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BAYS

ESTUARY PROGRAM

at FSU PANAMA CITY



CONSENSUS CENTER



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WELCOME

Irvin Clark, EdD, Associate Dean

Student & Strategic Initiatives

Irvin Clark <iclark2@pc.fsu.edu>

Florida State University Panama City

Policy Board Member Introductions

Coordination Team Introductions



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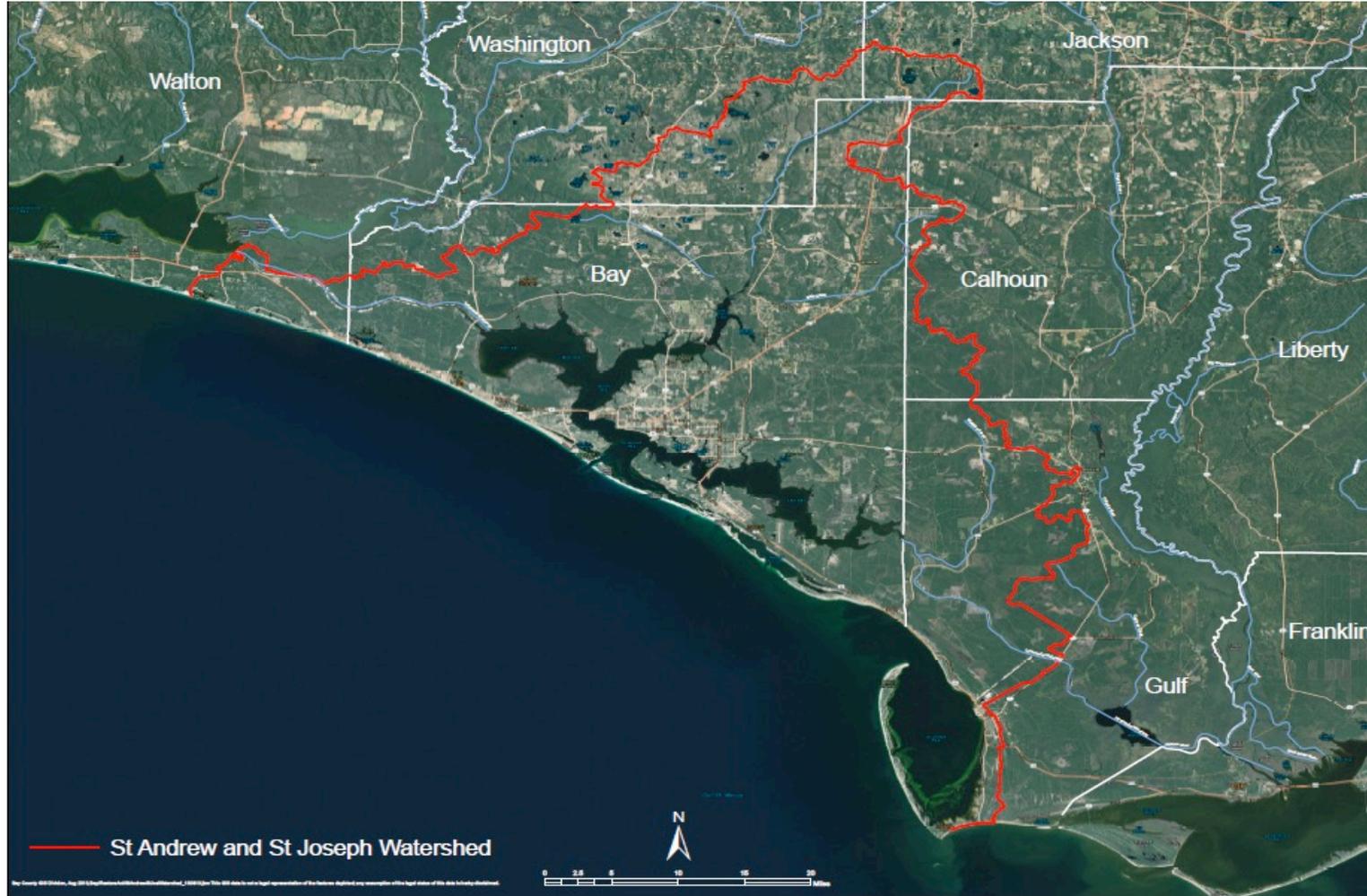


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St. Andrew/St. Joseph Bays Estuary Policy Board Organizational Meeting #1 Objectives

