



Mississippi-Alabama Gulf of Mexico Alliance Stakeholder Meeting Evaluation Summary
Biloxi, Mississippi – February 1, 2006
Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center

	Mailed Announcement		E-mail		Word of Mouth		Phone Call From Host	Other
1. How did you learn about this workshop?	15		12		14		6	6
	Federal Gov't	State Gov't	Local Gov't	Academic	Non-Profit	Academic	Citizen	Other
2. Please tell us which of the following best describes your professional affiliation.	3	12	1	11	9	4	3	5
	Low (1)	(2)	(3)	High (4)	Total Respondents			
3. What is your level of understanding of the variety of issues that impact the health of the Gulf of Mexico?	0	2	19	20	41			
	Not Effective (1)	(2)	(3)	Extremely Effective (4)	Total Respondents			
4. The white paper presentations were designed to introduce the audience to the five priority issues identified by the U.S. Ocean Commission Report and to increase the audience's understanding of the impacts of these issues on the health of the Gulf of Mexico. On a scale of 1-4, how effective were these presentations?	0	6	23	12	41			

	Not Effective (1)	(2)	(3)	Extremely Effective (4)	Total Respondents
5. Case study presentations were designed to introduce the audience to regional projects that address the priority issues identified by the U.S. Ocean Commission Report. These presentations were also designed to increase awareness of the complexities associated with these issues and to generate thoughts about how communities can further address these issues. On a scale of 1-4, how effective were these presentations?	1	5	23	11	40
	Yes	No	Unsure		Total Respondents
6. Do you intend to apply the knowledge you have gained with respect to the variety of issues that impact the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico to your work?	40	0	1		41
	Yes	No	Unsure		Total Respondents
7. Was the format of the workshop conducive to discussing those issues you consider to be high priority with respect to the health of the Gulf of Mexico?	38	0	3		41

8. Why or why not?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great opportunity to present/exchange ideas - good open conversations • Conducive to input; comprehensive agenda • You could freely voice concerns • Brought together a great mix of stakeholders! • LA has some very different pressures from AL/MS • The “Brain Dump” allowed for a good discussion • Breakouts were beneficial • Was helpful conducting discussion groups after context had been developed • It varied speakers, engaged audience - small and large group participants exhibited respect to various opinions allowing a “safe” environment for expression. • Fought getting sleepy with so many presentations - glad they were short • These issues are already part of my job responsibilities • Small break out groups • Good citizen input • Good citizen input • Great opportunity for networking • However, nutrient discussion underemphasized • The discussions were well focused and guided. We stayed on target. • Not a start from scratch effort, built on action plan • Open forum with opportunities for discussion and information exchange. • Could voice your concerns. 				
	Yes	No	Unsure		Total Respondents
9. Do you think you will apply new perspectives to your work and the decisions you make as a result of your interactions with others at this event?	31	2	7		40

10. If you could accomplish one thing under each of the five priority issues, what would it be?

Reductions in Nutrient Loading

- Develop education materials, explaining the problem; establish a MS River Watershed Alliance to coordinate reduction in nutrient loading
- Reward farmers for reducing nutrients leaving their farms; kick-off with a competition and reward farmer with a coastal vacation
- Implement BMPs in all agricultural and livestock operations upstream; reduce nitrogen levels in treated municipal sanitary wastewater
- Increase monitoring and research
- Better farm management practices; changing hydrology to put more water through marshes
- Centralize sewage systems to get rid of septic systems and reroute storm drains
- Buy-in of upstream states
- Increase wastewater infrastructure
- Identification of source(s)
- Educate the public
- Get the word out
- Reduce pesticides on lawns
- Increase funding and develop a clearinghouse for data and ideas (applicable to all issues)
- Have facts handy to convince citizens to take care not to contribute unnecessary nutrients to the environment
- Sewer system run-off should be banned in back bays; paper plan discharge should be banned in back bays
- Eliminate the dead zone
- Public education; adequate monitoring of real time distribution of information
- Promote BMPs; nutrient and pollutant reductions through stormwater management
- Apply this to stream work I do with riparian landowners
- Regionalize and upgrade wastewater treatment in South Mississippi
- Effective stormwater management
- Monitor the nutrient loading periodically
- Relate land use to nutrient loading
- Unknown

Improving Gulf Water Quality

- Now volunteer with MBNEP and am an oyster gardener - also support clean-up actions
- Establish Gulf-wide monitoring program; identify major source of polluters
- Improving sewer systems and reduce the chemical applications, such as pesticides or other agricultural chemicals
- Research shellfish bed restoration following hurricanes, etc.
- Install central sewage treatment and get rid of all septic systems; restore cultch material to impacted shellfish beds
- Better farm management practice for sediment; more sewage treatment

