



Newsletter

Summer 2019

www.littlelagoon.org

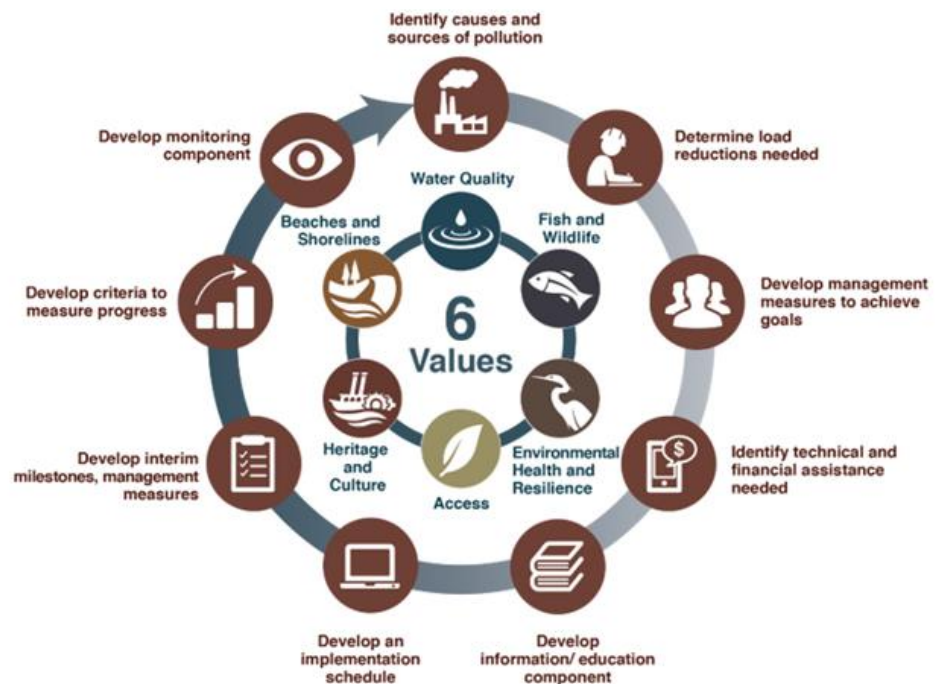
**Next meeting:
Tuesday July 18,
2019**

**5:30 p.m.
Gulf Shores Activity Center
260 Clubhouse Drive**

Little Lagoon Watershed Management Plan

The Gulf Coast is a living treasure that supports both ecological and human uses. Its lands and water deserve wise stewardship. Please come to hear how you can be a part of this effort led by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program to develop a Perdido / Gulf Frontal Watershed Management Plan. This plan will use stakeholder engagement coupled with science-based solutions to set goals focused on common values most important to those living in Coastal Alabama. It will determine a suite of projects and programs targeted to improve ecosystem services within the watershed, and - most importantly - target future funding opportunities to areas where they would result in the greatest benefit. This brief presentation will provide an overview of the planning process and discuss the need for your vital input and unique insight into the environmental challenges we face. Funding for this project comes under the RESTORE Act as administered by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.

Geosyntec Consultants have been selected as the contractor to prepare the Watershed Management Plan for the Perdido Pass and Little Lagoon watersheds in Baldwin County, and will be the presenters for the member meeting on July 18, 2019 5:30 p.m., at the Gulf Shores Activity Center. The first half hour of the meeting provides an opportunity to meet, mingle and enjoy refreshments. The program begins at 6 and will include a question-and-answer period.



Little Lagoon Pass Update

The last dredging cycle was completed January 2, 2019, and mother nature continues to keep the Pass open, though it remains minimally compliant with the court order. There have been a few instances of trigger conditions being reached caused by shoaling at the pass mouth, but nature has “blown open the channel” and kept it in compliance each time. The channel appears to be near trigger north of the bridge and along the west wall of the pass.

Oyster Gardening Update

Wednesday June 12th baby oysters set on shell were delivered to 48 gardens. The original plan was for oyster delivery on Sat June 1 but the oysters at the hatchery did not cooperate. Due to spat mortality the plan changed to Sat June 8th. Weather delayed our June 8th delivery to gardens, and we rescheduled to Wed June 12th. Delivery on the 12th was a great effort by our team consisting of PJ Waters, Emma Cochran, Elizabeth Winter, Ron Phelps, Laurie and Tom Eberly, Dillie and Jim Wammock, Peter Gursky, Tom Shepard, Tim Hill, Gary Smallwood and Dennis Hatfield. All gardeners were ready, and the delivery went smoothly. Zone Captains are in the process of reaching out to gardeners in their respective zone to offer help with any questions or problems, measure oysters and help optimize production for our gardening effort. Thanks to Zone Captains Ron Phelps, Robert Sorrells, Harry King, Laurie Eberly, Greg Bourgeois, Brooke Shinn, Dillie Wammock and Dennis Hatfield for this team effort.

