

Bob Cole, Chair
Doug Underhill, Vice Chair

AGENDA

Policy Board

Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

3:30 p.m. Central

Gulf Breeze Council Chambers
1070 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

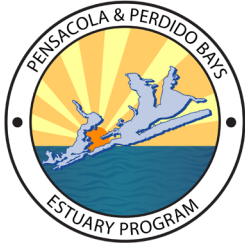
Conference Call Number: +1 (408) 650-3123

Access Code: 129-321-933

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Approval of November 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes (p. 2)**
- 3. Overview of the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program (p. 6)**
Matt Posner, Escambia County & Interim PPBEP Staff
- 4. Staff Updates**
 - a. Status of Interlocal Agreement**
 - b. Executive Director Position**
 - c. Executive Director Selection Committee**
 - d. Office Space**
- 5. Action Items**
 - a. Letter of Support for Santa Rosa County FRCP Resilience Grant (p. 7)**
- 6. Discussion Items**
 - a. City of Pensacola Mayoral Transition Committee**
Christian Wagley, Mayoral Transition Committee Member
 - b. Technical Committee Update**
Chips Kirschenfeld, Escambia County
 - c. Educational Committee Update**
Rick O'Connor and Carrie Stevenson, Escambia County Extension
 - d. Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence RFP 3 (p. 8)**
 - e. Meeting Schedule**
 - f. 2019 Florida Legislation & Appropriations**
- 7. Information Items (p. 17)**
- 8. PPBEP Policy Board Member Updates**
- 9. Public Comment**
- 10. Next Meeting**
- 11. Adjourn**



If you have any questions concerning the meeting, please contact PPBEP host agency Escambia County at 850-595-0820. The public is invited to attend. Please notify staff 48 hours in advance if special accommodations are needed with regard to the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Grover Robinson, Chair
Renee Bookout, Vice Chair

MINUTES

PPBEP Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 14th, 2018

3:30-4:30 p.m. Central

Vince Whibbs, Sr. Conference Room

Pensacola City Hall, 1st Floor

222 West Main Street, Pensacola, FL

Members Present

Grover Robinson, Chair	Escambia County, Florida
Renee Bookout, Vice Chair	City of Gulf Breeze, Florida
Douglas Underhill	Escambia County, Florida
Bob Cole	Santa Rosa County, Florida
Phillip West (Call in)	City of Orange Beach, Alabama
Skip Gruber (represented by Dan Dealy)	Baldwin County, Alabama

Members Absent

Alan Lowery	City of Milton, Florida
Sam Parker	Santa Rosa County, Florida
Jewel Cannada-Wynn	City of Pensacola, Florida
Nathan Boyles	Okaloosa County, Florida
Henry Hawkins	Town of Century, Florida

Agencies and Interested Parties Present

Robert Bender	Escambia County	Paul Thorpe	NWFLWMD
Chris Johnson	ADEM	Josh Neese	Pensacola Bay Oyster Co.
Kent Wimmer	Defenders of Wildlife	David Thompson	ADEM
Jessica Bibza	NWF	Justin Bousquin	EPA
Kristin Bennett	TetraTech, Inc	Darryl Boudreau	TNC
Chips Kirschenfeld	Escambia County	Doug Heatwole	Environmental Professional
Dan Dealy	Baldwin County	Rick Harter	Ecology & Environment
Barbara Albrecht	AIMS/PWA/BIA	Woody Speed	Cardno
Amy Newbold	EPA Gulf of Mexico	Cynthia Cannon	Santa Rosa County
Barbara Little	Ret. Environmental Lawyer	Chris Verlinde	UF/IFAS Sea Grant
John Bowie	EPA	Tim Haag	ECUA
Jackie Lane	Friends of Perdido Bay	Matt Posner	Escambia County
Mollie Taylor	Geosyntec	Samantha Bolduc	Escambia County
Don Chipman	Cobalt Intelligence	Katie Wilhelm	WFRPC

1. Call to order

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order and asked for an update on which jurisdictions have approved the Interlocal Agreement for the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program. Matt Posner, Escambia County, stated Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, Town of Century and cities of Pensacola, Milton, Gulf Breeze, and Orange Beach have all approved the interlocal agreement. Okaloosa County has it scheduled for the week of November 20th; and Baldwin County has three new commissioners coming on board this November and will likely approve the Interlocal Agreement in

January.

2. Introductions

The members of the Policy Board and audience introduced themselves.