1. Introduce the Estuary Program
2. Review assessment findings and recommendations
3. Identify and discuss members' desired outcomes for the program as a first step towards developing draft vision and mission statements
4. Review and refine position requirements and process for recruiting the Executive Director for the Estuary Program



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Organizational Meeting #1, February 25, 2021 Agenda

- 1:00 Welcome and introductions
Overview of St Andrew and St Joseph Bays estuary – Jim Muller, Bay County Restore Coordinator
Overview of Assessment Findings and Recommendations – Bob Jones, FSU Consensus Center
Sunshine guidance – Craig Miller, FSU Associate General Counsel
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Introduction to the work plan and upcoming meetings
Initial discussion of desired outcomes for the estuary and the Estuary Program
Review, refinement and approval of recruitment process and position requirements for Executive Director
Public comment
- 4:00 Adjourn



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Discussion and Comment Guidelines

- Expect and respect differing perspectives
- Focus on ideas and suggestions, not people
- Speak to help others understand your point of view
- Listening indicates an effort to understand, not agreement
- Offering an idea means you want to explore it, not that you necessarily support it
- Share the air-time
- Say everything that needs to be said, concisely



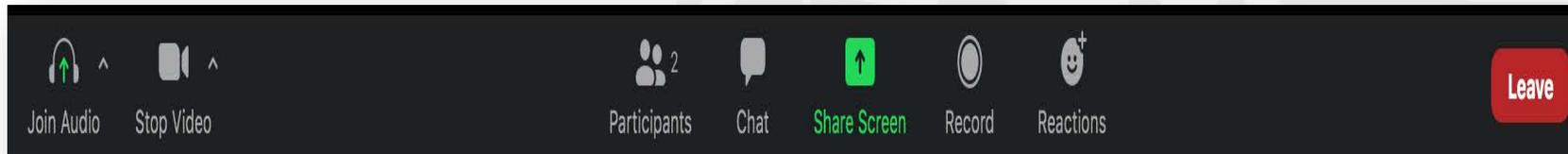
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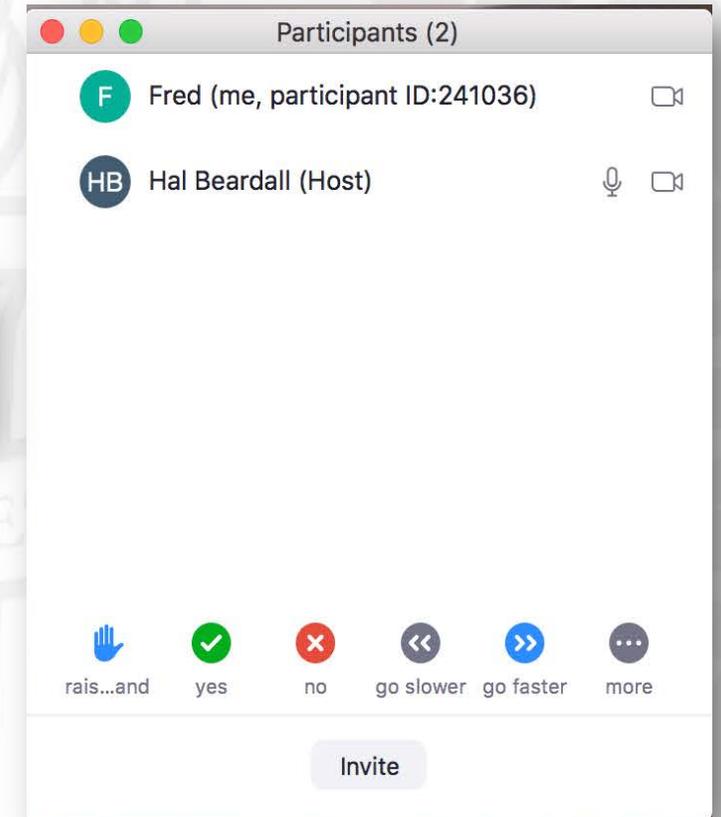
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Raise your electronic hand to speak



Or #9 (if you are on a phone)





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Estuary Host and Initial Funders

- The St. Andrew/St. Joseph Bays and Watershed Estuary Program, is hosted by Florida State University Panama City
- Initial support provided by Bay County RESTORE Act funds, The Nature Conservancy, the Florida Legislature, and Florida State University Panama City



The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.



