



Community Workshop Evaluation Summary Questions 1-7
Naples, Florida – June 10, 2005
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

	Mailed Annoucement	Email	Word of Mouth	Telephone call	Website	Other
1. How did you learn about this workshop?	2	9	9	1	1	6
	1 (Low)	2	3	4 (High)	Total Respondents	
2. What is your level of understanding of issues that can affect a healthy gulf?	0	2	16	9	27	
	0%	7.41%	59.26%	33.33%	100.00%	
3. How helpful was the overview of white papers in understanding the Gulf States' issues?	1	9	11	4	25	
	4.00%	36.00%	44.00%	16.00%	100.00%	
4. How helpful were the case studies in understanding the complexity of issues and possible solutions?	2	4	13	5	24	
	8.33%	16.67%	54.17%	20.83%	100.00%	
	Yes	No	Unsure	Total Respondents		
5. Was the format of this workshop conducive to discussing your issues with respect to the health of the Gulf of Mexico?	17	1	8	26		

5) Was the format of this workshop conducive to discussing your issues with respect to the health of the Gulf of Mexico? Why or why not?

- Yes - Issues, but not new, looking forward to next steps/implementation
- Yes - As info gathering
- Yes but more discussion could have been provided for the participants rather than lecture
- Yes - Different perspectives of the multiple stakeholders
- I think the breakout sessions were very useful and informative
- Yes – however, the breakout session was not long enough for an effective discussion
- Yes – but their needs to be more recreational and ecotour operator input and more layman directed information.
- Especially useful were the breakout sessions
- Yes – but I recognize it is just a beginning
- Yes – the opportunity to meet others who are working towards the goal of good water quality is extremely important
- Yes – particularly the afternoon sessions
- Somewhat – the presenters were excellent. The brainstorming was interesting. The format was tight. The attendance from the private sector was surprisingly slim. Especially from significant beneficiaries of the Gulf of Mexico: Ex. Developers, real estate, and financial institution representatives. All in all though a very informative and worthwhile time investment
- Yes - the brainstorming and prioritization sessions were excellent – web resources and documents related to US Ocean Policy Action Plan were great and the verbal power point summaries helpful
- Yes – liked the 3x5 cards and voting and breakout sessions
- Yes – but the workshop time too short – great way to see more than one side to issue – great forum to get a glimpse of science vs. everyday concerns
- I wish the breakout session would have lasted longer
- Not enough time for discussion, need a broader audience
- Yes – with more awareness and knowledge on everyone’s perspectives of water quality and safety
- Yes – good crosssection of agency and stakeholders
- Yes – good overview – trying to cover huge topic in limited time most challenging to be the first place to host the conference series – setting the bar for others to reach for and beyond.
- Yes – enough of the different agencies involved to be effective. Communication with the understanding that concerns will be relayed and possibly addressed.
- All levels interaction

6) If you could accomplish one thing under each of the five priority issues what would it be?

Reductions in nutrient loading

- Slow with a goal of eventually stopping the discharge of nutrients upstream

- Our company is playing a role in the solution offering to developers, golf courses, consumers a high quality environmentally friendly organic fertilizer
- Enforce “no net loss” of wetlands
- Strict regulation of fertilizer use in domestic/agriculture paired with accurate monitoring
- Local government land use/permitting decisions need to change. Base on impervious surface thresholds/area
- Develop a state water quality standard for nutrient (total maximum daily load for nutrients)
- Reduce sources of nutrients
- Get labeling on fertilizer and pesticide containers @ non point run-off
- Finding what is an acceptable level of nutrients then working to reduce source
- Less annual fertilization, but choosing organic (green) sources rather than chemical/synthetic.
- Convert septic systems to tertiary treatment and enforce outfall regulations
- Golf course runoff/educate the use of native plants for landscaping
- I’m trying very hard to report this. I’m aware of illegal activity but even though FWC, DEP, EPA acknowledge this they say nothing they can do.
- Encouraging sustainable design in community development
- Monitor and enforce violations
- Storm water improvements
- Scientific solutions to reduce need for and types of fertilizer
- Enforce existing regulations
- Comprehensive measures of what is going in from land-based sources

Improving Gulf water quality, emphasis on beaches and shellfish beds

- Availability of tools for defining the relationship between land use and water quality
- Help build awareness of the quality of life risk that continued practices play in the degradation of these Southwest Florida assets
- Enforcement of clean water act and “no net loss of wetlands” rule
- Improve sewage treatment and combined storm/sewer overflow and output to coast
- Stop inappropriate Caloosahatchee releases
- Develop total maximum load standards and implement/enforce them
- Finding what is an acceptable level of nutrients then working to reduce source
- Education at the general public level PSAs on T.V., etc. on water quality and how it affects you
- Improve identification of problem areas or sources and monitoring
- Pollution preservation to drains which lead to Gulf eventually
- Storm water treatment (no ocean outfalls)
- We don’t have the answer yet – we oversell the white fluffy beaches, mangroves are over looked by new public and visitors

- Enforce current local, state, federal ordinances, statutes, and laws. Stop passing the buck to the next agency
- Increasing public awareness
- Monitor and enforce violations
- Storm water improvements
- Emphasize ecological health rather than (unreal) health issues
- Increase education efforts to the public
- Really address freshwater management issues – buy land for retention zones coming to Lake Okeechobee

