

FEAB March 10, 2023

FEAB MEETING MINUTES

Annual meeting with Mayor and staff

Friday, March 10, 2023

3:00 p.m. in the Fairhope Public Library, Board Room

Member Attendees: Gary Gover, Amy Paulson, Nigel Temple, Jennifer Foutch, Nicole Love, Steven Scyphers, Anna Miller, Jim Horner, Ben Frater

Members not in attendance:

None

City of Fairhope: Mayor Sullivan; Erik Cortinas, Building Department; Michelle Melton, Kim Burmeister and Hunter Simmons -Planning and Zoning Department

City Council: None

Honored Guests: Carol Tebay & Carl Couret (Active participants); Ashley Campbell, Baldwin County; Michelle Frost, resident; Vanessa Elias, resident; Cori Yonge, resident; Jim Watkins, *Fairhope Times*

Minutes taken by: Kim Burmeister

Amy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Summary of meeting:

1. Draft minutes were revised from February:

- a. Deleted summary item #6
- b. Reworded Google share file folder from "tracking" source to "sharing" source
- c. Corrected Anna's name throughout (removed "Keen"); corrected Stephen to "Steven"
- d. Revised summary item #5 stating that FEAB "approved evaluation" of stretch codes for "evaluation" purposes

2. Amy showed a slide show on FEABs accomplishments and missions

3. Amy presented copies of the 2023 Working Paper (bios, organization and priorities)

- a. FEAB members spoke on their individual areas of authority

4. Mayor and Planning / Building staff provided insight on FEAB priorities

FEAB Minutes:

February minutes were amended, mostly reword changes and name updates, spelling.

Amy provided the Working Paper, "2023 Organization and Priorities":

FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
POC AMY PAULSON
MARCH, 2023

WORKING PAPER
THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
2023 ORGANIZATION AND PRIORITIES

Mission: 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, yet 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, Mayor, and City Departments 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, City Department, and public citizen stakeholders.
- (4) Relevant partnerships with other City Boards, Committees, Commissions, or other volunteer functions.
- (5) 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 / Public Works Conference Room

Special Meetings: The FEAB invites guests to bring presentations or new discussion topics to our attention. To give guests our full attention and also adhere to our regular agenda items, these guest presentations/discussions are typically scheduled 30-minutes prior to the regular meeting and are officially publicly announced by the City Clerk in advance.

City Points of Contact: City of Fairhope, FEAB-Assigned Councilmember, Corey Martin
City of Fairhope, Special Projects and Grant Manager / Admin Dept,
TBD
¹City of Fairhope, Planning and Zoning Department, Kim Burmeister
¹City of Fairhope, Planning and Zoning Department, Christina LeJeune

¹ Appointed by City to attend Board functions

Member Information:

- **Gary Gover, Co-Chairperson, Business Administration/Public Administration / BS Biological Science.**
Gary served in the U.S Marine Corps as an electronics instructor and worked for the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs as a manager in information technology. He is a member of the Fairhope Historic Preservation Committee, Recycling Committee, Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee, and Environmental Advisory Board. He is a member of the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He is a board member and officer of the Local Food Production Initiative, Inc. and Earth Day Mobile Bay, Inc. Has lived in retirement in Fairhope since 1997. *FEAB since 2006, (FEAB Chairperson “many” years).*
- **Amy Paulson, Co-Chairperson, MS Conservation and Sustainable Development / BS Ecology**
25+ years in environmental planning, including the evaluation of project environmental impacts for private corporation site development and for federal decisions under the National Environmental Policy Act; sustainability, resiliency, habitat and watershed management plans; pollution prevention and environmental compliance; military installation master planning; renewable energy systems; and conflict negotiation and facilitation. Worked special environmental projects for the Environmental Protection Agency; the Mayor of Denver, CO; and various federal, state, local, and international agencies. *FEAB since 2019.*
- **Kim Burmeister, City Liaison, Biology / USACE Wetlands Delineation Certified and Qualified Credentialed Inspector - MS4 Management Certified**
27+ years working for the City of Fairhope, initially with Public Works and currently with the Planning and Zoning Department as the Code Enforcement Officer (since 2006). *City FEAB liaison since 2006.*
- **Christina LeJeune, City Liaison, Master Environmental Educator, Certified Alabama Water Watch tester (pathogens), Qualified Credentialed Inspector**
8+ years working for the City of Fairhope, currently as a Planning and Zoning Enforcement officer (since 2018) and previously as Correction Officer for Fairhope Police Department.
- **Jim Horner, Engineer**
After serving in the U. S. Navy, Jim was employed as an engineer for Scott Paper Company in Mobile and then in St. Louis, MO, and Appleton, WI, again doing technical service work for the paper industry. He and his wife returned to Alabama through the rest of his working career and into retirement. Jim’s focus in the FEAB has been mainly on the regulation and control of stormwater run-off. *FEAB since 2003 (FEAB Director 9 years).*
- **Ben Frater, MS Fish and Wildlife Biology / BS Biology. Master Gardener**
25+ years in environmental mitigation and habitat management. Moved from Panama City, FL to work on Deepwater Horizon-related restoration projects through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Gulf Restoration Office. Currently serves as the Chief of 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 CA and FL. 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, community service, and green space drew him to volunteer for FEAB. *FEAB since*