3. Public Comment

Jackie Lane, Friends of Perdido Bay, stated she was hopeful that the PPBEP would be able to produce something positive and fix the polluted waterways when many working groups before have not been able to. There was general discussion among the board with Chair Robinson adding that because the BARC board provided such a strong foundation, he has every hope that PPBEP will be successful.

4. Staff Updates

a. Status of Interlocal Agreement

Matt Posner, Escambia County, stated Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, Town of Century and cities of Pensacola, Milton, Gulf Breeze, and Orange Beach have all approved the interlocal agreement. Okaloosa County has it scheduled for the week of November 20th, and Baldwin County has three new commissioners coming on board this November and will likely approve the Interlocal Agreement in January.

b. Executive Director Position

Mr. Posner stated that the Executive Director position was currently being advertised via the Escambia County website and has been shared with partner organizations. The application period closes December 2nd.

c. Executive Director Selection Committee

Mr. Posner stated that the Selection Committee would need to be ready to begin reviewing applicants approximately 2 weeks after the application period closes. This would be the time when Escambia County HR would forward applicants who meet the minimum qualifications. Commissioner Underhill expressed concern that all applicants should be forwarded to the Selection Committee that way they could review independently of Escambia County's HR department.

Representatives for Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Baldwin Counties have been confirmed as well as the Cities of Gulf Breeze and Orange Beach and the EPA. Jessica Bibza and Barbara Albrecht would co-chair the NGO member spot, and Matt Deitch was elected as the Technical Committee (TC) representative during the TC meeting earlier in the day. Commissioner Underhill expressed interest as the representative for Escambia County. Nominations are still needed for the cities of Pensacola and Milton, a Florida state agency and an Alabama state agency.

d. Office Space

Mr. Chips Kirschenfeld, BARC TAC Chair, provided an overview of previous BARC board and technical advisory committee discussions regarding available office spaces and perception of governmental agency association. Long term office space will likely be located at the Port of Pensacola; however, it is anticipated it will be two years until the space is available. In the short term, space is available at the Studer Community Institute Building, as well as several other spaces around town. Commissioner Cole offered Levin law Firm as a potential candidate. General discussion followed.

5. Action Items

a. Adoption of the PPBEP Policy Board Bylaws

Councilwoman Bookout moved to approve the PPBEP Policy Board bylaws. Commissioner Underhill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Election of Chair & Vice Chair

After election, it was discussed that the bylaws be updated, or a policy should be created to rotate Chairmanship through all represented municipalities. Commissioner Robinson turned over Chairmanship to Commissioner Cole immediately following election.

Commissioner Robinson moved to elect Commissioner Bob Cole as Chairman and Underhill as Vice Chair through January 2020, effective immediately. Dan Dealy, representing Commissioner Gruber, Baldwin County, seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Establish the PPBEP Technical Committee

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the membership structure and role of the Technical Committee. Vice Chair Underhill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

d. Establish the PPBEP Education Committee

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the membership structure and role of the Education Committee. Vice Chair Underhill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

e. 2019 Meeting Schedule

Chair Robinson moved to approve the 2019 PPBEP Policy Board meeting schedule. Councilwoman Bookout seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Information Items

Mr. Posner provided an overview of the upcoming events that were listed on an enclosure in the agenda packet including the following:

- November 13: Florida Panhandle National Heritage Area Planning Meeting; Milton, FL
Additional Information: See Page 12

- November 16th: FAEP Lunch and Learn; Whiting Field, Milton, FL
Additional information: <http://faep-nwfl.org/wp/event/lunch-n-learn-10/>

- November 15: Lessons from Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay Webinar
Additional Information: See Page 13

- November 28-29: 2018 Alabama Mississippi Bays & Bayous Symposium; Mobile, AL
Additional Information: baysandbayous.com

- November 30: American Water Resource Association Florida Meeting; Tallahassee, FL
Additional Information: <https://www.awraflorida.org/>

- January 16: Sierra Club Emerald Coast Chapter; 6pm Pensacola Main Library
Additional Information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/295746371056982/>

- Save the Date: Green Infrastructure Workshop, February 16, 2019; Milton, FL

Additional Information: See Page 14

- Save the Date: Flori-Bama Expedition on the Perdido River, March 10-15, 2019

Additional Information: www.paddleflorida.org or contact Mr. Darryl Boudreau at dboudreau@TNC.ORG