Restoration of coastal wetlands

- Change federal laws
- Purchase programs/land acquisition
- Help build awareness of the quality of life risk that continued practices play in the degradation of these Southwest Florida assets
- Monitor and ensure preservation of mitigation parcels
- Start by protecting existing wetlands
- Buy all available land – require (locally) removal of exotic invasive plants, say no to additional impacts on wetlands and avoid mitigation needs
- First stop permitting the destruction of wetlands and drainage of flow ways, then restore hydrology of wetlands remaining
- Limiting wetland encroachment through development
- Prioritize those critical sites that need restoration now
- Curtail activities that facilitate loss and provide incentives for restoration
- New plantings but identify sources of degradation and suppress them
- Stop habitat destruction (regulate development)
- I don't think we can build a wetland from scratch even marginally healthy systems have a chance and should not be written off and developed
- Greater education in schools to promote young stewards that will continue working on restoration as they mature
- Encourage public participation
- Limit development encroaching on wetlands
- Public land purchase
- Stop the loss first (easiest!) [sic]
- Increase monitoring so we know how the restoration efforts are working
- Provide economic incentive

Identification of Gulf habitats to inform management

- Baseline information for planning future development consistent criteria

- Help build awareness of the quality of life risk that continued practices play in the degradation of these Southwest Florida assets
- Engage research community in comprehensive assessment – and ensure all data collected, future and previously with tax payer funds are made public
- More monitoring and research (this is unclear – subject underlined)
- Don't know what that means
- Develop a Gulf habitat map that is user friendly
- Catalog habitats and transfer science to managers in a useful format
- Alert government agencies with issues and desire published information
- I do not understand this statement
- A GIS system with ground truthing needs to be continuously updated with the most current information – are the habitats defined? What is the goal of preservation?
- Listen more closely to locals who have been trying extremely hard to be heard
- Not necessary
- Compilation of existing large scale information on all Gulf habitats including circulation and other transient features
- Cross reference any existing data . . . instead of each agency continuing overlapping efforts
- What does this mean?

Gulf of Mexico environmental education

- Macro – vision create a sense of ownership for “international” mindset, multi media – educate the masses in an entertaining fashion
- Help build awareness of the quality of life risk that continued practices play in the degradation of these Southwest Florida assets
- Educate consumers of environmental services as to the costs and value of the environmental service provided by our natural heritage – establish credible values for environmental functions and spread the knowledge
- Coordinate using COSEE, Sea grant, NERR
- Reach multicultural/minority audiences with materials in their language and marketed to their needs/concerns/desires
- Consistent info to general public at an understandable level
- Develop a five state standard curriculum for Gulf of Mexico at the elementary school level
- Improve teacher training and public awareness
- Inform others as I get informed, spread the good word
- Help all people (coastal residents as well as visitors) appreciate that they have a stake in the quality of the Gulf and sustainability
- Environmental education begins with kids – you don't save what you don't understand – this must continue into adulthood (whatever that is) and beyond. Awaken the child within
- Continue the good job that Rookery Bay and Corkscrew are doing now. Take the politics out of the conservancy SWFL and get back to the environmental concerns instead of taking care of fundraisers and their lawsuits

- Identify the most successful programs and provide funding to make these available
- More adult education
- Adult!! Education – media
- What we have to lose/what we are losing/ what we have lost – what we can do to stem/reverse the loss
- Don't forget about low income and often multicultural communities who do not generally have the same access to the Gulf as the wealthy (who own boats and/or waterfront property)
- Issue consistent, interesting, approachable information to the media – come up with good and varied story angles. Cool, positive stories on underwater life – explain how it is at risk

7) Any additional comments

- Breakout sessions were not long enough – larger groups during these sessions may be difficult to manage
- An excellent idea! I foresee great accomplishments if we can all work together for a healthy Gulf
- The breakout sessions could have been longer
- Should provide name, contact info and area of specialization
- Discussion of priority issues (before lunch) was disjointed and confusing. Some slides have typographical errors
- Coalitions need to be expanded to multimedia partnerships to help educate the public in hopes of overcoming the general apathetic attitudes that exist today on many fronts
- Congratulations! Thank you for the opportunity and experience to learn and meet people with similar concerns that are taking action to accomplish positive change
- Ensure there is an open and responsive process of feedback between the public, industry, academia and government
- The process needs to include large-scale phenomena like climate change that require a strategy for policy makers. This was absent from this process today
- Important to recognize following conference by conservancy on this issue, thanks and please continue to do so as it is designed to be complimentary to the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's mission and objectives
- What next? How to implement?
- For stakeholders you need to give some basic information in layman's terms on the issues and problems – not just refer to government reports. It is often dangerous to say one issue is more important or greater risk than another, better to set multiple priorities. Don't lose bigger issues that communities may not identify as a priority (e.g. climate change and overfishing)
- Excellent workshop
- Congrats on the first meeting on the Gulf health overdue – it is most difficult to begin the first step and hopefully the momentum will pick up and move all the Gulf states/countries towards solutions. Realistically it will be a slow and methodical process but if we did not try then nothing would occur and we would continue to lose wetlands and lose quality as well
- Naples' local government has such a narrow political agenda it is extremely hard to promote any grassroots efforts that truly involve the community (Marty mains' master naturalist program is extremely helpful) Thanks for starting a process I feel will be invaluable service to all of us that live in the Gulf of Mexico states
- Wonderful day with potential for great outcomes

- Need to deal with overfishing issue