



City of  
**Panama City Beach**

City Hall  
17007 PCB Parkway  
PCB, FL 32413  
www.pcbfl.gov

**MINUTES of the July 13, 2023, Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, and when permitted or required by the subject matter, the Panama City Beach Community Redevelopment Agency.**

**Mayor Mark Sheldon called the July 13, 2023, regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

- MAYOR MARK SHELDON**
- VICE MAYOR PAUL CASTO**
- COUNCILMAN PHIL CHESTER**
- COUNCILMEMBER MARY COBURN**
- COUNCILMAN MICHAEL JARMAN**

**A quorum was present with all five members of City Council.** Others present were City Manager Drew Whitman, Assistant City Manager Holly White, City Attorney Cole Davis, City Clerk Lynne Fasone, Directors, staff, and members of the public and press.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pastor Ramon Duvall from Beachside Fellowship Church led the invocation. Vice Mayor Paul Casto led the Pledge. Mayor Sheldon provided community announcements.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Sheldon called for approval of the June 22, 2023, regular meeting minutes. **Councilman Jarman so moved. Vice Mayor Casto seconded the motion. The June 22nd regular meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a roll call vote (5-0).**

Vice Mayor Casto	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilmember Coburn	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Sheldon called for approval and/or changes to the agenda. Hearing and seeing none, **Vice Mayor Casto moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Jarman seconded the motion. All were unanimously in favor of approval of the agenda, as presented, by a roll call vote (5-0).**

Vice Mayor Casto	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilmember Coburn	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

**Mayor**  
Mark Sheldon

**Vice Mayor**  
Paul Casto

**Ward 2**  
Phil Chester

**Ward 3**  
Mary Coburn

**Ward 4**  
Michael Jarman

**City Manager**  
Drew Whitman

**PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Sheldon invited Dr. Jessica Graham, Executive Director of the St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program, to the podium to provide an update on the program (copy of presentation attached).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS - NON-AGENDA BUSINESS (LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES)**

Mayor Sheldon opened the floor to non-agenda business public comments, limited to three minutes each.

1. Jody Moore with The Beacon of Bay County Florida, on Facebook - Ms. Moore noted she lived on Amherst Street in Lynn Haven. Ms. Moore commented that she was here to speak on Item J2. Mayor Sheldon invited her to come back up at that time. Ms. Moore thanked Council for looking into preserving St. Andrews Bay.
2. Frank Sewell –Mr. Sewell stated he lived in the Hidden Pines neighborhood and was here on behalf of the Bay County Republican Executive Committee. Mr. Sewell suggested a potential charter change to have a run-off if a candidate does not receive 50% or more of the vote in an election for future elections.
3. Scott Boatwright with Chairs to You Beach Service. Mr. Boatwright commented that he was here to speak on Item J1. Mayor Sheldon invited him to come back up during that time.
4. Peter Fischetti –Mr. Fischetti stated he was here to speak on the CRA 4.2 Plan. Mr. Fischetti raised concerns about the study for the plan and whether certain areas were blighted or unblighted. Mr. Fischetti commented that one primary objective of the Plan was to enhance parking. Mr. Fischetti thinks the CRA Plan removes parking spacings from the right-of-way on Front Beach Road. Mr. Fischetti inquired if Council had purchased property for additional parking and restrooms, as stated in the Plan, and asked about the location(s) and the costs, if so. Mr. Fischetti commented on the trolley lanes on Front Beach Road and people using the trolley to go to work at the businesses on Front Beach Road.
5. Burnie Thompson – Mr. Thompson echoed the previous gentleman’s concerns. Mr. Thompson congratulated Mayor Sheldon on the success of Gulf Coast Jam. Mr. Thompson discussed his concerns about TDC sponsorship for businesses.

Mayor Sheldon called for additional public comments. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon closed the public comment period.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**\*1. RESOLUTION NO. 23-195, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #7 TO THE CITY’S AGREEMENT WITH CWR CONTRACTING, INC., FOR THE FRONT BEACH ROAD SEGMENT 3 PROJECT TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$28,738.18 AND ADD FOUR DAYS FOR PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK.**

**2. REVISION OF THE MASTER AUDIT LIST TO REMOVE SURPLUS ITEMS.** These items are to be removed from the Master Audit List. Staff recommends approval. By approval of this matter in the Consent Agenda, the City Council makes a finding of surplus for these items and approves their removal from the Master Audit List.

Mayor Sheldon asked the Clerk to read the Consent Agenda. Mayor Sheldon noted the Consent Agenda was available to Council. **Councilman Jarman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Coburn seconded the motion.** Mayor Sheldon asked the Clerk to call the roll. **The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by a (5-0) roll call vote.**

Vice Mayor Casto	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilmember Coburn	Aye

Councilman Chester  
Mayor Sheldon

Aye  
Aye

## **REGULAR AGENDA- DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **ITEM 1. ORDINANCE NO. 1627, AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATED TO BEACHES, BOATS, AND WATERWAYS, SECOND READING / PUBLIC HEARING.**

Mayor Sheldon introduced City Attorney Cole Davis. Mr. Davis read Ordinance No. 1627 by title only. Mayor Sheldon opened the public hearing.

1. Scott Boatwright with Chairs to You Beach Service. Mr. Boatwright commented that he had been serving the residents on PCB for over 10 years. Mr. Boatwright commented he cannot deliver chairs and umbrellas to folks on the beach right now, including people on the beach who are in wheelchairs. Mr. Boatwright expressed his concern over requiring the upland owner's consent for beach chair services on or adjacent to their property. Mr. Boatwright stated he would rather deal with the City than an upland property owner and asked about the process for paperwork and compliance.
2. Jordan Good with Surf and Sun Recreation – Mr. Good echoed the previous gentleman's concerns. Mr. Good noted his main concern was having to register with each individual upland owner for beach service. Mr. Good expressed concern with the suggested registration and enforcement process. Mr. Good recommended the City's process be set up like Walton County's model.
3. Burnie Thompson – Mr. Thompson expressed concern that residents and visitors would not be able to have umbrellas on the beach if this ordinance was passed.

Mayor Sheldon called for additional public comments. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Sheldon closed the public hearing. Mayor Sheldon noted this item was available to Council and asked Attorney Davis to provide some clarification.

Attorney Davis explained that delivering beach umbrellas and chairs has always been prohibited, however, this ordinance: 1) now opens delivery up, 2) requires a permit with the City as part of the permit process and 3) requires permission from the upland owner, which is a legal requirement from the state's beach renourishment statute. Attorney Davis further explained under the current Code, beach service was only permitted if a vendor had a hut, however, this ordinance would allow a vendor to go forth without a hut.

Councilman Jarman further clarified that according to the renourishment statute, the upland owner still controlled the commercial rights of the beach, while recreation rights were open to the public. Attorney Davis concurred. Vice Mayor Casto clarified, with this ordinance, a family could still take an umbrella to the beach, nothing was banned. Mayor Sheldon concurred. Attorney Davis concurred and added the amendment allows the beach service to deliver the umbrella all the way down to the sand and place it for the customer. Mayor Sheldon noted this ordinance takes care of delivering the umbrella to the child in the wheelchair on the beach, as Mr. Boatwright previously expressed concern. Mayor Sheldon called for additional comments from Council. Councilmember Coburn asked that Council answer Mr. Good's question.