- Save the Date: UWF High School Science Symposium, April 4, 2019

Additional Information: See Page 15

7. PPBEP Policy Board Member Updates

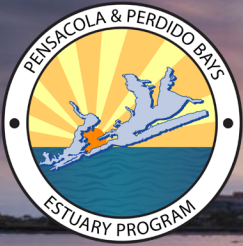
Councilwoman Bookout and Commissioner Robinson wanted to thank the Board and participants for their efforts and look forward to seeing where the program goes.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16th, 2019 at 3:30 pm Central Time. The location is to be determined.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



PENSACOLA & PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM

Erika Nortemann/The Nature Conservancy

ESTUARY PROGRAM GOALS



Improve water quality



Restore and conserve habitat



Provide healthy ecosystems to support wildlife and fisheries



Improve surface and groundwater quality and quantity to reduce flooding



Enhance community resilience



Revitalize the coastal economy

Contact

Matt Posner
RESTORE Program Manager
Escambia County
850.595.0820
mjposner@myescambia.com

What is an Estuary Program?

An **Estuary Program** is a **locally-driven, non-regulatory effort** to identify and solve issues facing a bay and watershed, based on objective, scientific information. The program provides stakeholders with a permanent forum for reviewing information, agreeing on issues, and collaborating to develop action plans, solutions, and funding to address those issues.

Estuary Programs lead and support wide-ranging projects, including coastal infrastructure, seagrass and shellfish restoration, water quality improvement, and science and monitoring to guide decision-making. Estuary Programs stretch federal dollars by engaging diverse partners, including farms, fisheries, colleges and universities, utilities, restaurants, state agencies, local governments, industry, and community organizations. In fact, **for every federal dollar provided** to Estuary Programs, **\$19 are leveraged** from local, state, and private funds.

What is the PPBEP?

The **Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP)** was established in 2018 after securing a **\$2 million competitive grant** from the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Program. The \$2 million grant will be used to stand-up the program and develop a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP), or a long-term strategic plan, which will be a fully vetted roadmap for the restoration and preservation of Pensacola and Perdido Bays.

The Estuary Program is the successor to the Bay Area Resource Council (BARC), which was founded in 1989 for the restoration and preservation of Pensacola and Perdido Bays. As water does not follow political boundaries, PPBEP is a **multi-jurisdictional collaborative effort** among Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Baldwin counties and the cities of Pensacola, Gulf Breeze, Milton, Orange Beach and the Town of Century.

THE POLICY BOARD

The Policy Board is the Top-Level Organizational Unit (TLOU) of the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program. The Policy Board is charged with establishing the policy directives and mission of the Program as prescribed in the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program Interlocal Agreement. The Estuary Program Policy Board provides regional collaboration through stakeholder engagement for the restoration and protection of our critical estuaries.



Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Letter of support to be distributed under separate cover.



FLORIDA RESTORE ACT CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

THIRD REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

JANUARY 2019

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: FLRACEP-2019-01

Prepared by the Florida Institute of Oceanography, Gulf Coast State Entity for Florida's
RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program

Background

The Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program (FLRACEP) is issuing its third request for proposals (RFP III). FLRACEP grants are awarded via a competitive, peer-reviewed process and subject to available funds. Please see the FLRACEP Rules and Policy Document available at www.fio.usf.edu/flracep for additional detail. A total of \$2 million is available for Center of Excellence (CoE) grants across three topical areas and addressing RESTORE Act eligible disciplines 1, 2 and 5:

1. Marine wildlife (sea birds, marine mammals, and sea turtles) grants – aimed at advancing research and technology to address critical uncertainties and support and inform resource management. (Two-three possible CoE awards)
2. Florida panhandle estuary system assessment – developing the scientific basis for strategic planning and project implementation in the Pensacola/Perdido, Choctawhatchee, and St. Andrews estuarine systems. (One possible CoE award)
3. West Florida unified mapping project – developing and applying a unified mapping framework for benthic habitats on the West Florida Shelf. (One possible CoE award)

Funding made available through this solicitation will depend on the quality of proposals received and the budgets proposed by successful applicants. FLRACEP reserves the right to select for negotiation all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to this solicitation.

Submission Procedure

Please review the FLRACEP Rules and Policies document for all programmatic requirements before submitting an application (available at fio.usf.edu/flracep). Pre-proposal LOIs (**due Feb 8, 2019**) and full proposals (**due Apr 8, 2019**) should be submitted electronically in Adobe PDF format to the FLRACEP program team at flracep@usf.edu.

Pre-Proposal Letter of Intent Requirements

All applications, regardless of RFP topic, are required to submit a pre-proposal Letter of Intent (LOI) not to exceed three pages single-sided using 12-point font. Each LOI must include a title page that will NOT count toward the 3-page limit. The title page should include the title of the proposal, a list of any co-PIs, the topic area to which the proposal is being submitted, and PI contact information: name, title, affiliation, mailing address, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and web page (if any).