2017.

- **Jennifer Foutch, JD / BA in Administration of Justice and Political Science**
24+ years, including practicing law criminal law in Perry County, Illinois for over 18 years. She held positions as the Assistant State's Attorney and then as the Public Defender for Perry County, IL. In 2016, she relocated to Fairhope with her husband and two daughters. She is currently licensed as a member of the Alabama Bar, and she is a member of the Baldwin County Bar Association. She is employed as the Association Executive Officer for the Baldwin Realtors Association. *FEAB since 2021.*
- **Nigel Temple, Ph.D. Coastal Restoration Ecology**
10+ years developing, implementing, and managing research projects related to freshwater and coastal ecology, conservation, restoration, environmental engineering, sensor development, science communication, nutrient management, and other drivers of events, relevant to restoration and conservation project outcomes, and development and implementation of robust project monitoring programs. Current work is focused on the development, permitting, and installation of small- to large-scale living shorelines projects and monitoring of success criteria while also developing novel research on coastal resilience issues. *FEAB since 2021.*
- **Nicole Love, MS Biology / BS Biology**
20+ years in the environmental field working in state government, non-profit, and the private sector. Nicole brings an extensive environmental background as well as community outreach and engagement experience to the Board that will assist our communication of scientific data and research out to the general public and increase support for important City projects. *FEAB from X – X and since 2022.*
- **Anna Keene Miller, BS Environmental Studies**
10+ years in the environmental field as a building consultant specializing in energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Anna's company, Keen Living, provides technical support, HVAC design, and field verification for high performance building projects. She is a RESNET HERS Rater, Fortified Evaluator, and a National Green Building Standard Verifier. Keen Living was a key partner on the first two homes in the country to achieve both the Zero Energy Ready Home and Fortified Hurricane Gold certifications, including a Department of Energy Housing Innovation Award winner that uses over 70% less energy than a code-built home. Anna serves on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Gulf Housing Committee, Green Coast Council Sustainability Summit Planning Committee, and the South Alabama Land Trust Native Habitat Steering Committee. *CoF Recycling Committee, 2013 – 2015; FEAB from 2008 – 2010 and 2023.*
- **Dr. Steven B. Scyphers, Ph.D. Marine Sciences, Postdoc, Social-Ecological Systems**
15+ years in the environmental field. Currently Associate Professor in the School of Marine and Environmental Sciences and Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work; Director of the Center for Socio-Environmental Resiliency at the University of South Alabama; and Senior Marine Scientist at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Steven's research integrates ecology and sociology to understand and overcome major challenges facing coastal communities. His work focuses on sustainable coastal fisheries, shoreline development, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation. He lives in Fairhope with his wife Mallory and daughters Hadley and Maren. *FEAB from 2023.*