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St. Andrew/St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program Work Plan Overview

I.

II.

III.

CCMP Plan Adoption 2023

Stakeholder Assessment
Report, Dec. 2020

Policy Board
Convened Feb. 2021

**PHASE II – CCMP DEVELOPMENT
AUG 2021. - DEC. 2022**

**PHASE III – CCMP FINALIZATION
AND ADOPTION JAN. - JUL. 2023**

**PHASE I – STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT
AND PROGRAM STAND-UP, AUG. 2020- JUL. 2021**

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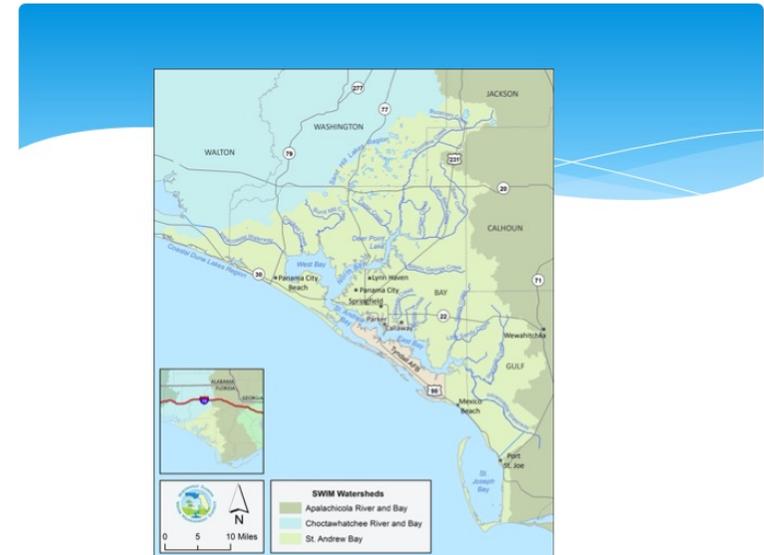
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Introduction to the St. Andrew & St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program

Jim Muller
Bay County RESTORE
Act Coordinator





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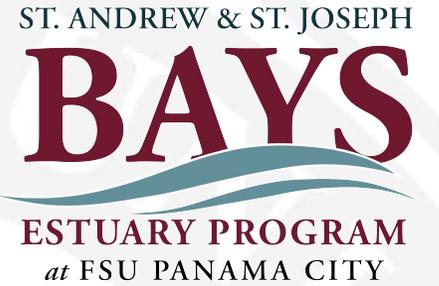
STAKEHOLDER SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS INTERVIEWED

(83 INTERVIEWS)

Academic/ Centers/ Schools	Local Government
Business/Industry/Tourism	State and Federal Agencies
Civic/Community/Citizens	Military
Conservation Organizations	Recreational and Commercial Fishing/ Boating
Estuary and Coastal Programs	



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STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT KEY ESTUARY CHALLENGES

(Most Frequently Mentioned)

1. Stormwater and Flood Protection (131)	6. Fisheries (80) Water Quality (80) East Pass (80)
2. Governance and Estuary Programs (121)	7. Growth, Development, Construction (77)
3. Watershed Approach (93)	8. Military Missions (69) Recovery and Resilience (69)
4. Economy, Economic Development, Business, Tourism	9. Marine Habitat Loss, Aquatic Preserves, Seagrass Loss, Protected & Invasive Species, Shoreline Restoration, Sea Level Rise (56)
5. Wastewater/Septic Infrastructure	10. Industry and a Working Bay (54)



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KEY ESTUARY ASSESSMENT THEMES

1. OVERALL CROSSCUTTING THEMES
2. INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES FOR HEALTHY BAYS
3. COASTAL CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES FOR HEALTHY BAYS
4. ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND A WORKING BAY
5. THE WATER-LAND INTERFACE FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
6. RESEARCH, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
7. QUALITY OF LIFE AND HERITAGE AS A FISHING COMMUNITY