1. Jordan Good with Surf and Sun Recreation – Mr. Good expressed his appreciation that Council was opening delivery up within city limits. Discussion regarding one vendor per location took place. Mr. Good asked Council to amend the ordinance to allow for multiple vendors at one location.

Manager Whitman explained, right now, the ordinance was set up for one vendor per location. Mayor Sheldon asked Attorney Davis if multiple vendors could be allowed at one location. Attorney Davis noted that was at the pleasure of Council and would require some additional writing and a third reading.

Councilman Jarman explained the City was constrained by the property rights of the upland owner. Councilman Jarman added he felt that it was the business owner's responsibility to negotiate with the upland owner. Vice Mayor Casto and Mayor Sheldon concurred.

Councilman Chester noted what had been talked about this evening was single-family homes. Councilman Chester inquired as to what Bid-A-Wee would consist of. Attorney Davis explained the ordinance addressed that as well, the delivery service would need to collaborate and contract with the HOA, as the upland property owner.

Mayor Sheldon called for further comments from Council. Hearing and seeing none. **Councilman Jarman moved to approve Ordinance No. 1627. Vice Mayor Casto seconded the motion.** Mayor Sheldon called for further discussion. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon asked the Clerk to call the roll. **Ordinance No. 1627 was adopted by a unanimous (5-0) roll call vote.**

Vice Mayor Casto	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilmember Coburn	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

## **ITEM 2. ORDINANCE NO. 1625, AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 29 RELATED TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FIRST READING.**

Mayor Sheldon introduced City Attorney Cole Davis. Mr. Davis read Ordinance No. 1625 by title only. Mayor Sheldon opened the public hearing.

1. Jody Moore with The Beacon of Bay County Florida, on Facebook - Ms. Moore noted she lived in Lynn Haven. Ms. Moore commented that she shopped and visited the beach. Ms. Moore stated personal concerns about the scope and content of the ordinance.
2. Molly Allen, Lullwater Resident— Ms. Allen wished Cole a Happy Birthday. Ms. Allen read from a passage from the bible and raised her concerns about the scope and length of time within the ordinance. She mentioned personal issues she had with campers in the woods by her home.
3. Burnie Thompson – Mr. Thompson thanked Council for addressing the previous agenda item, and admitted he was wrong. Mr. Thompson read a piece of Ordinance 1625 and expressed concern that the City Manager would have discretionary authority to detain people for 42 days.
4. Gerry Parker with The Beacon of Bay County Florida - Ms. Parker noted that she also lived in Lynn Haven. Ms. Parker echoed the concerns of the other speakers and was concerned with constitutional compliance.

Mayor Sheldon called for additional comments from the public. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon closed the public hearing. Mayor Sheldon noted this item was available to Council and asked Attorney Davis to comment.

Attorney Davis explained the 42-day provision in the ordinance was being codified pursuant to the Florida Statute that regulates emergency powers and would clarify the City Management's and Council's power in compliance with state law.

Vice Mayor Casto inquired if the ordinance was unconstitutional in his opinion. Attorney Davis stated no, not in his opinion. Vice Mayor Casto noted he had known Drew for a longtime and Drew would not abuse this. Vice Mayor Casto discussed Hurricane Michael and explained how the City lost all communication during and after the storm and further explained how Police were delivering notes back and forth to councilmembers. Vice Mayor Casto added this ordinance would give the City Manager the power to close washed out roads, call curfews, and would be a tool, if needed, that could be taken away.

Mayor Sheldon concurred and added that the Council looked at this a couple of years ago during a civil unrest. Mayor Sheldon noted he absolutely had no problem giving the City Manager the authority to do this.

Councilman Chester inquired if there was a significance with the 42-days. Attorney Davis explained the City Manager's power were limited to 72 hours, and that if the emergency needed to be extended beyond 72 hours, Council would need to meet within 72 hours. Attorney Davis added City Council's authority would be limited to 42-days, by state statute.

Councilman Jarman clarified the changes from the original ordinance added weather and codification. Attorney Davis concurred. Councilman Jarman further clarified that people on the beach were looking for some quick action to the civil unrest last year. Councilman Jarman discussed Council's ability to convene a meeting at any time to change the action taken by the City Manager. Councilman Jarman noted he was comfortable moving forward, especially with Drew's knowledge in law enforcement. Councilman Jarman added that the authority could be taken away from the City Manager, depending upon the City Manager. Mayor Sheldon reminded everyone that the City Manager was accountable to the City Council.

Councilmember Coburn noted that she understood the need during civil unrest to act swiftly, however, she was uncomfortable with the ordinance and felt that it was over-reaching. Councilmember Coburn added that she felt the ordinance chipped away at personal freedoms and was not supporting it the way it was written today.

Councilman Jarman discussed a terrorist attack as example. Councilmember Coburn noted that the City had time to plan for a storm to come into the City. Councilman Jarman asked the City Manager to give an example of a weather-related issue when this would be used.

Manager Whitman explained in order for the City to receive any kind of disaster pay for employees, a state of emergency needed to be called. Manager Whitman further explained the process of being reimbursed by the Federal government. Manager Whitman discussed Hurricane Michael and the Council possibly taking two days or more to convene a meeting to call an emergency. Manager Whitman added he talked with Council about this last April. Manager Whitman clarified further that this ordinance would get our employees paid properly and immediately. Manager Whitman added if Council needed to leave the beach for your families, he would remain and make those decisions and move forward. Manager Whitman further explained if something happened to the Mayor, he needed three members to call an emergency, or one Mayor. Manager Whitman added he would like to put this in place to protect the community and the City's employees.

Mayor Sheldon clarified even with a weather incident, the Council cannot create a state of emergency until it happens so if the Council cannot get together because of personal emergencies, the team could still get emergency pay prior to Council meeting. The Mayor and the City Manager further explained FEMA not reimbursing the City retroactively, employee disaster/hazard pay and how an emergency must be called when the emergency happens, not before, not until a Hurricane hits land.



Vice Mayor Casto further discussed how he was unable to be reached during Hurricane Michael because of his personal emergency on the east end of the beach. Vice Mayor Casto further explained how he was unable to make the emergency meeting, after the Police had finally tracked him down. Vice Mayor Casto added he trusted Drew to make these decisions. **Vice Mayor Casto moved to approve Ordinance No. 1625. Councilman Jarman seconded the motion.** Mayor Sheldon called for further discussion. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon asked the Clerk to call the roll. **Ordinance No. 1625 was adopted by a (4-1) roll call vote.**

Vice Mayor Casto	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilmember Coburn	No
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

### **ITEM 3. RESOLUTION NO. 23-196, INITIAL NUISANCE ABATEMENT ASSESSMENTS, PUBLIC HEARING.**

Mayor Sheldon introduced City Attorney Cole Davis. Mr. Davis read Resolution No. 23-196 by title only. Mayor Sheldon called for public comment on Item #3. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon closed the public comment period. Mayor Sheldon noted this item was available to Council.

**Councilman Chester moved to approve Resolution No. 23-196. Councilman Jarman seconded the motion.** Mayor Sheldon called for further discussion. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon asked the Clerk to call the roll. **Resolution No. 23-196 was adopted by a unanimous (5-0) roll call vote.**

Vice Mayor Casto	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilmember Coburn	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

### **ITEM 4. RESOLUTION NO. 23-197, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PLANS REVIEW AND BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES.**

Mayor Sheldon introduced City Attorney Cole Davis. Mr. Davis read Resolution No. 23-197 by title only. Mayor Sheldon invited public comment on Item #4. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Sheldon closed the public comment period. Mayor Sheldon invited Director Leonard to the podium.