- Reroute storm drains and get rid of septic systems
- Increased, coordinated sampling program to address multiple WQ issues
- Long term regional planning
- Attend workshops
- Funding
- Restrict polluters from building on the coastline without buffers
- Assist state and federal agencies with beach restoration efforts
- Fight new development that would add human impact to coastal region
- Set back all construction 1500 feet from the coast
- 100% swimmable, fishable water
- More monitoring of coastal areas
- See above; participate in outreach
- Apply riverine effects to coastal marshes, estuaries, and oyster nursery and growout beds
- Get casinos unhappy over beach closures so something will be done about it
- Provide more efficient wastewater treatment
- Reduce agricultural or residential chemical use
- Watershed protection

Restoration of Coastal Wetlands

- Son, via boy scouts on Dauphin Island, does this (replanting)
- Re-establish significant % of lost wetlands; strengthen legislation governing wetland use
- Continue current protection - and develop strategic wetland development initiative to strategically locate wetlands where their function is needed and in areas safe from sea level rising
- Use of dredge spoils to restore lost wetlands; Gulf-wide sharing of those resources
- Purchase additional coastal property
- Abandon Mississippi Delta below Venice; use sediment to rebuild barrier islands
- Assess the coastline to determine where the greatest need for restoration is located in order to prioritize projects and include restoration of adjacent upland habitats (buffers)
- Master plan that's also feasible allowing deposit of sediment
- Improve regulation and enforcement related to wetland protection
- Consider opportunities for large-scale/small scale (individuals) restoration
- Enforce wetlands protection regulations in place; reduce the ability to destroy wetlands
- Educate the public
- Funding
- Advocate/legislate for restoration as official municipality policies
- Grow native grasses and help restore coastal wetlands using high school students
- Motivate businesses and residents to pursue native landscaping
- Restore 10% of Gulf-wide wetland systems
- Fund restoration projects/expansion of knowledge/more public involvement
- Importance of sediment transport to marsh building
- One successful large scale restoration project in each county - tout it and educate citizens about it

- Stabilize eroding shorelines and replant lost wetlands
- Prevent invasive species spreading
- Importance of wetlands related to development

Identification of Gulf Habitats to Inform Management

- Unknown
- Involve GOMA leaders in identification process; increase baseline data to support decisions
- Involve public through education, monitoring, reporting
- Mapping of watershed and perform a build out scenario
- Training programs
- Funding
- Increase funding for inventory of Gulf habitats
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- Convince management of the significance of this information
- Better improved GIS capabilities and software
- Control and continue evaluation of invasive species
Comprehensive data development and distribution; funding and training/local citizen involvement
- CELC plan for MS
- Provide training for habitat assessment and identification
- Working web and collaboration

Gulf of Mexico Environmental Education

- Work with Dauphin Island Sea Lab (Foundation) and support their outreach education programs
- Secure proper funding; develop and implement public information campaigns
- Support NAAEE's state affiliates; the SE NAAEE affiliates are organizing and could easily be engaged in related education initiatives
- Education concerning the environment in an integrated context with all other subjects – use of hands-on and third party teaching
- Promote educational programs; coordinate across state lines
- Include in school curriculum
- Work within the proposed network
- I believe there should be an emphasis placed on life-long learning to allow for continuing re-enforcement and reward for good environmental behavior and promote stewardship for our coastal resources
- Compliment this process
- Work to promote citizen involvement in watershed planning
- Reach the masses with knowledge and provide obvious, easy sources to present questions and obtain information
- Create a media campaign
- Involve leaders

- Involve movers and shakers
- Establish more engaging education events for the adult general public
- I have been teaching environmental ed. For 15 years. I plan to continue these efforts.
- Inform public to the level that they become active advocates for appropriate policy-making and policy enforcement regarding any activities affecting the Gulf
- Constantly provide information to public especially in schools
- Comprehensive coordinated Gulf-wide effort
- Coordinate those efforts with hired coordinator
- Unite communities - expansion of coastal ecosystem learning center and placement in under sourced communities
- I think our museum's education effort can become a partner in GOMEX environmental education
- Reach the adults – many interested, intelligent but uneducated on this subject; citizens would be involved if presented correctly
- Educate public on the importance of GOM and how they can participate in an effective way
- TV program
- Information for general public; use layman's language