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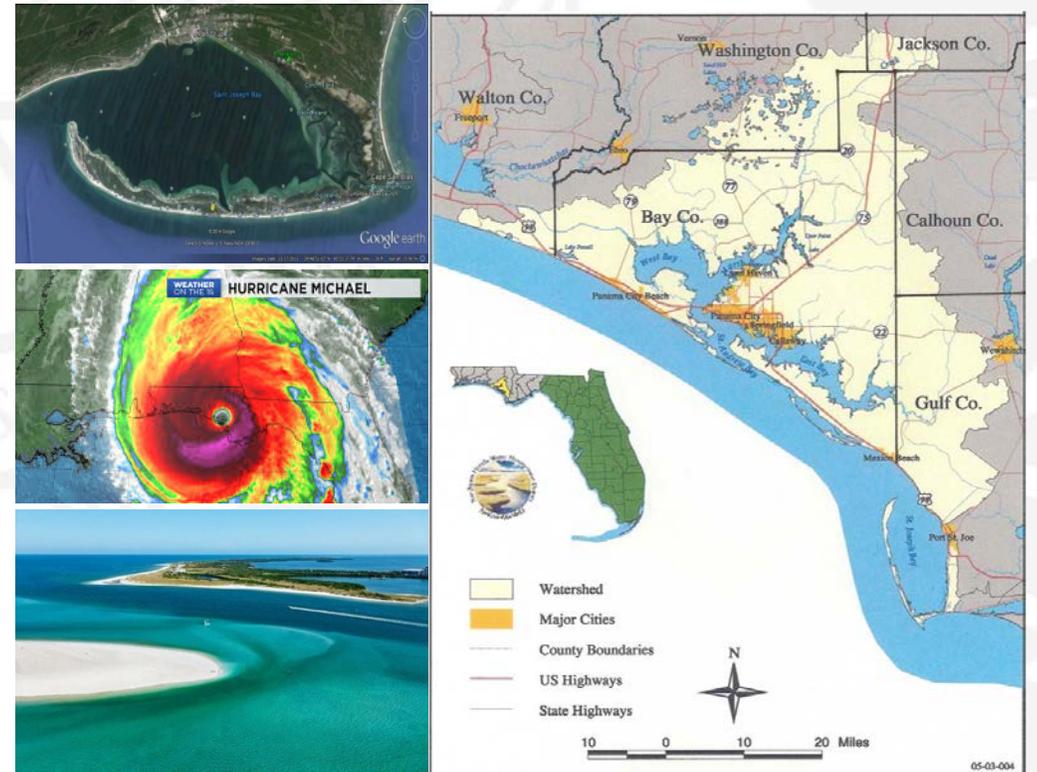
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STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFIED KEY ESTUARY CHALLENGES

OVERALL CROSSCUTTING THEMES

- Estuary Program Governance (121)
- Watershed Approach (93)
- Resilience and Recovery (69)
- Funding (21)





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STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFIED KEY ESTUARY CHALLENGES

INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES FOR HEALTHY BAYS

- Stormwater and Flood Protection (131)
- Wastewater- Septic and Sewer infrastructure and Impacts on the Bays (89)
- Natural Infrastructure, Living Shorelines, Land Acquisition (38)
- Transportation (29)
- Water Supply (17)





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STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFIED KEY ESTUARY CHALLENGES

COASTAL CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES FOR HEALTHY BAYS

- Water Quality Issues and Monitoring (80)
- East Pass- Flushing and Dredging (80)
- Fisheries and Aquaculture (80)
- Bays Marine Habitat, Wetlands Preservation, Aquatic Preserves, Seagrass, Protected and Invasive Species and Sea Level Rise (54)
- Intracoastal Canal Connecting Bays systems (29)
- Red Tides and Algae Blooms (13}
- Shoreline restoration, Beach Renourishment and Sand Dune Restoration(8)





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STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFIED KEY ESTUARY CHALLENGES

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND A WORKING BAY: BUSINESS/TOURISM/ INDUSTRY/MILITARY

- Economy/ Economic Development/Business/Tourism (90)
- Military missions and the Economy (66)
- Industry and a working Bay (54)
- The Recreation Economy (17)
- Workforce Development and Job Opportunities Estuary (7)
- Marine Science/Industry (5)





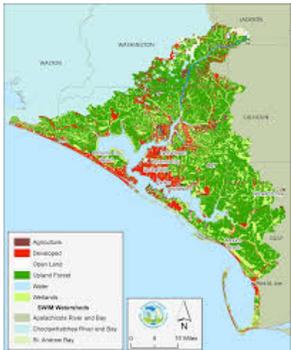
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STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFIED KEY ESTUARY CHALLENGES

THE WATER-LAND INTERFACE FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Growth/Development/Construction (77)
- Forestry, Silviculture and Urban Trees (34)
- Conservation Land Acquisition, and Land Stewardship (32)