Active Participants

- **Carole Tebay**, *Alabama Master Gardener / Certified Florida Master Naturalist / Baldwin County Extension Master Environmental Educator*
50+ years of native plant gardening, including membership in the Santa Rosa County, FL Master Gardeners Speakers' Bureau, Longleaf Chapter of the Native Plant Society, Francis M Weston Chapter of the Audubon Society (Board Member), and Santa Rosa County RESTORE Council. As a Friends of Pensacola State Parks volunteer, Carole led weekly bird walks through Big Lagoon State Park. Led many citizen science projects on plastics, invasives, oysters, terrapins, and seagrasses. Active with the South Alabama Land Trust Natural Habitat Steering Committee, including developing a native habitat certification checklist, offering tours of homes using native plants, a book club discussion group on Douglas Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home*, and Zoom sessions with Dr Tallamy. As a Baldwin County Extension Master Environmental Educator Program, Carole teaches Backyard Wildlife Habitat lessons to elementary school classes. *FEAB participant since 2023.*
- **Carl Couret**, *BS Biology and Zoology*
34+ years in the environmental field. Retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service as specialist in freshwater ecosystems of the Gulf Coast, Pacific Islands, and desert Southwest. After serving in the US Air Force in Japan and Hawaii as a photo interpreter, graduated from the University of Hawaii with a published paper on an endemic Hawaiian shrimp. Served as the lead biologist for relicensing of Alabama Power Co. hydropower plants and project leader for protection of the endangered Alabama beach mouse. Selected as a federal representative for the Department of Interior in Compact negotiations during the early years of the Alabama-Georgia-Florida water wars, and managed the Everglades Restoration Project biological team. Resident of Fairhope since 1991, occasional instructor for ESILL and speaker at the Fairhope library, leader of the Eastern Shore Ukulele Club, and president and past board Chair of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. Daughter and her family live in Daphne. *FEAB participant since 2023.*

2023 Priorities: These select initiatives are chosen to organize our energy, monthly agenda, action items, individual labor, Board discussions, and local government interactions. Additional priorities may be added to this list as they arise. Note that POCs are designated to lead an effort but may be assisted by other FEAB members or assemble a community subcommittee as desired.



PRIORITY ISSUE	TARGETED OUTCOMES	POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD/POC
Environmental Outreach: COF Website	(1) Environmental information is available to all COF stakeholders (2) FEAB has a repository of publicly available information to reference in various outreach communications.	a. Work with COF IT Dept to strategize best options for establishing an Environmental page b. Organize page to include: native planting, living shorelines, greenspace/parks habitat management, wetlands protection, etc. c. Review materials currently available on COF website and include as appropriate or identify for update.	Gary Gover All
Natural/Native Habitat Solutions			
(1) Native Planting	Fairhope government, residents, and neighbors increase the use of native plants and reduce the presence of invasive non-natives species on their lands.	a. Identify existing efforts/resources (e.g., SALT, Weeks Bay, NRCS, etc.) b. Facilitate relationships between resources and users. c. Promote awareness and opportunities for information and partnerships, including the FEAB FB/Instagram page, City website, presentations, and events, etc. d. Identify and progress a pilot project, such as Winn Dixie pond , Recreation Complex, Triangle Property, etc.	Ben, Carl, Carole
(2) Natural and Nature-Based Shorelines, Streambanks, and Gullies	City of Fairhope has a clear process for, and is an accessible resource for the evaluation of, the use of natural and nature-based shoreline design over bulkheads and other hardened features on private property.	a. Post nature-based solutions guidance at accessible , City-sponsored location (website, FB). b. Host nature-based presentations targeting shoreline and other property owners and open to community. c. Identify and promote a pilot/interpretative example project on a pocket beach or other City-owned property	Steven, Nigel
(3) Greenspace Establishment and Management	(1) City of Fairhope establishes a network of protected greenspace by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentionally planning / selecting parcels, including restoration or enhancement. Intentionally maintaining and protecting parcels for designated outcomes and uses. Intentionally interconnecting green spaces across the City and beyond. 	a. Partner with SALT, COF Bike and Ped Committee, Parks and Rec Board, and other entities to continuously identify and promote specific areas as greenspace. b. Revise City of Fairhope Parks Brochure.	Ben, Carl

