Fairhope is designated as a COE (2) City of Fairhope takes advantage of the technical and granting assistance available through this program	a. Obtain City of Fairhope permission to pursue COE b. Perform assessment and develop "report card" c. Develop Strategic Plan and Leadership Development Plan d. Develop Comprehensive Plan e. Implement plans and promote benefits of accreditation.	Gary Gover
Maintain connection to / relationship with Fairhope governing bodies	(1) FEAB offers relevant, dependable, and consistent support to City governing bodies. (2) City governing bodies access FEAB for support, perspectives, or recommendations.	a. Attend appropriate meetings b. Report relevant items to FEAB for consideration and Resolution c. Communicate FEAB recommendations and initiatives	TBD
(1) <i>Mayor's Office</i>			TBD
(2) <i>City Council</i>			TBD
(3) <i>Specific Departments?</i>			TBD
<b>Other Priorities?</b>			

### **Wetlands**

Jim would like FEAB to follow up with Erik Cortinas on the proposed wetland charrette to see if that has been scheduled yet. Intent was to review City wetland ordinance. Kim will make sure Erik is copied on this minute draft.

### **Triangle Property**

Gary said there seems to be a strong proposal for bike trails to be at least one use for the Triangle property. He said the Bike/Ped committee approves this designation. Michelle said the Triangle Conservancy group also seems to be in support of this designation. Daniel thinks all groups he is aware of would support this designation, and it is likely the triangle property could carry more than one designation. Gary is concerned that there is not enough public input over the triangle property.

Michelle mentioned her concerns that the triangle property is not yet deeded as a park. Gary mentioned possible upkeep issues if this area is designated as a park. Kim mentioned some city park areas are not maintained at all, like the strip between North Mobile Street and the bay. This area is generally left natural.

Jim asked about the procedure for designating the triangle property as a park. Michelle said City would have to resolve to change the deed, a pretty straightforward process. Daniel said park designation is a big step, and it is not easily undone. Undoing the park designation on the deed would involve public input. Jim would like FEAB to draft a motion to present to Council stating FEABs recommendation to designate the triangle property as a park. Currently the deed does not restrict development on the property. Kim said Jessica Walker would be a good start to find out information on Triangle property status and initiatives and to confirm the plans for bike trails.

**ACTION ITEM: Michelle said she will draft language for next meeting for a motion for Council to consider designating triangle property as a park.**

### **CRI: Community Resilience Index**

Mike is waiting on a green light from the City to move forward with this effort. He said Fairhope did not hold up well resilience-wise during Hurricane Sally, but the city scored high on the CRI in 2017 CRI residential survey. He thinks the parameters or questions might need to be tweaked based on lessons learned from H-Sally.

### **Water Quality Sampling**

Christina gave a report on her water sampling efforts in Fly Creek. She and Sean Saye from Fairhope Docks began water sampling for bacteria (*E. coli*) in January of 2021. She has recently uploaded the results to Alabama Water Watch [Alabama Water Watch \(auburn.edu\)](http://alabama.waterwatch.org) and is following Mike Shelton's suggested protocol as per training from 2020. Currently the three sampling sites are:

1. Fairhope Docks
2. Woodlands Lift Station / pedestrian bridge

3. Retreat Apartments, wetlands (special permission from property owner was obtained to sample here).

Fairhope Docks showed high levels of *E. coli*. The other two sites were within normal range.

Kim asked Mike about protocol for high level findings. She said Sean Saye, Fairhope Docks manager, did not feel the high levels were due to live aboard boaters at Fairhope Docks. There are currently only 4 live aboard boaters at Fly Creek Fairhope Docks. How do we eliminate possible sources? Fairhope Docks has a marine pump-out in operation, per Sean Saye. City has a septic tank inventory of Fly Creek listed in the 2018 Mobile Bay Keepers Fly Creek Water Quality report. If it's not boaters at the Docks, then the high coliform count might be due to failing septic tanks.

[Microsoft Word - Full Report Fly Creek FINAL-2018-5-9.docx \(fairhopeal.gov\)](#)

Mike said FEAB previously held the Clean Marina program as a high priority for Fairhope Docks, but this has not been completely pursued. This program would likely help address the high coliform problem, including identifying sources. Should the Clean Marina program be added to the FEAB priority list?

*Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.*

Next meeting is Friday, March 12th @ 3 p.m. Fairhope Delchamps Room (\*subject to change\*)

**FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Chairman:

Gary Gover                                    [govers@bellsouth.net](mailto:govers@bellsouth.net)                                    (251) 990-8662

Members:

Jeanine Normand                            [drjnormand@aol.com](mailto:drjnormand@aol.com)                                    (251) 928-2284

Ben Frater                                    [ben.frater@gmail.com](mailto:ben.frater@gmail.com)                                    (404) 314-8815

Mike Shelton                                    [yaupon3@gmail.com](mailto:yaupon3@gmail.com)                                    (251) 270-9042

Jim Horner                                    none                                    (251) 928-9722

Amy Paulson                                    [amy.paulson@yahoo.com](mailto:amy.paulson@yahoo.com)                                    (251) 654-7401

Nigel Temple                                    [757nigel@gmail.com](mailto:757nigel@gmail.com)                                    (757) 803-3589

Michelle Melton                                    [michelleleemeltonlee@gmail.com](mailto:michelleleemeltonlee@gmail.com)                                    (423) 504-8253

**CITY CONTACTS:**

Corey Martin, City Council                                    [corey.martin@fairhopeal.gov](mailto:corey.martin@fairhopeal.gov)

Kim Burmeister, Planning and Zoning Department                                    [kim.burmeister@fairhopeal.gov](mailto:kim.burmeister@fairhopeal.gov)

Christina LeJeune, Planning and Zoning Department                                    [christina.lejeune@fairhopeal.gov](mailto:christina.lejeune@fairhopeal.gov)