Director Leonard reported C.A.P. Government, Inc. was the current provider of residential and commercial plans review and building inspection services, with a contract that expires on September 30, 2023. Director Leonard reported further that C.A.P was the only responsive bidder, and their rates would remain unchanged. Director Leonard reported Staff recommended approval. Mayor Sheldon noted this item was available to Council.

Councilman Chester noted he understood the rate came in under budget. Director Leonard concurred and noted it was an \$80,000 per year savings for the City.

**Councilman Chester moved to approve Resolution No. 23-197. Councilman Jarman seconded the motion.** Mayor Sheldon called for further discussion. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon asked the Clerk to call the roll. **Resolution No. 23-197 was adopted by a unanimous (5-0) roll call vote.**

Vice Mayor Casto	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilmember Coburn	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

**\*ITEM 5. RESOLUTION NO. 23-198, APPROVING AN EXTENSION OF THE INTERIM PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR CRA PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.**

Mayor Sheldon introduced City Attorney Cole Davis. Mr. Davis read Resolution No. 23-198 by title only. Mayor Sheldon invited public comment on Item #5. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Sheldon closed the public comment period. Mayor Sheldon invited comments from Assistant City Manager White. Ms. White explained this resolution approves a second extension to The Corradino Group’s contract for CRA Program Management. Mayor Sheldon noted this item was available to Council. Councilmember Coburn commented that The Corradino Group was doing a good job.

**Councilman Jarman moved to approve Resolution No. 23-198. Councilmember Coburn seconded the motion.** Mayor Sheldon called for further discussion. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon asked the Clerk to call the roll. **Resolution No. 23-198 was adopted by a unanimous (5-0) roll call vote.**

Vice Mayor Casto	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilmember Coburn	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

**ITEM 6. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM, REAPPOINTING PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS.**

Mayor Sheldon invited public comment on Item #6. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Sheldon closed the public comment period. Mayor Sheldon invited Director Joyner to the podium. Director Joyner explained the purpose and duties of the Park Board. Director Joyner reported that all three members, **Peggy Wilson, Ted Schoppe and Chris O’Brien**, wished to serve another 2-year term. Mayor Sheldon noted this item was available to Council.

**Councilman Chester moved to reappoint the slate of Park Board Members. Councilman Jarman seconded the motion.** Mayor Sheldon called for further discussion. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon asked the Clerk to call the roll. **Peggy Wilson, Ted Schoppe and Chris O’Brien were reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Board by a unanimous (5-0) roll call vote.**

Vice Mayor Casto	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilmember Coburn	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

**ITEM 7. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM, REAPPOINTING EXAMINING BOARD MEMBER.**

Mayor Sheldon invited public comment on Item #7. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Sheldon closed the public comment period. Mayor Sheldon invited comments from City Manager Whitman. Manager Whitman discussed the benefits of the Examining Board and how members were chosen specific to the trades. Manager Whitman reported that Mr. Kuhnel was a Master Air Conditioning Mechanic and

willing to serve another term. Mayor Sheldon noted this item was available to Council. Mayor Sheldon and Councilmember Coburn commented on how residents benefited from the City's Examining Board.

**Vice Mayor Casto moved to approve Mr. Kuhnel's reappointment to the Examining Board. Councilmember Coburn seconded the motion.** Mayor Sheldon called for further discussion. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon asked the Clerk to call the roll. **The motion to reappoint Mr. Bruce E. Kuhnel to the Examining Board was adopted by a unanimous (5-0) roll call vote.**

Vice Mayor Casto	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilmember Coburn	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

#### **ITEM 8. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM, APPOINTMENTS TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE.**

Mayor Sheldon invited public comment on Item #8. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Sheldon closed the public comment period. Mayor Sheldon reported the open seats were advertised, however, there were no takers, no applications were received. Assistant City Manager White concurred and explained the purpose of the Committee and the general accounting practices/qualifications needed to serve on the Committee. Mayor Sheldon reported the Committee needed two more members. Mayor Sheldon recommended keeping this item open while Councilmembers searched for new members. Mayor Sheldon noted this item was available to Council. **Council members agreed by unanimous consent to keep this item open and continue to search for two qualified applicants. Voting was not called for.**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT** – Manager Whitman wished Mr. Davis a happy birthday. Manager Whitman thanked Mel, Terri and Lauryn from the Building Department for assisting him with a presentation at CPAR. Manager Whitman added they did an amazing job, like they always do. Manager Whitman congratulated Wyatt with the Public Works Department on passing his professional engineers test, he was now a Professional Engineer. Manager Whitman addressed Ms. Allen and explained that if anyone from the Police Department ever laughed at her, he and the Chief would not tolerate it. Manager Whitman asked for that person's name so they could look into it. Manager Whitman explained that he had talked with Ms. Allen several times and he had Police Officers, with the Canine Unit, walk the trails in the Lullwater area.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT** – Mr. Davis thanked everyone for their birthday wishes.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS** - Mayor Sheldon invited comments from Council. Councilman Jarman concurred with Manager Whitman and asked Ms. Allen to please report something like that, if it ever happens. Councilman Jarman, as a member of the TPO, asked for opinions on the 6-laning of Back Beach Road. Vice Mayor Casto noted that it was past due, and he was very happy to see the State putting money toward it. Mayor Sheldon concurred and thanked the members of the TPO, Secretary Gainer and the Governor put the project on their lists. Councilman Chester concurred and noted it should have been done in 2004 – 2005, but it would be a great project. Councilman Jarman asked Councilmembers to get with him if and when they had any questions. Councilman Jarman reported the construction timeline should be about 2-year.

Mayor Sheldon noted yesterday was Councilman Chester's birthday and wished him a happy birthday. Mayor Sheldon added he would have answered Mr. Thompson's questions, however, he had exited the meeting.



With nothing further, Mayor Sheldon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 7:18 p.m.

READ AND APPROVED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Sheldon, Mayor  
City of Panama City Beach, Florida

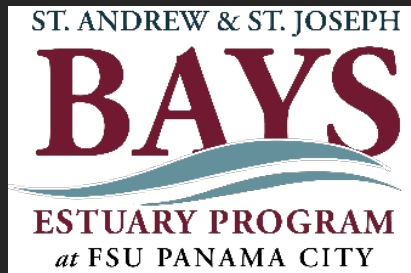
ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynne Fasone, MMC, City Clerk

\* ACTION ITEMS NOTED WITH AN ASTERISK ARE TAKEN BOTH BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE PANAMA CITY BEACH REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ("CRA") JOINTLY AND CONCURRENTLY. IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE FOREGOING MINUTES AND A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THESE MINUTES, THE FOREGOING MINUTES SHALL CONTROL.