The 3-page limit for the rest of the LOI includes literature cited, photos, pictures, graphs, figures, and all supporting information except for the 2-page CV. The LOI should clearly articulate a problem statement, methods to address the issue, anticipated outcomes, project timeline, and a budget information (including any matching funds).

Applicants should submit a brief CV (2 pages or less) for the PI as an appendix to their LOI.

NOTE: Applicants must already have all necessary federal, state, and local government permits and must be able to provide a copy of these upon request.

LOIs containing items other than those described in these instructions, missing required information, or exceeding the page limitations will be returned without review.

Key Deadlines

- LOIs are due February 8, 2019 at 5pm eastern time
- LOI feedback will be sent by March 8, 2019 and consist of: Encouraged, Highly Encouraged, or Discouraged from submitting a full proposal
- Any applicant submitting a LOI may submit a full proposal, regardless of the feedback received
- Full proposals are due April 8, 2019 at 5pm eastern time

Eligible Entities

FLRACEP grants may only be awarded to a Florida-based (i.e. headquartered and primarily operating in Florida) non-governmental public or private institution of higher education (lead PI from same) or other not-for-profit institution. The Florida-based headquarters must primarily operate in Florida in the area of ocean and coastal research, support an established infrastructure capable of receiving and administering a federal grant, and have a history of successful grant management. NGOs with national headquarters elsewhere may utilize their Florida offices that meet these conditions.

Full Proposal Requirements

The body of the proposal **must not exceed ten pages**, single-sided using 10- or 12-point font, exclusive of cover page, bibliography, budget pages, curricula vitae, and supporting materials.

Cover Page (limit 1 page)

- **Title:** The full title of the proposal.
- **Principal Investigator (PI):** Please list only one (corresponding) principal investigator.

- **PI Contact Information:** Affiliation, address, phone, website, and e-mail for the principal investigator.
- **Financial Point of Contact (POC):** An individual within the institution responsible for contractual and fiscal matters.
- **Financial POC Information:** Address, phone, and e-mail.
- **Topic area the proposal is being submitted to:** Marine Wildlife Research, Florida Panhandle Estuary System Assessment, or West Florida Shelf Unified Mapping Project.

Proposal Body (limit 10 pages)

- **Abstract:** Provide an abstract summarizing the topic to be addressed, the methods to be used to address the threat/knowledge gap(s), possible outcomes of the work, procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of the measures proposed, and the utility or application of the work to the topic area. Please limit the abstract to 300 words.
- **Introduction, Background, or Problem Statement:** Provide a brief review of the specific problem or question(s) this proposal is seeking to address and any past or related efforts by the research team or others. Indicate knowledge gaps, shortfalls of prior efforts, successes in other regions, etc. and describe how the applicant(s) will incorporate this information into the proposed work.
- **Goals and Objectives:** Provide clear statements of both the general or broad goal of the proposed project and the specific objectives that will be addressed within the scope of this proposal to make progress toward that goal. Provide a discussion of the importance or significance of the project, and how it relates to addressing the RFP topic area, proposal problem statement, and conservation/management/restoration/strategic planning considerations.
- **Methods:** Provide a detailed description of the methods, including procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of the measures proposed and a detailed timeline of activities. This applies to both original research as well as COEs that support collaborative work. Applications must include a schedule, timeline, and/or milestone chart in this section.
- **Data Management:** Provide a description of data management, storage, sharing, and dissemination plan.
- **Anticipated Outcomes:** Describe the short-term outcomes anticipated to occur within the scope of effort and time span of the proposed project (e.g. completion of a project strategy, publication of a science framework, regional workshops, one or more peer-reviewed journal articles, equipment prototype test and report) and how these support management, conservation, restoration, strategic planning, etc. in the topical area.
- **Application:** Describe the anticipated long-term utility of the project, its implications for future research, management, or conservation activities, and how evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures implemented will better inform such activities. Be as specific as possible as to the entity or agency expected to benefit from the outputs of this work.

Budget and Time Line

This section should provide a detailed narrative and follow the categories from the required FLRACEP annual budget sheet (available at fio.usf.edu/flracep), should be consistent with the needs and complexity of the proposal, and clearly link spending to different objectives or tasks from the proposal body. FLRACEP funds may not be used for the acquisition or construction of physical infrastructure (including, but not limited to ships, autonomous underwater vehicles, or laboratories), except where specifically pre-authorized by FLRACEP.