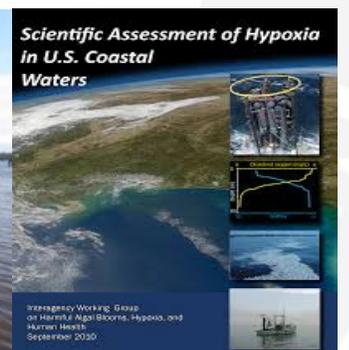
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RESEARCH, PUBLIC AND LEADERSHIP EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Public Education (34)
- Studies of the Bays and Watershed (8)
- Marine Science/Industry Education (5)





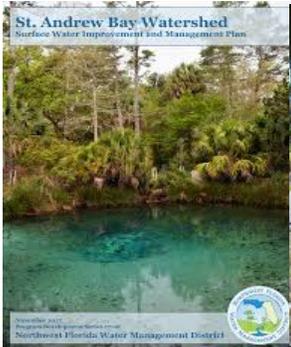
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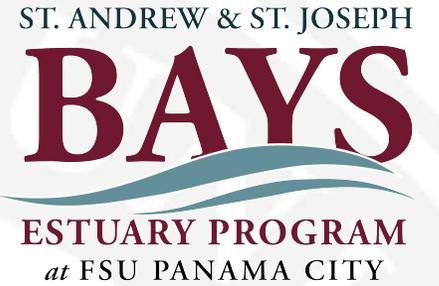
QUALITY OF LIFE AND HERITAGE AS A FISHING COMMUNITY

- Community Values (25)
- Parks, Recreation and Access to the Bays (25)
- Cultural Heritage & Working Waterfronts (10)





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STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

<i>Finding 1: A Healthy Estuary & Bays</i>	<i>Finding 5: Communication and Coordination</i>
<i>Finding 2: A Consensus Plan-- science-based, collaborative process</i>	<i>Finding 6: Sustaining Military Missions</i>
<i>Finding 3: Stakeholder and Office Holder Willingness to Participate</i>	<i>Finding 7: Fishery & Habitat Agency Participation</i>
<i>Finding 4: Science and Data will support Estuary Recommendations</i>	<i>Finding 8: Engagement of Recreational and Commercial Fishing</i>



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STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Finding 9: Engagement of the Development Community

Finding 10: Education on the Bays and the Watershed

Finding 11: Public Engagement and Support

Finding 12: Engage Volunteer Organizations

Finding 13: Collaboration with Panhandle Estuary Programs

Finding 14: Business and Industry Engagement and Support



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Questions & Answers

Are any issues missing?





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STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Estuary Program Policy Board

- **Recommendation 1:** Policy Board consisting of voting members of elected representatives from local government jurisdictions and a representative of the host FSU Panama City.
- Non-voting representatives from relevant regional, state and federal agencies
- The Policy Board should elect co-chairs from the two counties initially participating.



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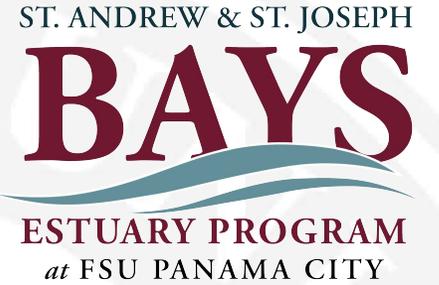
STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Estuary Program Policy Board, *continued*

- Provide overall direction in the to a community-supported, science-based effort, and make policy decisions
- Confirm and update the Estuary Program workplan and program priorities
- Recruit and recommend an Executive Director
- Review budgets and expenditures
- Appoint stakeholder representatives and experts to serve on the Management Council



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STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Estuary Program Policy Board

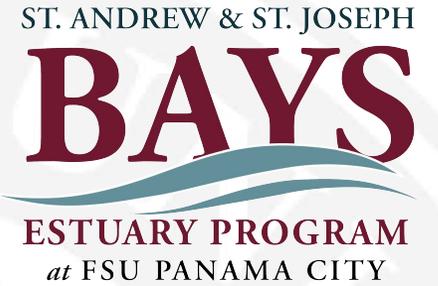
Twelve (12) Voting Members

Nine (9) Non-Voting Agencies Reps.