# St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program



Jessica Graham, Ph.D  
Executive Director





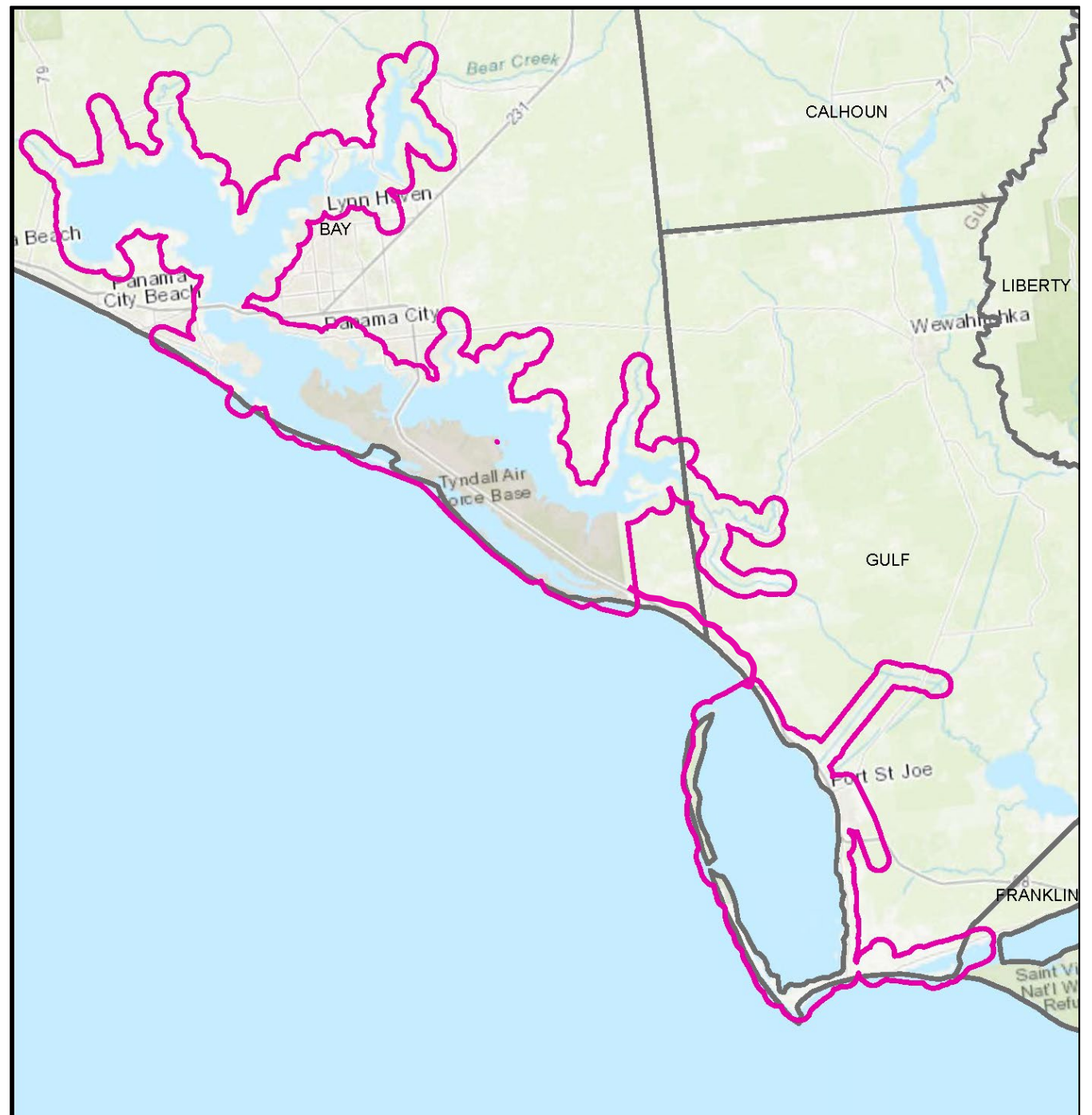
# Economic ties

Business located within ½  
mile buffer around bays

In 2020,

Contributed \$4.4  
billion in sales

Supported  
51,000 workers







Healthy, resilient bays and estuarine habitats that support native species, natural systems, recreation, fisheries, and the economy