Budgets must include travel expenses for essential personnel to attend two 2-day FLRACEP All-Hands meetings to be held in the St. Petersburg, Florida area.

Curricula Vitae, Research Team Qualifications (limit 2 pages each CV)

Provide a curriculum vitae or short biography **of no more than two pages** for each of the key members of the proposal team (those individuals whose background and experience are essential to completion of the project), including their experience or expertise related to the subject proposal. Although there can be only one corresponding principal investigator, multiple co-investigators can be included in this portion of the proposal, if desired.

NOTE: All eligible applicants must already have all necessary federal, state, and local government permits and must be able to provide a copy of these upon request.

Proposals containing items other than those described in these instructions, missing required sections, or exceeding the page limitations will be returned without review.

Submission Procedure and Review Timelines

Please review the FLRACEP Rules and Policies document for all programmatic requirements before submitting an application. Pre-proposal LOIs and full proposals should be submitted electronically in Adobe PDF format to the FLRACEP program team at flracep@usf.edu.

Full proposals are due April 8, 2019 at 5pm eastern time

External science review of proposals April 22 – May 3, 2019

Program Management Team review and decision May 21 – May 22, 2019

Decision letters sent by June 3, 2019

Policy on Indirect Costs

Due to the limited funding available, FLRACEP limits indirect costs for all Centers of Excellence research grants and contracts to ten percent of the direct costs, and IDC may not be charged on either tuition or ship time.

Geographic Extent

As required by the RESTORE Act, field efforts must be located in the Gulf Coast Region (as defined at 31 C.F.R. §34.2), which includes oceans and coasts off coastal counties that border the Gulf of Mexico, from 25 nm inland from the coastline to the offshore boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Topic One – Marine Wildlife Research and Technology Grants

Florida's marine wildlife populations (limited to sea birds, marine mammals, and sea turtles for the purposes of this RFP) face a number of threats. Gaps in our understanding limit innovations in conservation and management for both coastal and oceanic wildlife. This RFP topic solicits proposals that fill key research gaps or otherwise address critical uncertainties for sea birds, marine mammals, or sea turtles found in Florida's Gulf waters, or test new and promising technology that can help answer important science or management questions.

Key research themes of interest include, but are not limited to: abundance, population structure, spatial-temporal distribution, seasonal movements, predator/prey dynamics, reproductive rates, factors affecting reproductive rates, and habitat use.

FLRACEP is soliciting proposals for Centers of Excellence to conduct research that fills critical information gaps for the state and region's marine wildlife populations. Centers of Excellence proposals for this topical area will be judged based on:

- The importance of the project in terms of addressing critical information gaps and/or how the project directly contributes to conservation and management of the species;
- The importance of the identified problem or information gap and the quality and viability of the research project proposed to address it;
- The technical and scientific merit of proposed methods;
- The proven track record of the PI and other essential program personnel to propose, execute, complete, and publish results of a research project within the allotted time and budget;
- Priority will be given to projects that provide clear goals and objectives tied to reducing uncertainty and have data management, sharing, and dissemination as part of their project plans;
- Priority will be given to high quality proposals that are unlikely to be funded elsewhere.

Timeline: 24-36 months

Available funding: \$1,000,000

Anticipated awards: 2-3

Topic Two – Florida Panhandle Estuary System Assessment

A critical first step in developing effective watershed-based restoration strategies for coastal systems is to develop a scientific understanding of the impacts and stressors affecting the natural resources of those systems. An equally important element is to engage local stakeholders in the development of this understanding, as they will need to be active participants in the subsequent key steps of setting numerical restoration targets and implementing the agreed-upon strategies (Gross and Hagy 2017).

Several existing programs on the west coast of Florida have developed watershed-based restoration strategies including Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, and Charlotte Harbor (through EPA's National Estuary Program). Several others have some elements of a watershed-based restoration strategy in place, including Rookery Bay and Apalachicola Bay (through NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve Program). In the Florida Panhandle, emerging programs in Pensacola/Perdido, Choctawhatchee, and St Andrews Bays are initiating watershed-wide management efforts based on the NEP model, and are in the beginning stages of the organizing process.