Committee Activity Updates

- **Watershed Management Plan (WMP)** A small group of local watershed stakeholders including Ron and Dennis met on May 23rd for contractor selection for our Lagoon WMP. The group reviewed 3 very qualified contractors (Geosyntec Consultants, Thompson Engineering, and Wood Group) and unanimously voted for Geosyntec. Dennis and Ron liked their scientific expertise and energy during the interview. Thompson was a close second. A contract with Geosyntec is currently being finalized with Mobile Bay National Estuary Program and the State of Alabama.
- **LL Restoration Project** There has been a change in priority of Restoration project components per Dan Bond, City of Gulf Shores (COGS). Oysters will still be up and running first managed by PJ Waters and Auburn. Septic tank conversion has moved up in the que followed closely by Living Shorelines. Because Dr. Eric Sparks (Mississippi State Coastal Research) was not listed in the original plan submittal for funding, it has been difficult to designate him as a team lead for living shorelines in the same fashion PJ was written into the process. Dan is working to get him involved as a contractor.
- **Laguna Cove property acquisition** – Laguna Cove is a done deal. \$3,400,000.00 was provided by Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) to COGS and a gift by seller Erie Meyer Foundation to the COGS for the balance in the amount of \$2,205,000.00. Total sales price is \$5,605,000. Next step will be public hearings for input on park/dune restoration plan. Sat, April 27th Dennis presented the history and possible future of Laguna Cove to West Beach Property Owners Association (WBPOA) Spring meeting. The talk was well received, by a good group of people!

Linda Ward is the new WBPOA President. There will probably be a fishing pier and kayak launch, plus dune restoration for the property.

- **Outreach** Gulf Shores High School Earth Science teacher Krista Marcum is gardening 2 gardens at Dennis's pier this summer. She will incorporate the gardens into her classes in the fall and students will become involved when school starts. Student/school bus visits to the garden are anticipated.
- **Website** - Turk-Reno, website developer out of Mobile, has been contracted to build, maintain and host a new website for LLPS. Thanks to owner Taylor Ripley we were able to encourage the current website developer to restore access to the LLPS website and were able to update financials and user Data Base (DB). Half the cost to develop the new website is \$1077 which has already been paid upfront. When the Website is finished the balance will be due. This includes all but the financial DB. Still looking at what might work best for the Financials, maybe QuickBooks integrated into the website. There may be an additional cost for the financial module. A small annual hosting fee will be paid. Taylor Ripley also has some great ideas and functionality on social media.
- **Membership** – Need volunteers for Membership Drives.

2019 Dues are now being collected. Please make sure you have submitted your dues for 2019. \$25 for one-year membership gives you updates on Little Lagoon health and ongoing efforts to preserve the Lagoon for years to come. LLPS policy is to deactivate members that are more than 2 years in arrears on membership dues. You can pay by snail mail and a check or by using PayPal: <http://littlelagoon.org/membership> Thank you.

Financials

January 1, 2019 thru March 31, 2019	
Starting Balance	\$49,276.76
Total Income	\$1,805.00
Total Expenses	\$658.10
Ending Balance	\$50,423.66

Notable expenses-Probe shipping (\$267.50), Survey Monkey (\$111), PO Box Rent (\$102)

April 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2019	
Starting Balance	\$50,423.66
Total Income	\$5,130.00
Total Expenses	\$2,721.09
Ending Balance	\$52,832.57

Notable expenses- Directors & Officers Liability Insurance (\$874), Alabama Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce dues (\$194), Norton (\$114), Oyster Gardening seminar (\$130.24), New website (\$1077.92), Survey Monkey (\$111)

We invite you to be a part of preserving Little Lagoon for generations to come. Your support is crucial if we are to preserve and protect this unique environment. Please join us as a member of Little Lagoon Preservation Society



Members receive a quarterly newsletter, meeting notifications, and updates regarding special issues.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Email allows us to keep our costs down so that a greater percentage of your donation may be applied toward our goals. Your email will be used by LLPS only to distribute newsletters and any important LLPS communications.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

\$25 \$50 \$75 other \$ _____

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

\$10

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

\$200 other \$ _____

Business members are eligible to place a logo on LLPS brochures and a link to their web site on the LLPS site, www.littlelagoon.org.

**Please complete this form and mail it with your check payable to LLPS
Little Lagoon Preservation Society
P. O. Box 3193**