# Vision

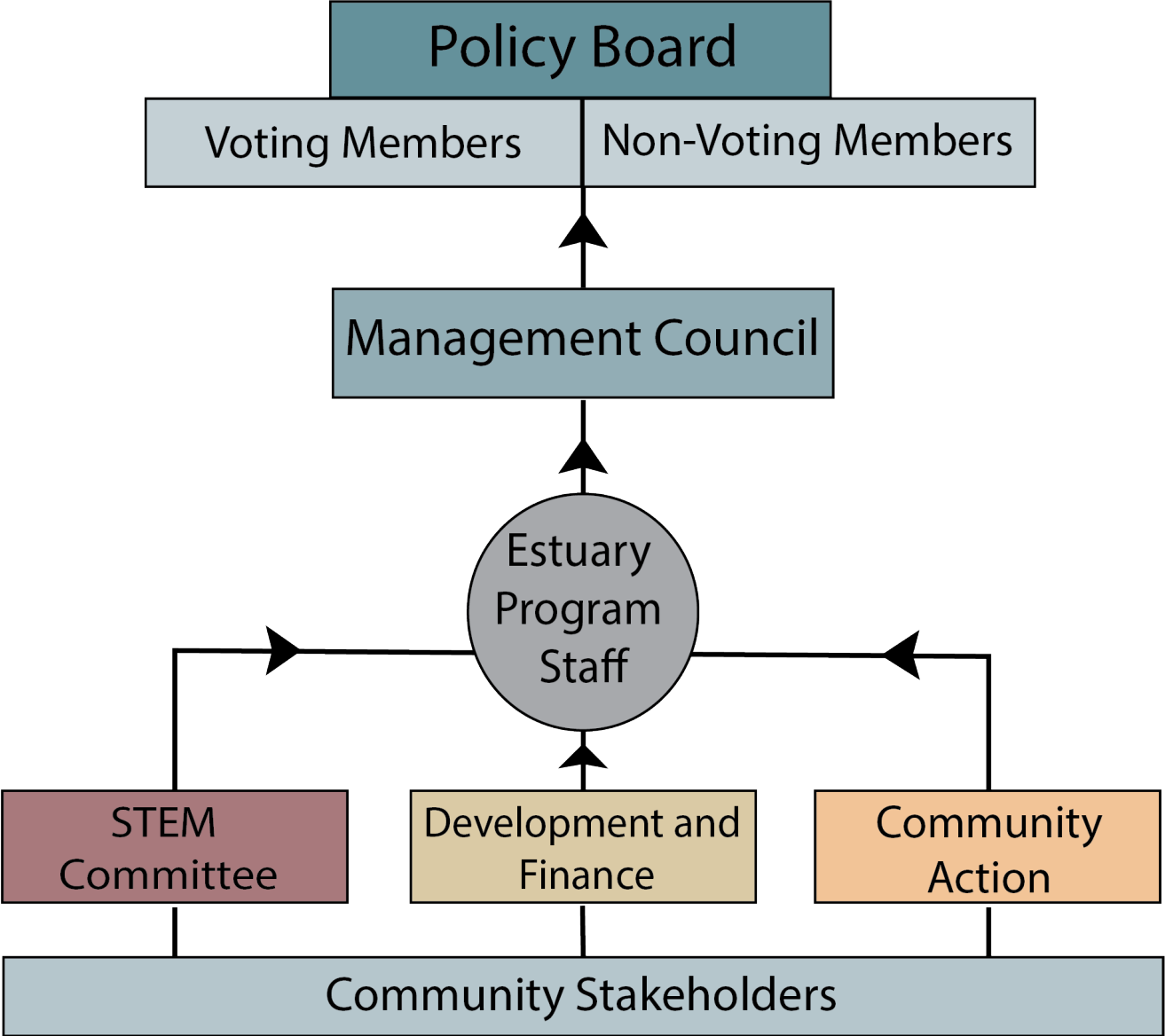
together  
with

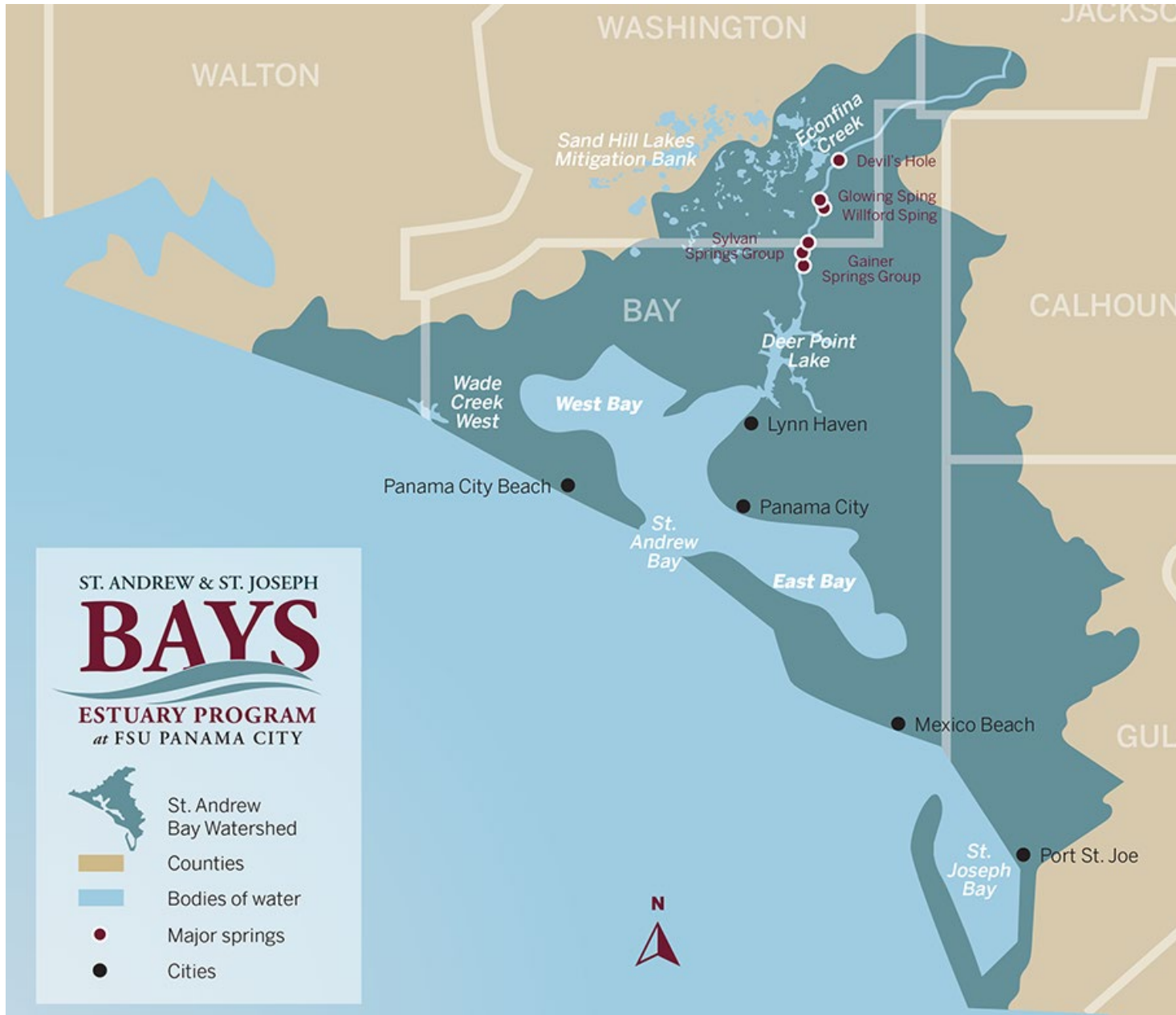
Vibrant, resilient, and sustainable communities in the watershed that live in harmony with the needs of the estuary.











## Mission

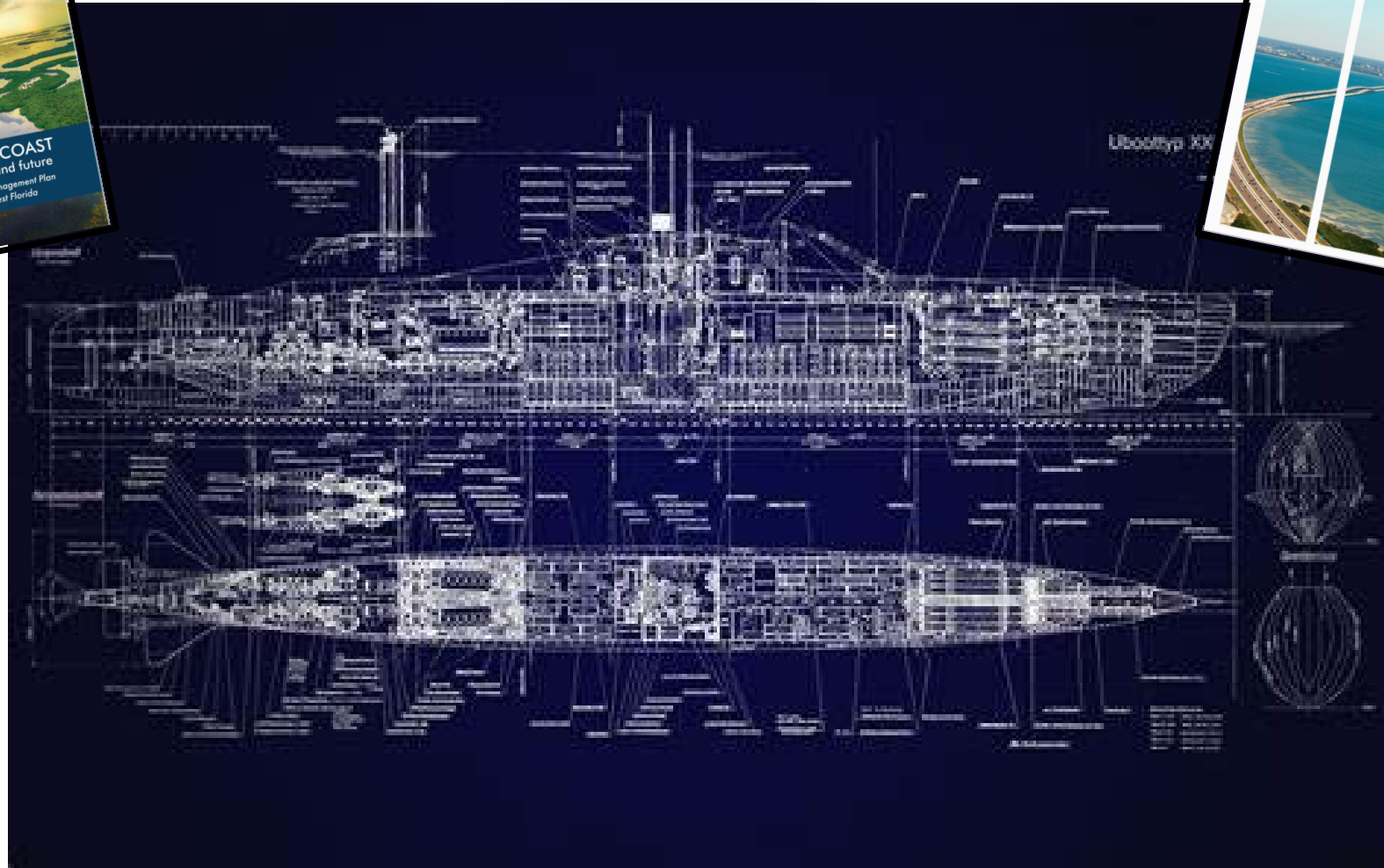
To collaborate

—as representatives of private, public, and non-governmental stakeholders—

to improve our *common sense, science-based* understanding of the needs of the estuary,

to develop, promote and implement projects that protect and restore the health of the bays.

# Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan



# NRSC

Functioning ecosystems that support resilient communities and wildlife

GOAL 1: Conserve, restore, and maintain seagrass cover to support diverse species and ecosystem services

ACTION 2: Develop outreach strategies to increase seagrass protection, conservation, restoration

## BACKGROUND

While seagrass requires the right water quality conditions to flourish, other direct impacts can cause significant damage and loss even when environmental conditions are favorable. Propeller scars are one of the most serious threats to seagrass worldwide (Sargent et al 2018; Fitzhugh et al 2018). Prop scars occur when a boat's propeller cuts a narrow furrow without resulting in the destruction of seagrass roots, stems and leaves. These scars may take up to 10 years to recover or may not recover at all (FDEP 2022).



NRSC1.2

Why

What

What

NRSC1.2

Develop outreach strategies to increase seagrass protection, conservation, restoration

## ACTIVITIES

01. Reduce prop scar damage through increase public awareness of seagrass protection and bay friendly boating practices

How

## PROGRESS OUTPUTS

- Maps with seagrass for rental boats
- short PSA video on bay friendly boating
- seagrass signage at boat ramps
- online or app based seagrass

ROI

## OUTCOMES

- Increased or maintained areal extent of seagrass beds
- Reduction in prop scars
- Increased awareness of the importance of seagrass
- Boaters who are better informed about the bay

## PRIORITY ISSUES

HABITAT LOSS  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## LINKAGES

- NRSC 1.1
- NRSC 2.1

## THE DETAILS

### Leads

- CPAP, FDEP
- FWC
- SASJBEP

### Partners

- St. Andrew Bay
- IFAS
- Seagrant
- Local government
- Boating community
- State and local parks

### Funding

- RESOTRE
- NOAA
- NFWF
- FDEP
- FWC
- DOD
- NSF

Who

\$



# CREATING ACTION PLANS

## WATERSHED CONCERNS

Driving issues in the watershed causing the decline.  
Everything else will link back to these

Community Engagement

Recreational Opportunities

Stormwater (Flooding)

Wastewater

Habitat loss

Sediment

Nutrients & Pathogens

Changing Environmental Conditions

## 4 Focus Areas



**Water and Sediment Quality and Quantity**



**Natural Resources and Species Conservation**



**Resiliency**

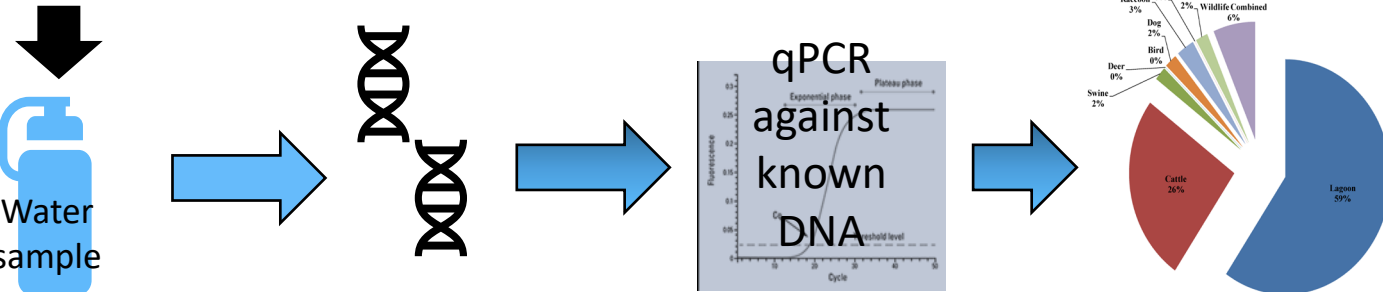
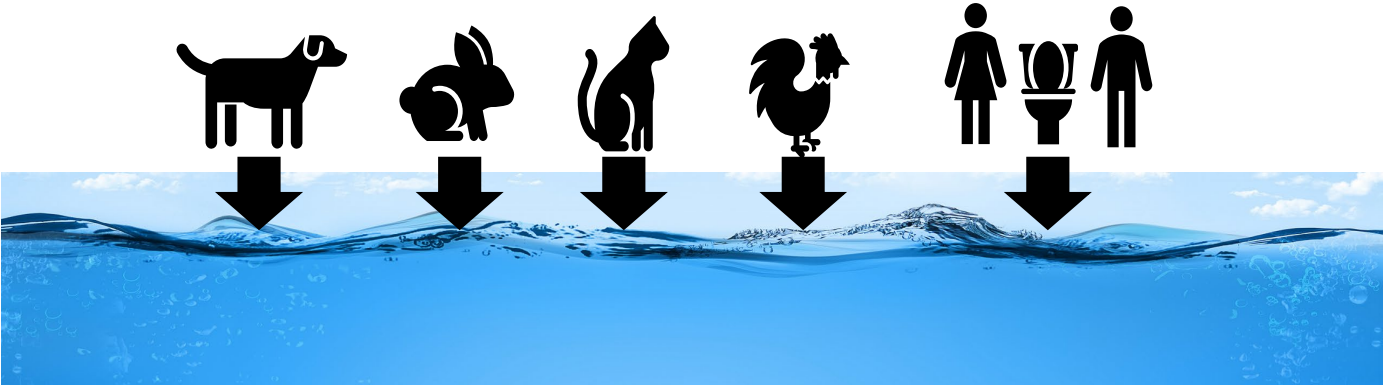