FLRACEP is soliciting proposals for a single Center of Excellence to support the emerging Panhandle estuaries' restoration process by assisting with the development of a consistent scientific approach for understanding of impacts and stressors in these three systems. Centers of Excellence proposals for this topical area will be judged based on:

- Collaboration with existing programs, and engagement with local, state, and federal stakeholders in all aspects of process/product design, development, and review;
- Ability to identify and implement scientifically rigorous methods to assess impacts and stressors for each of the three systems using existing data to examine, for example, impacts to water and sediment quality, water quantity, habitat quantities and quality, and living resources;
- Viability of the plan to achieve consensus on the results of an assessment of impacts and stressors in each of the three Panhandle estuarine systems;
- Ability to summarize results in scientific reports/publications and in formats appropriate for non-scientists both in and outside of the studied estuary – reports, guidance documentation, best practices, infographics, etc.

Timeline: 24-36 months

Available funding: \$500,000

Anticipated awards: 1

Topic Three – West Florida Shelf Unified Mapping Project

FLRACEP is soliciting proposals for a Center of Excellence to design and implement a process to bring together existing seafloor data from the West Florida Shelf (WFS) region to produce a single integrated map similar to what was done for the Florida Reef Tract Unified Map in the Florida Keys (<https://myfwc.com/research/gis/regional-projects/unified-reef-map/>). The Unified Reef Map combines existing Florida Keys benthic habitat data into a single, integrated map of benthic habitats and related mapping data (e.g. bathymetry). Essential elements of the Unified Reef Map include a defined geospatial framework, a Unified Classification (UC) system that links together different habitat classification schemes, and commitment from the State of Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) for long-term data housing, public availability, and upkeep. The Unified Reef Map is managed by FWRI and is updated with new mapping information on a regular basis and freely available to resource managers and stakeholders.

FLRACEP is seeking proposals for a Center of Excellence that will integrate various mapping efforts into a single, continuous benthic map for the West Florida Shelf. The WFS geographic area of interest covers the entire Gulf portion of Florida spanning from the shoreline out to 200 m water depth but is not expected to include inland bays and estuaries. At present, mapping in this region is conducted piecemeal using a wide range of sensors, mapping methods, and classification schemes.

The Florida Reef Tract example included project elements like a data integration framework, integrated classification schema, production of a unified map based on best available data, accuracy assessment of integrated results, and a long-term housing, dissemination and maintenance plan. Proposals should include a description of these types of elements, the steps and timeline for accomplishing them, and project outputs (e.g. common mapping standards, a unified WFS benthic map, a practitioners guide to mapping at the common standard requirements, etc.). Centers of Excellence proposals for this topical area will be judged based on:

- Quality of the proposed plan to develop and vet a unified mapping framework that considers minimum mapping unit, mapping scale, interpretation methodology and classification schema to accommodate the integration of existing and future mapping efforts;
- Applicant ability to vet and implement this framework in order to develop a unified map of habitats on the West Florida Shelf;
- Commitment from at least one Florida state agency mapping office to provide technical support and project oversight (a signed Letter of Support should accompany the full proposal).

Timeline: 24-36 months

Available funding: \$500,000

Anticipated awards: 1

Appendix: Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence RFP III Application Conditions

Principle investigators submitting proposals in response to this RFP (FLRACEP-2019-01) agree to the following conditions:

- 1) By applying in response to this RFP, each lead PI, institutional partner, and co-PI agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions of the FLRACEP Rules and Policies; applicable terms and conditions are not negotiable, but may be updated as needed.
- 2) All proposals will be treated as new efforts; each proposal must be a stand-alone document without need to review or consider linked materials.
- 3) As required by the RESTORE Act, field efforts must be located in the Gulf Coast Region (as defined at 31 C.F.R. §34.2), which includes oceans and coasts off coastal counties that border the Gulf of Mexico, from 25 nm inland from the coastline to the offshore boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone. For this RFP, emphasis will be placed on fieldwork in waters off Florida from Monroe County (Gulf-side only in the Florida Keys including Florida Bay) north to Escambia County.
- 4) Grants must be hosted by a Florida-based (i.e. headquartered and primarily operating in Florida) non-governmental public or private institution of higher education (lead PI from same) or other not-for-profit institution. The Florida-based headquarters must primarily operate, or have a regional office in Florida, in the area of ocean and coastal research, have an established infrastructure capable of receiving and administering a CoE grant for up to 15 years, and have a history of successful grant management.
- 5) Other partnering entities (including non-profit or for-profit entities, government agencies, and public or private companies) from in or outside Florida are encouraged. Personnel from any of the partnering institutions should be reimbursed appropriately for their time commitment to the research program based on the salary structures at their home institutions/organizations. The tasks that they lead will be open in nature and may include work by undergraduate or graduate students, and postdoctoral research associates as appropriate.
- 6) All research staff conducting activities financed, directly or indirectly, wholly or in part, by the FLRACEP are subject to, and must comply with, the terms of the FLRACEP Rules and Policies. All activities must be carried out under professional standards of responsible conduct in research [e.g., as defined by the best practices outlined and described in the U.S. National Academy of Sciences “On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research. Third Edition” (2009), National Academies Press].
- 7) An individual may only be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on one CoE grant proposal, but may participate in others in any other capacity. It is the responsibility of the submitters to confirm that each member of the entire team is within the eligibility guidelines.
- 8) Each PI, co-PI and anyone being paid salary from a CoE grant will be required to submit a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement form; available on the FLRACEP website.
- 9) For grants that involve fieldwork and sampling, lead PI is responsible for submitting an Environmental Checklist form; available on the FLRACEP website.
- 10) Cost sharing or matching is not required for CoE grants.