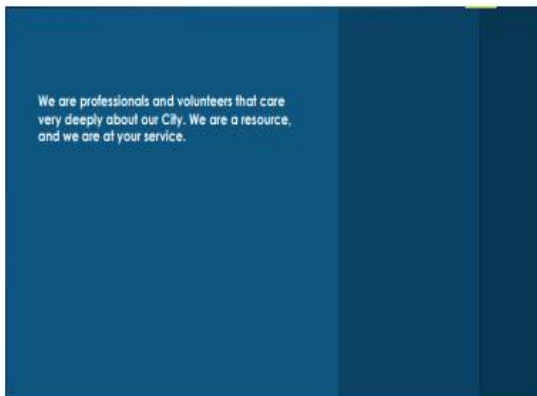
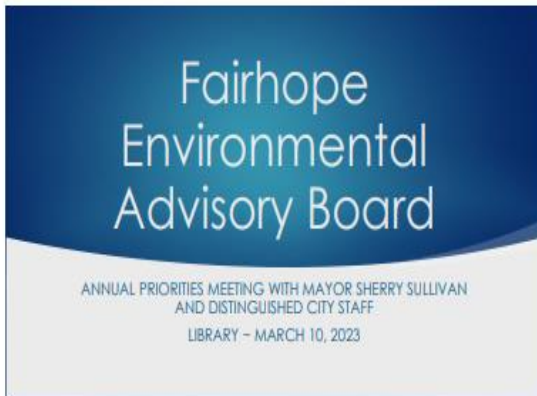
PRIORITY ISSUE	TARGETED OUTCOMES	POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD/POC
<i>Colony Park</i>	(2) Colony Park is intentionally maintained as functional floodplain ecosystem and greenspace for the City of Fairhope; selected recreation amenities are compatible with floodplain function.	a. Engage in natural resource land management and compatible use designations.	
Resilient and Efficient Buildings	(1) City formally adopts optional stretch goals for building codes and/or planning and zoning regulations.	a. Explore overlap between priorities identified in community planning efforts and existing sustainable development standards (e.g., National Green Building Standard, Florida Green Building Coalition). b. Develop list of potential stretch targets and incentives. c. Create summary document(s) including benefits, barriers, and economic impact.	Anna Miller Jennifer Foutch Steven Scyphers
Waste Management and Recycling	(1) City has functional, reliable, and economical recycling system / partnerships. (2) Using available waste inventory data (Osprey, Inc., Coastal Cleanup, MBNEP, and other watershed studies) City: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicates impacts to community• Makes informed waste management decisions• Targets high volume or large impact waste streams for reduction at source (i.e., voluntary single-use plastics programs)	a. Assist in brokering partnerships b. Assist in marketing and communicating. c. Reestablish waste management /recycling subcommittee as part of FEAB.	Jennifer Foutch Gary Gover
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.		ALL
<i>(1) Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan (ESWMP) Steering Committee</i>	(1) FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ongoing implementation of ESWMP. (2) ESWMP implementation recommendations are continuously pursued and implemented by City of Fairhope.	a. Attend all stakeholder group meetings. b. Provide FEAB Resolution with compiled recommendations on draft documents for WMP Study Team. c. Report ongoing progress to FEAB.	Amy Paulson
FEAB Plan, 2023 <i>March 2023</i>			Page 6

PRIORITY ISSUE	TARGETED OUTCOMES	POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD/POC
(2) <i>Land Use Plan (LUP) Steering Committee</i>	(1) FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ongoing implementation of City of Fairhope Comprehensive LUP. (2) City of Fairhope policy, zoning, and permitting decisions are continuously informed by LUP. (3) City of Fairhope establishes, protects, and links greenspace areas.	a. Attend all stakeholder group meetings. b. Provide FEAB Resolution with compiled recommendations on draft documents for LUP Study Team c. Report ongoing progress to FEAB.	Ben Frater
(3) <i>Dyas Triangle Park Steering Committee</i>	(1) Dyas Triangle Park is restored to appropriate ecological endpoint and developed as greenspace for the City of Fairhope.	a. Engage in natural resource land management decisions (Restoration and Maintenance Plan) b. Engage in Recreation Plan and compatible use designations.	Nigel Temple
(4) <i>Community Resiliency Index</i>	(1) The City of Fairhope rescors the 2017 Community Resilience Index (CRI) in light of 2020 hurricane season.	a. Perform CRI review b. Document and communicate findings c. Provide to Comprehensive Land Use team to incorporate into planning process	Nicole Love
(5) <i>Clean Marina</i>	(1) Fairhope Marina is operated to selected Clean Marina standards.	a. Assist Harbor Board in selecting and implementing relevant commitments.	Nicole Love
Maintain connection to / relationship with Fairhope governing bodies	(1) FEAB offers relevant, dependable, and consistent support to City governing entities. (2) City governing entities 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	
(1) <i>Mayor's Office</i>			Amy Paulson / Nicole Love
(2) <i>City Council</i>			Rotation / Corey Martin
(3) <i>City Departments - Fairhope Public Utilities</i>			Kim Burmeister Anna Miller