**Stewardship**

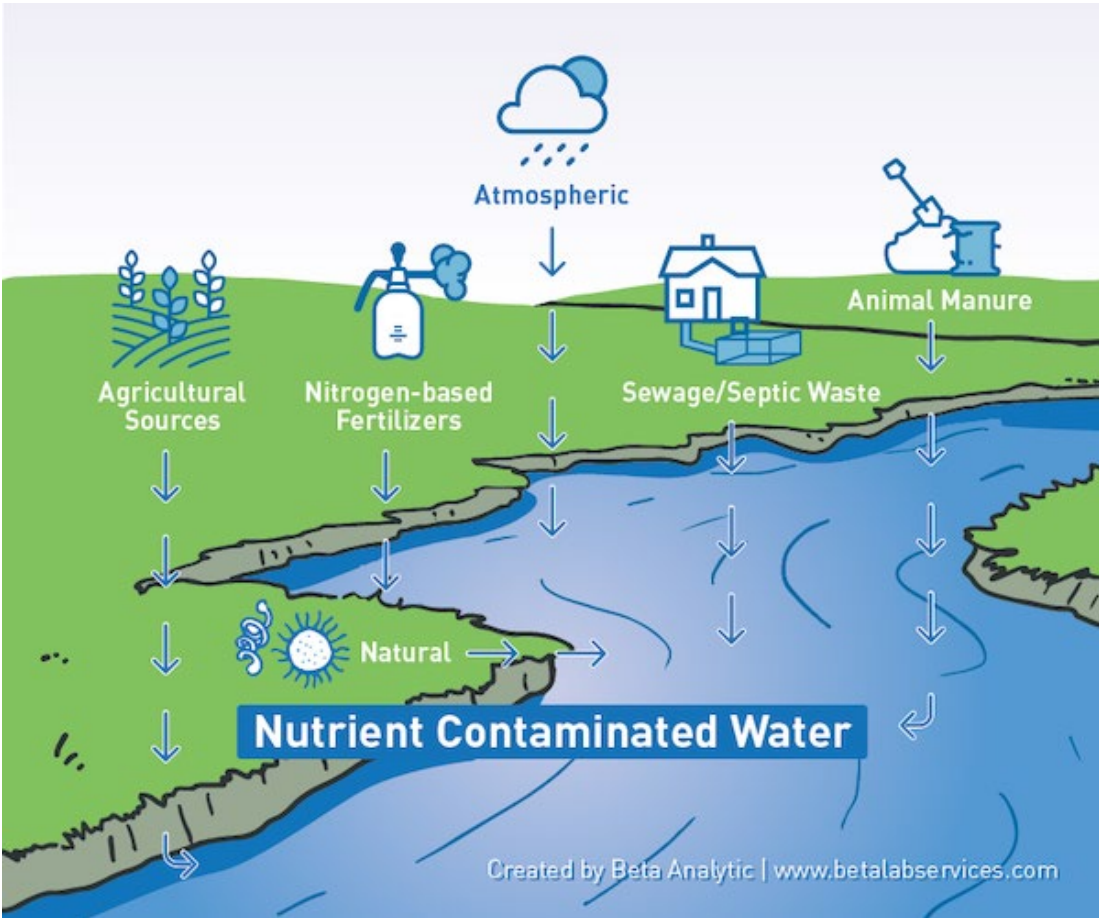


# Impairment Source tracking

## Microbial sources



## Nutrient sources







ST. ANDREW & ST. JOSEPH  
**BAYS**  
ESTUARY PROGRAM  
at FSU PANAMA CITY

## Protect our Seagrass

Seagrasses are a vital part of our ecosystems. They:

- provide food and shelter for many organisms
- keep sediment in its place
- keep our bays clear
- support our local economy through recreational and commercial fisheries as well as tourism

Seagrass beds are damaged by boats running through shallow areas creating scars. It only takes a minute to create but a decade to regrow!

### Project wish list!

Printed maps for boat rentals

Outreach materials to raise awareness

Interactive website showing live locations

### Get in Touch!

Jessica Graham  
850-770-2149 : [jgraham6@fsu.edu](mailto:jgraham6@fsu.edu)

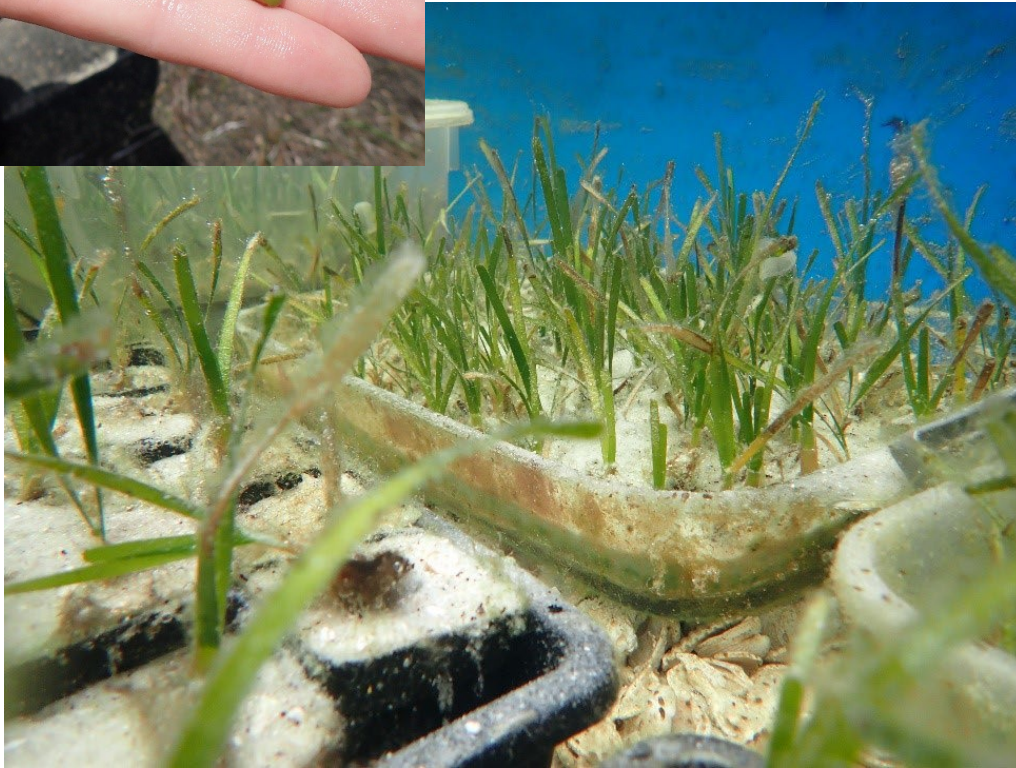
### OUR VISION

Healthy, resilient bays and estuarine habitats that support native species, natural systems, recreation, fisheries and the economy, together with vibrant, resilient, and sustainable communities in the watershed that live in harmony with the needs of the estuary.