- 11) Consistency and uniformity standards for allowable costs, and audit standards requirements for non-profit organizations expending federal awards, including their grant recipients, are defined in the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (2 CFR 200).
- 12) Protocols for monitoring, sampling, observations, measurements collection and processing, and related record-keeping must be consistent with requirements of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 as described in the Guidance Document for Natural Resource Damage Assessment Under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990- Appendices G and H (NOAA, 1996). PI's are responsible for compliance with local, state or federal requirements related to their research program, including ensuring they have any permits required to conduct their research; if applicable, copies must be provided to FLRACEP.
- 13) Intellectual property funded by a FLRACEP grant will reside with the responsible investigator's home entity. FIO, in consultation with PIs, may at any time use photos, data, results, and appropriate documentation to highlight and publicly share FLRACEP accomplishments and outcomes. Whenever possible, work conducted under FLRACEP grants is expected to result in publications in peer-reviewed (refereed) journals, or equivalent media. Publications and datasets that contribute to the published work must be assigned a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to facilitate public access.
- 14) All data and derived data products and metadata must be made publicly available within one year of data acquisition, before publication that relies on the data, or before the end of the grant, whichever is soonest. FLRACEP will utilize the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Information and Data Collaborative (GRIIDC) to archive metadata records. Metadata records submitted to GRIIDC must be accompanied by the related datasets, regardless of if they are also permanently archived elsewhere. These requirements are intended to promote reproducibility, integration with other oil spill response and restoration programs, and advancement of knowledge and utility to engineers, researchers, and managers.
- 15) CoE grant recipients will be required: to submit quarterly progress reports with financial statements (in order to justify cost-reimbursable quarterly payments), in specified format as defined in grant sub-agreement terms and conditions; and to participate in FLRACEP all-hands meetings (2 days in the fall in St. Petersburg, FL, area; costs to be included in proposal budget). The FLRACEP program office will coordinate with grantees to fulfill reporting requirements, and will maintain records for all grants, publications, presentations, reports, and activities of each grant.



Wednesday, January 16, 2019 INFORMATION ITEMS

Upcoming Events

- January 15th: Northwest Florida Water Management District Region II (Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton) Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) 2019 Planning and Public Involvement Meeting

2:00 – 3:00 pm Central
Okaloosa County Water & Sewer Department, 1804 Lewis Turner Blvd.
Administration Building, 3rd Floor, Suite 300, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547
Christina Coger: (850) 539-5999 or Christina.Coger@nwfwater.com
- January 16th: Sierra Club Emerald Coast Chapter; 6:00 pm; Pensacola Main Library
- January 23rd: Reducing Runoff Volume Green Infrastructure Workshop; Daphne, AL
Additional Information: See Page 18
- January 30th: Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials Webinar; 2:00 pm Central
Additional Information: www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org
- February 4th-7th: Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference; New Orleans, LA
Additional Information: <http://www.cvent.com/events/2019-gulf-of-mexico-oil-spill-and-ecosystem-science-conference/event-summary-c987a69c633f42e09b8d17d70192fee8.aspx>
- February 16th: Green Infrastructure Workshop; Milton, FL
Additional Information: See Page 20
- March 10th-15th: Flori-Bama Expedition on the Perdido River
Additional Information: www.paddleflorida.org or contact Mr. Darryl Boudreau at dboudreau@TNC.ORG

Reducing Runoff Volume

Green Infrastructure in Coastal Environments – A Technical Master Series

January 23, 2019, 8:00 AM To 3:30 PM
Daphne City Hall
1705 Main Street
Daphne, Alabama

Green infrastructure (GI) practices integrate natural or nature-based features into the function of the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities society uses every day. When used appropriately, GI practices enhance storage, infiltration, or filtration to reduce stormwater runoff volume and pollution. A reduction in runoff volume can mean a reduction in urban flooding, eroded streams and polluted waterways. In addition, application of GI practices protects infrastructure from damage caused by excess stormwater.