Two Bay County Commissioners (2)	FDEP (1)
One Gulf County Commissioner (1)	FFWCC (1)
<i>Mayors/City Commissioners</i>	DEO (1),
Callaway(1) Lynn Haven (1)	NWFWMD (1)
Mexico Beach (1) Panama City (1)	Emerald Coast Regional Council (1)
Panama City Beach (1) Parker (1)	EPA (1), NOAA (1)
Springfield (1) Port St. Joe (1)	USFWS (1) USACE (1)



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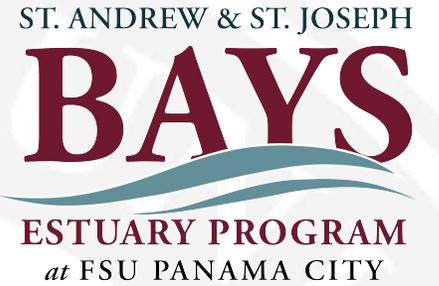
STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Estuary Program Governance

- **Recommendation 2:** Stakeholders recognized that Bay and Gulf counties, occupying 82% of the watershed, should participate directly in the the Estuary Program.
- The 4 counties comprising the remaining 18% of the watershed, with no municipalities located within the watershed, include Washington at 10%, Calhoun at 4%, Jackson at 2%, and Walton at 2%.
- Over time, these counties may come to see the value of the Estuary Program and could be invited to participate in the governance of the Estuary Program.



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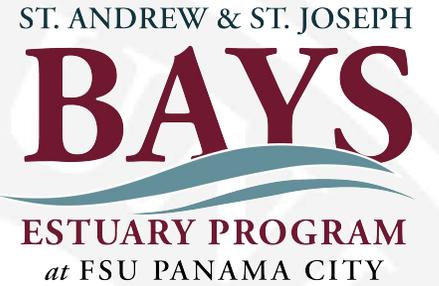
STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Open, Transparent & Participatory Process

- **Recommendation 3:** The Policy Board and Management Council should conduct meetings in an open and transparent process and allow for public comment at their meetings.
- The Estuary Program should offer opportunities for community input and engagement throughout the plan development process.



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STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Council

- **Recommendation 4:** The Policy Board should appoint, convene and charge a Management Council, consisting of representatives from key stakeholders to build consensus on a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the bays and watershed.
- The Council should include representatives from state, regional, and local government agencies, university research, conservation, citizen groups, business, industry and economic development, tourism, real estate, development, military, and commercial & recreational fishing.



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STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 4: Management Council

Academic/Research(2)	Industry/Trade (3)
Business/Tourism (3)	Local Government (10)
Civic/Community (3)	Federal, State & Regional Agencies (8)
Conservation (3)	Military (2)
Development/Construction/Real Estate (2)	Recreational and Commercial Fishing (2)



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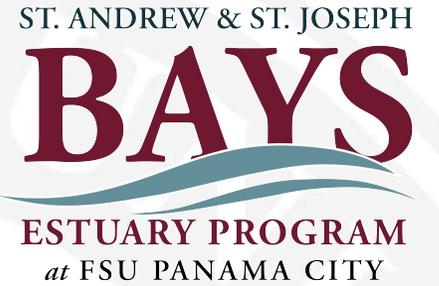
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Management Council Committees

- **Recommendation 5:** The Management Council should organize any committees or special area workgroups to assist it in the development of the CCMP. At a minimum, a technical committee (STEM Science, Technical, Engineering & Modeling) a community education, outreach and action committee, and a development and finance committee be established.



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STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Council, Policy Board and Member Local Government Updates

- **Recommendation 6:** The Management Council should regularly communicate, coordinate and share science and data as appropriate with the Policy Board and other restoration and management initiatives and projects in the watershed. In addition, the Estuary Program staff should provide regular updates with elected commissions and councils in the watershed regarding the status and direction of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.



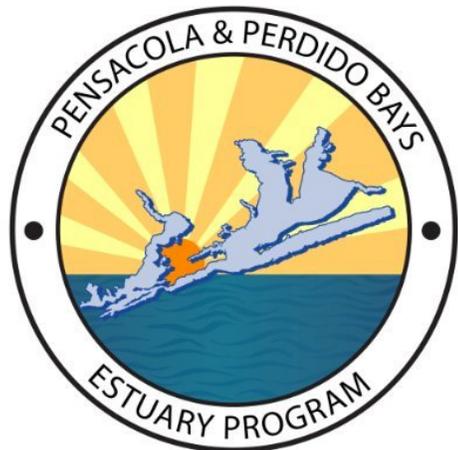
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STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Northwest Florida Estuary Programs

- **Recommendation 7:** The Policy Board, Management Council and Program Staff with other estuary programs in West Florida should explore opportunities for mutual assistance and expertise.