PRIORITY ISSUE	TARGETED OUTCOMES	POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD/POC
Maintain connection to / relationship with volunteer Boards, Committees, and other local entities	(1) Identify shared priorities (2) Support each other / share resources (3) Communicate with consistent message to City (4) Engage new partnerships	(1) Serve as liaison / POC between boards. (2) Attend meetings as relevant, including requesting at least 1 annual agenda session for priorities discussion.	
(1) <i>Parks and Recreation</i>			Ben Frater
(2) <i>Harbor Board</i>			Nicole Love
(3) <i>Bike and Pedestrian</i>			Carl Couret
(4) <i>Historical Committee</i>			Ben Frater
(5) <i>South Alabama Land Trust (SALT)</i>			Carole Tebay
(6) <i>AL Coastal Foundation / Green Coast Council</i>			Gary Gover
(7) <i>Baldwin County Master Gardeners</i>			Carole Tebay
(8) <i>The Nature Conservancy</i>			Steven Syphers
(8) <i>Tree Committee</i>			Gary Gover
(9) <i>Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee</i>			Kim Burmeister
(10) <i>Transportation / Metropolitan Planning Office - Gary Gover</i>			

PRIORITY ISSUE	TARGETED OUTCOMES	POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD/POC
<i>(10) Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Board Coalition</i>	(1) Assist Baldwin County in communication of County initiatives (2) Streamline/implement where appropriate	(1) Develop and champion streamlined regulations for wetlands and streams, red clay, and Low Impact Development	Amy Paulson / Gary Gover

Amy presented a slide show:



FEAB Involvement in COF 2021-2022 Successes

FEAB PRIORITIES

- Parks and Greenspace: Dyas Triangle, Colony Park, COF Land Use Plan
- Community Resiliency Index rescoring event
- Waste and Recycling
- Meaningful Participation in City Planning Efforts: Eastern Shore WMP, Comprehensive Land Use Plan (especially greenspace)
- Clean Marina: support Harbor Board
- Stormwater Management
- Maintain relationships with Faithsoppe governing bodies: Mayor, City Departments, City Council
- Establish relationship with other COF committees

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT & ENGAGEMENT!

Our 2023+ Priorities

FEAB PRIORITIES 2023

- Environmental Outreach: COF Website
- Natural/Native Habitat Solutions
- Native Planting
- Natural and Nature-Based Shorelines, Shoebanks, and Gullies
- Greenspace Establishment and Management
- Colony Park
- Efficient and Efficient Buildings
- Waste Management and Recycling
- Meaningful Participation in City Planning Efforts: Eastern Shore WMP, Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Dyas Triangle Park, Community Resiliency Index, Clean Marina
- Maintain relationships and connection to Faithsoppe governing bodies: Mayor, City Departments, City Council - including regular attendance at biweekly City Council Meetings.
- Maintain relationship with other COF Committee/Boards and local entities

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU?

Discussion

- Do our **focus issues** align?
- Do our **goals** align for these issues?
- Do you have **additional priorities** we should support?

Natural/Native Habitat Solutions



- **Native Planting**
Faithsoppe government, residents, and neighbors increase the use of native plants and reduce the presence of invasive non-native species on their lands.
- **Natural and Nature-Based Shorelines, Shoebanks, and Gullies**
COF has a clear process for, and is an accessible resource for, the evaluation of, the use of natural and nature-based shoreline design over bulkheads and other hardened features on private property.
- **Greenspace Establishment and Management**
COF establishes a protected greenspace network, including identifying and controlling new parcels; planning, maintaining, and protecting parcels for designated uses; and interconnecting green spaces across the City and beyond.

Resilient and Efficient Buildings

City formally adopts optional stretch goals for building codes and/or planning and zoning regulations.

- Explore overlap between priorities identified in community planning efforts and existing sustainable development standards (e.g., National Green Building Standard, Florida Green Building Coalition).
- Develop list of potential stretch targets and incentives. Create summary document(s) including benefits, barriers, and economic impact.