Green Infrastructure in Coastal Environments – A Technical Master Series will provide detailed information on GI practices and is intended to increase the capacity and capabilities of coastal design professionals in the area of green stormwater infrastructure.

The **Reducing Runoff Volume Workshop** addresses the application of GI on designs that increase subsurface infiltration. The course examines how GI is integrated into bioswales, infiltration basins and trenches, and bioretention and biofiltration cells and basins. The course includes specific design scenarios and group design exercises for participants to address under conditions experienced in the coastal area. The process includes identifying real-world solutions under Gulf Coast conditions.

Target audiences include engineers, design professionals, and those responsible for the technical application of stormwater management practices.

Instructors:

- Barry Fagan, Vice President for Green Infrastructure of Volkert Engineering
- Anthony Kendrick, Green Infrastructure Specialist of Construction EcoServices

Registration fee is \$100 and lunch is provided. Registration closes on January 18, 2019. Online registration is encouraged. Click on [REGISTRATION](#) and complete online form. To register with a check or purchase order #, contact Mike Shelton at mike.shelton@dcnr.alabama.gov or 251-490-8968 for more information.



Reducing Runoff Volume

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS – A TECHNICAL MASTER SERIES

January 23, 2019, 8:00 AM To 3:30 PM

Daphne City Hall

1705 Main Street

Daphne, Alabama

A certificate of completion that includes 6 contact hrs is awarded to each participant.

Registration fee is \$100 and lunch is provided. Registration closes on January 18, 2019. Online registration is encouraged. Click on [REGISTRATION](#) and complete online form. To register with a check or purchase order #, contact Mike Shelton at mike.shelton@dcnr.alabama.gov or 251-490-8968 for more information. No refunds after registration is closed. Organizers reserve the right to cancel and will refund all fees upon cancellation.

Agenda Outline

8:00 Registration

8:15 Welcome and Introductions

8:25 Overview of Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure

9:00 Overview of the Reducing Runoff Volume topic area

9:30 Break

9:50 Planning, Siting, and Design Considerations

- Construction Considerations
- Maintenance Considerations

11:30 Lunch

12:15 Reducing Runoff Volume: Practice-Specific Design Example(s)

1:15 Present design scenario for group work

2:30 Group Design Report Out and Discussion

3:30 Adjourn

Sponsors: Coastal Training Programs/Weeks Bay NERR, ADCNR State Lands, ADCNR Coastal Zone Management Program/Community Resilience Initiative, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, Baldwin County and Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Gulf Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Weeks Bay Foundation.



UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension
6263 Dogwood Dr., Milton, FL 32570

Join us for a Green Infrastructure Workshop & Watershed Tour

Learn techniques to help manage stormwater in your landscape and on your property.

Green Infrastructure is the use of vegetation, soils, and other elements and practices to restore some of the natural processes required to manage water and create healthier urban environments. This program will focus on rain gardens, rain barrels, swales as well as Best Management Practices for property owners. Those in Santa Rosa County who have experienced flooding on their property are encouraged to attend. Presentations will provide information on our local waterbodies, impacts to these coastal areas.



The SRC Stormwater Solutions Program will offer 6 reimbursement incentives to property owners who attend this program. Participation in this workshop is required to qualify for up to \$200.00 reimbursement incentive to install a green infrastructure project on your property. Photos and proof of expenditures will be required for reimbursement.

REGISTRATION IS FREE!

Lunch, Snacks and Water will be provided.

WORKSHOP DATE:

Saturday, February 16, 2019, 9am - 4pm

**Registration is required
and
Seats are limited!**

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/src-stormwater-solutions-green-infrastructure-and-watershed-tour-tickets-49216129769>.

Contact Chris Verlinde at chrimsv@ufl.edu or 850-623-3868 or Shelley Alexander at shelleya@santarosa.fl.gov or 981-2018



Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/hearing/meeting is asked to advise the University of Florida at least 72 hours before the workshop/hearing/meeting by contacting Chris Verlinde at 850-623-3868.

If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the University by calling (352) 846-1046.

Extension Service programs are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. The use of trade names in this article is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the product name(s) and does not signify that they are approved to the exclusion of others