# Seagrass Awareness and Protection



# Seagrass Nursery



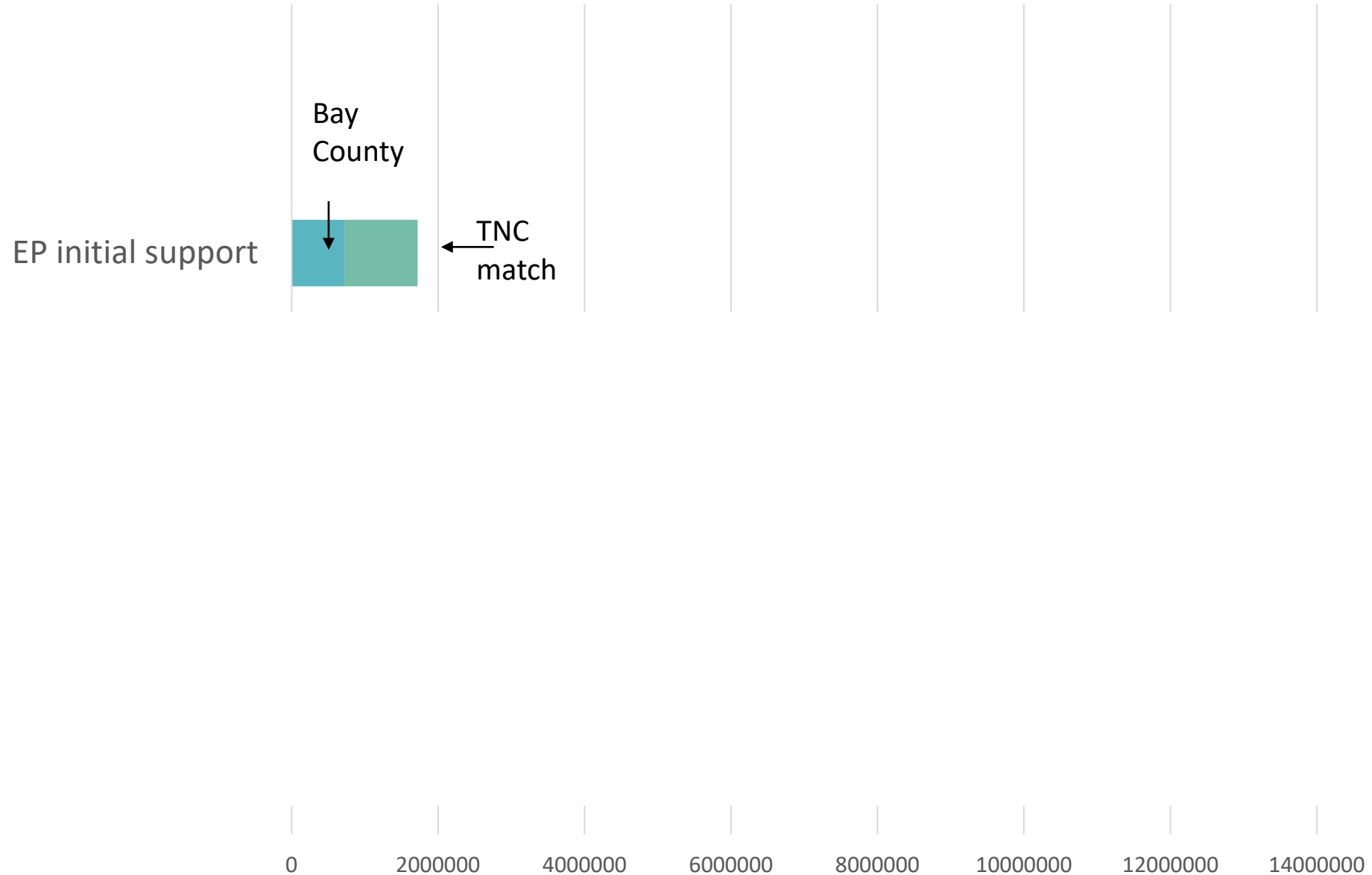
*Photos Courtesy of Allison Patranella, FWRI*

# Estuary Program Funding

## Secured

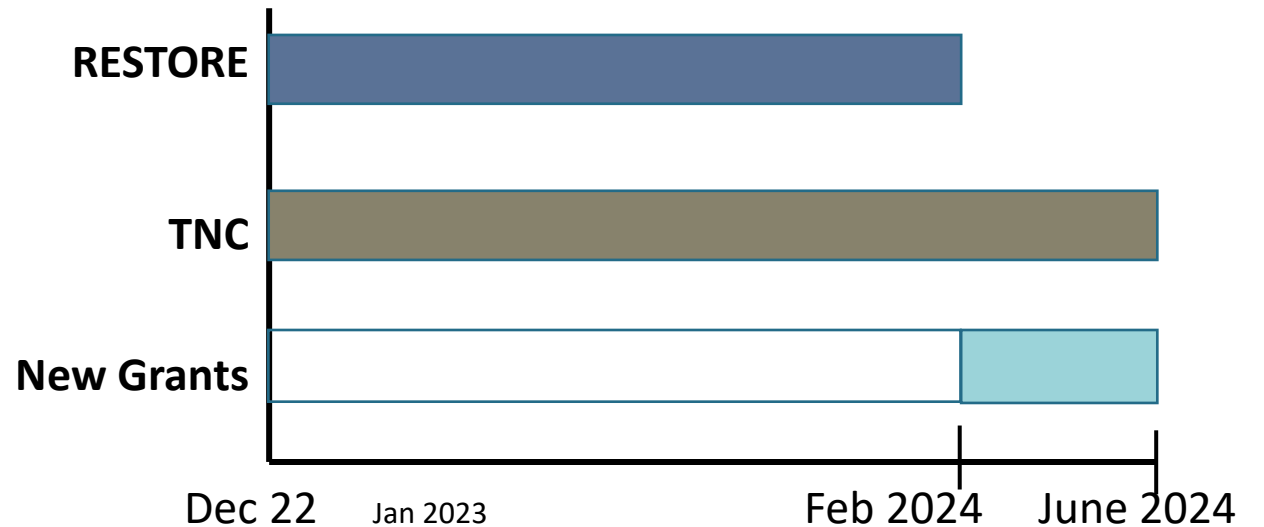
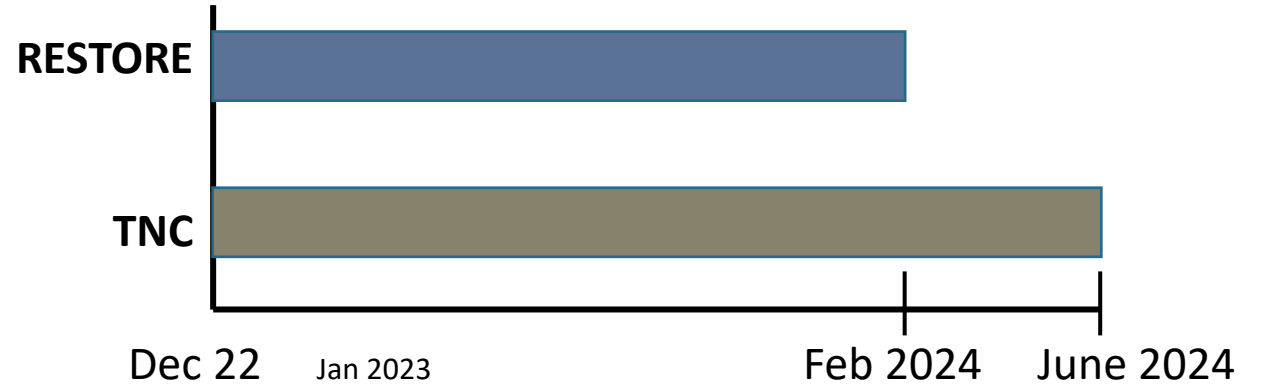
- \$1.64 M from Florida's RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program (FLRACEP)\*
- \$470,000 Legislative appropriation
- \$200,000 Department of Environmental Protection 3b funding\*
- \$13,034 St. Joe Foundation
- \$1.3 M RESTORE funds\*

\* = working through approvals



# Funding Outlook

- Current funding ends June 2024
- Grants support staff in part but for specific projects
- Need to diversify funding





# Advisory Committees



**SCIENCE AND  
TECHNICAL**



**COMMUNITY ACTION**



**DEVELOPMENT AND  
FINANCE**

<https://pc.fsu.edu/sasjbep>

# Upcoming events



JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>

SCALLOP RODEO WITH FWC



SEPTEMBER

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Stay up to date  
and get involved!



<https://pc.fsu.edu/sasjbep>





# Thank you!

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