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Questions & Answers





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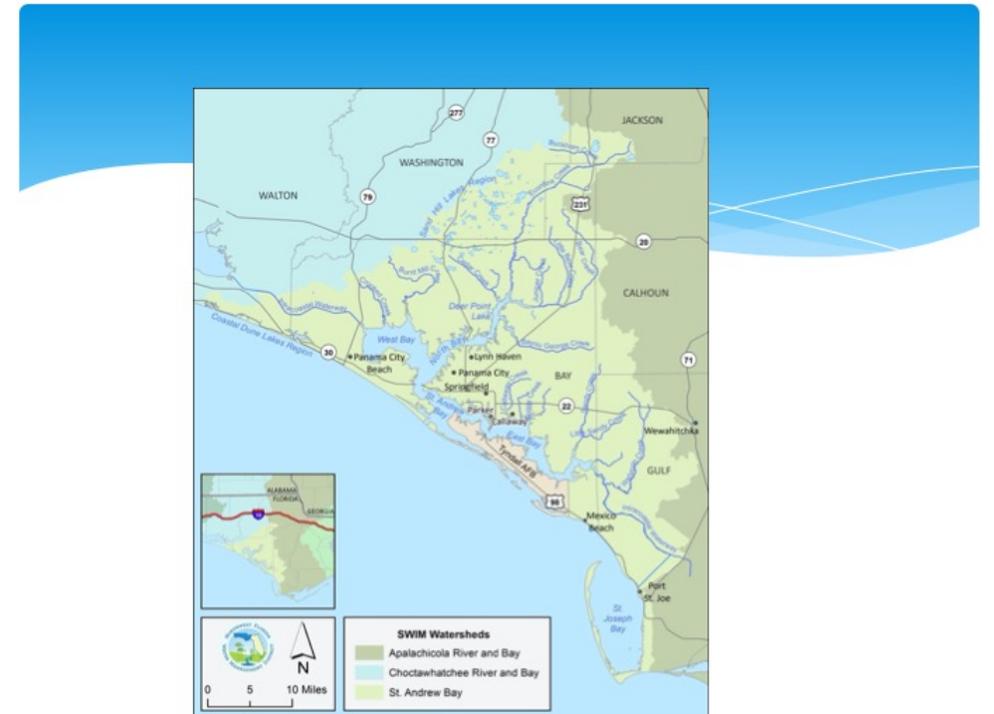
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Sunshine Guidance

Craig Miller

FSU Associate General Counsel





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The Work Plan and Upcoming Meetings





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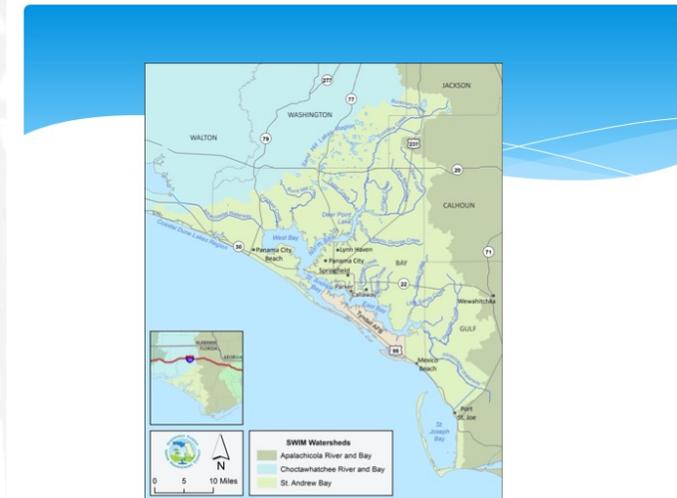
Desired outcomes for the estuary and the Estuary Program:

Think about the St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays estuary and the surrounding watershed as they are now.

Now imagine it is the year 2031. You have been asked to write a guest column in the Panama City News Herald about the bays and their watershed and how they have changed since 2021.

What do you say in the column?

What role did the Estuary Program play in those changes?





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Process for Recruiting Executive Director





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Public Comment