City Planning Participation

Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan (ESWMP):

- FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ongoing implementation of ESWMP.
- ESWMP implementation recommendations are continuously pursued and implemented by City of Fairhope.

Comprehensive Land Use Plan (LUP):

- FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ongoing implementation of City of Fairhope Comprehensive LUP.
- City of Fairhope policy, zoning, and permitting decisions are continuously informed by LUP.
- City of Fairhope establishes, protects, and links greenspace areas.

City Planning Participation - continued

Dyas Triangle Park Steering Committee

- Dyas Triangle Park is restored to appropriate ecological endpoint and developed as greenspace for the City of Fairhope.

Community Resiliency Index / Clean Marina

- FEAB is support resource for these initiatives.
- The City of Fairhope rescopes the 2017 Community Resilience Index (CRI).
- Fairhope Marina is operated to selected Clean Marina standards.

Waste Management & Recycling

- City of Fairhope has functional, reliable, and economical recycling system / partnerships.
- Using available waste inventory data (Display, Inc., Coastal Cleanup, MSWEP and other watershed studies) City:
 - Communicates impacts to community
 - Makes informed waste management decisions
 - Targets high volume or large impact waste streams for reduction at source (i.e., voluntary single-use plastics programs)

Maintain Connection to / Relationship with COF Government, Volunteer Boards, Committees, and Other Local Entities

- COF Mayor's Office
- COF City Council
- COF Departmental Strategic Public Offices
- COF Parks and Recreation
- COF Harbor Board
- COF Arts and Recreation
- COF Historical Committee
- South Adams Land Trust (SALT)
- At Coastal Foundation / Green Coast Council
- Bolinas County Water Districts
- The Inland Conservancy
- Tree Committee
- Redwood County Environmental Advisory Board and Committee
- Transportation / Transportation Planning Office

Connection and Communication

- How best do we engage each other?
- Process for identifying and leading on issues (whether initiated on our side or yours)?
- Bridging communication gaps (your preference for receiving and requesting information)?
- Goals:
 - FEAB offers relevant, dependable, and consistent support to City governing entities.
 - City governing entities access FEAB for support, perspectives, or recommendations.



Other Priorities? Ideas? Discussion?



Thank you for being here!

POC / FEAB members spoke about his/her area of authority:

Native Planting:

Ben: has resources from other communities for native landscaping. This includes lessons learned from around the country. This is his line of work.

Natural and Nature based shorelines, streambanks and gullies:

Nigel: has nature based solution conceptual plans for areas in Fairhope.

Steven: The Mobile area is unique. He has ideas and experience in engaging home owners and property owners in projects that benefit the public. Internships are available.

Amy: Most property owners need direction in how to do the right thing. FEAB is hoping to aid in proposing a pilot project in the future on city property. (i.e. Winn Dixie pond, Triangle property)

Resilient and Efficient Buildings:

Anna: has gathered information in regards to stretch codes. Water conservation is top priority.

Erik: Solar panel installations in Fairhope are challenged by State codes regulating installation business licensing. Some items in the slide show presentation (house diagram) are already in place. Amy said this slide is just an example of efficient housing but not necessarily an example of suggested stretch codes.

Hunter: main complaint received is on drainage. City would like to establish design guidelines for the public to use.

Mayor: asked FEAB to put together a fact sheet for stretch building codes, including water conservation.

Vanessa: suggested City and FEAB be mindful to suggest building code supplements that are not cost prohibitive. Cost of building is already high.

Waste Management and Recycling:

Amy: FEAB would like the City to target and reduce single use plastics. This will help with waste management and litter control.

Mayor: Recycling committee is currently defunct. Countywide recycling facility will greatly help with Fairhope's recycling marketing.

Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan:

Nicole: draft is complete and is being cleaned up before distribution. Some of the natural and nature based solutions FEAB is proposing may be included in the ESWMP, including gully and steep slope protection ideas.

Comments from Mayor Sullivan:

She would like FEAB to offer comments for website updates and environmental grants, such as potential "pollinator project" grant. Kim can help facilitate FEABs involvement with both of these. <https://www.necfusa.org/resource/2023-biodiversity-conservation-grant-enhancing-pollinator-habitats>

GOMESA grant may also be utilized in the future to facilitate park management. FEAB is welcome to provide draft park management plans for consideration. FEABs current time of 3 p.m. on Friday is still difficult time for staff to attend.

Comments from Erik Cortinas, Building Official:

Jurisdictional changes have greatly impacted the City ordinances including wetland ordinance. Fairhope's authority over wetlands has been greatly reduced by SB-107. FEAB is encouraged to include Baldwin County in discussions regarding area wetlands. Most bayside bulkhead permits are now under County authority as most of the Point Clear area is not within Fairhope's permitting or jurisdictional authority.

Comments from Hunter Simmons, Planning and Zoning Director: Planning Department is researching gully/ steep slope protection ordinances in hopes that Fairhope can adopt

one soon. We are seeking expert information for this hot topic. Surveys will need to be completed to show where our gullies and steep slopes are.

Baldwin County Joint Environmental Advisory Committee:

Amy introduced Ashley Campbell, the Environmental Planner with Baldwin County. Ashley also heads up the Baldwin County Joint EAC, which includes Baldwin County, Fairhope and Daphne.

Ashley: current item of importance is a standardized wetland ordinance template which may be used by entities without a wetland ordinance. 2nd item of importance will likely be red soils and clay, and/or gully/slope protection ordinances. This is a citizen driven effort. She would like to see a social event organized in the near future to involve more stakeholders in Baldwin County.

Comp Plan:

Hunter said 1st draft was presented to staff in October 2022. Staff was not happy with the draft and is working on a 2nd draft, which may be ready by Spring 2023.

Jim: Future growth of Fairhope was not adequately referenced in the Comp Plan draft he saw. He referenced recent article suggesting millennials are coming to Fairhope in bigger numbers than retirees, thus driving the need for multi-family units. Comp plan 1st draft suggested the opposite.

FAIRHOPE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

The number of millennials moving to Baldwin County is currently not outpacing that of the retirees headed south, but that trend is expected to change. It is anticipated that Baldwin County's population in the age range of 23-38 will grow 20% faster than the U.S. average in the next 10 years.

Millennials moving to Baldwin County

Younger generation expected to outpace retiree transplants in next decade

BY ALLISON MARLOW
Managing Editor
allisonm@guircoastmedia.com

MOVING

FROM PAGE A1

Millennials are moving to Alabama.

An analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 1-year American Community Survey by Today's Homeowner shows that 44,673 people moved to Alabama in 2021, including 31,320 people in the millennial generation, typically defined as people born between 1981 and 1996.

In Baldwin County, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that 5,202 people moved here that same year, including 963 millennials, or individuals aged 23-38.

Lee Lawson, president and CEO of Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance, said the number of millennials moving to Baldwin County is currently not outpacing that of the retirees headed south.

However, that trend is expected to change.

The population in Baldwin County for ages 60 and above grew by 2.9% in 2021, Lawson said. At the same time, the population of millennials grew by 2%. The numbers were pulled from JobsEQ, which provides timely labor market data.

The same data anticipate Baldwin County's population in the age

range of 23-38 to grow 20% faster than the U.S. average in the next 10 years.

Lawson said the numbers are not surprising. Local leaders have spent decades diversifying the county's economy and moving away from being merely a tourism destination to a place where families come to grow.

"We've been working on that for years, and we are finally seeing that come to fruition," he said.

As a result, people, regardless of age, are moving to Baldwin County.

"If you look at the whole state, it tends to be us and Madison County as the leaders of the pack in terms of economic and statistical growth categories," Lawson said. "If you also look at the figures, we are one of the top job-creating counties in the country. Our job growth outpaces our population growth. Our wage rate is increasing over and above state and national percentage levels. That's what we want to see, all the metrics turn in a positive direction."

The pandemic, Lawson said, seemed to fast track people's desire to leave big metro cities for smaller municipalities found in

places like Baldwin County.

"The data is driven by the anecdotal. There is empowerment in being a geographic free agent. When people can work from home, their move is going to be dictated by other factors — good public schools, safe community, does my property value increase because kids can get a good education, do I feel comfortable living there?" Lawson said. "When you layer in that quality of life and people's ability to seek economic opportunity it all adds up to why we have what we have here and the great positive growth we're producing."

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Next regular monthly meeting is Friday, April 14th @ 3 p.m. @ Library Board Room.

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