

Keep Saraland Beautiful

Meeting Minutes May 14, 2026

Members in Attendance: Al Cleghorn, Donna Hughes, Ron Mitchell, Newton Cromer, Juanita Chandler, Mike Smith, Rob McLean, Janice Harvison, Guest: Jason Kudulis, Director of Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Ron called the meeting to order at 12:06pm. He introduced Jason and gave him the floor to present a slideshow outlining how the MBNEP serves our area. The health of local watersheds are the focus of the organization. The MBNEP provides resources to city and community groups to help them better understand the landscape. They offer studies at no charge that are sometimes required for grant applications, saving a municipality quite a bit of money. One such study is hydrological modeling to determine potential impacts of development on the topography. Trained volunteer water quality monitors are needed to collect monthly samples at strategic locations and report their findings. Norton Creek and Bayou Sara are Saraland's main waterways, and Bayou Sara is currently being monitored at Celeste Road and Highway 43 with a permanently installed gauge. A baseline study for our area, the "Western Delta Watershed" is available at www.mobilebaynep.com. MBNEP also helps municipalities fulfill the requirements of their MS4 reports, and one required activity is public outreach. MBNEP has a program called "Create a Clean Water Future" that can be customized for a community for stormwater education. Jason left us a book they published in 2025 regarding the state of the Alabama estuary system and encouraged each of us to take a look at it. Jason mentioned the MBNEP offers a grant up to \$2,500 for a project that aligns with their mission if KSB would like to develop one.

Janice would like to find out if the Lafitte Road bridge is an area that needs monitoring, and if so, some of us who live close by should get trained as water quality monitors. Donna could take the program to Saraland High School for the science department to participate. Jason mentioned the Mobile County Extension Service is interested in implementing the program in Mobile County schools, and Donna could talk to them about their plans.

Juanita and Newton discussed the possibility of a Bird Sanctuary at the Forever Wild property in Saraland. The area is also a wildlife management area available for a certain type of hunting, but that does not preclude a bird sanctuary if the city chose to have one. Newton announced there is GOMESA money coming to help with the next phase of the boat launch at Bayou Sara.

Al Cleghorn made a motion to accept the March minutes. Newton seconded. Motion passed.

In Basil Smith's absence, no Treasurer's report was given.

Executive Director report: Janice announced that Mr. Cleghorn sent pictures and a description of his litter pickup efforts and encouraged others to do the same so we can put those volunteer activities on our quarterly reports to Keep Alabama Beautiful.

She reported the Bookmark contest is nearly complete. The entry forms were sent out in early April, and ready for judging by Earth Day. Mildred Blass and her sister judged them, then (at Donna's suggestion) the winners were printed at The Print Shop in Bay Minette. Mr. Johnny set them up and did a fantastic job. He suggested we fill the white wasted spaces on our prints to make the most of the print job, so we created business cards for Rob and Janice and door hangers for Barbara Sharp to use when awarding Yard of the Month when people are not home. We definitely will use The Print Shop in the future. There were 30 teachers who had 50% or more class participation, so we purchased \$10 thank you gift cards from Wal-Mart for each of them, as well as 2 \$20 gift cards for the administrator and teacher sponsor who did all the work at the school promoting and collecting the bookmarks. Tonight Rob will award the bookmarks to the students at the City Council meeting.

When we toured Ransom Recycling in April, we learned about the opportunity to feed the workers lunch. Different organizations drop off lunch for their 35 staff members. Newton made a motion we spend up to \$150 to deliver a lunch within the next month, seconded by Rob. Motion passed. Janice will be in charge of it and will invite the group when it's scheduled. Councilman Chris Jessee expressed interest in touring Ransom, so one of the men will invite him to attend. It was suggested to talk to the Shipyard Cafe about providing the food.

Janice was emailed an annual questionnaire regarding the city's MS4 report for our input, which we completed. When attending the Keep Alabama Beautiful conference, we saw a presentation from Auburn on their MS4 report, and we realized we could be doing more to help the city with the public outreach component. Janice will be looking for ways to incorporate clean water awareness into our activities.

KSB has been invited to participate in Tourism Day celebrating America's 250th birthday at the Grand Bay Welcome Center on May 21. Juanita and Mildred will represent us. Janice will get the giveaways to Juanita. Michelle from Keep Alabama Beautiful will join our ladies. 500 people are expected to come through the event which lasts from 10am to 3pm.

Janice asked that instead of focusing on KSB Business membership, that we promote filling the Adopt a Spots. This will help the city spend less money on landscaping, and

KSB now has a stable budget where business membership fees aren't needed as much as they used to be.

At the Ransom recycling field trip lunch, Janice submitted some updates for the website to Ron.

Al talked about the root problem of litter on our streets and how continually picking it up is not changing the amount. He would like to see a comprehensive litter strategy for the city.

President's Report: Ron had the website updated to give citizens a place to complain about junk cars. He said we will have a special meeting in June to discuss trash abatement and other issues that we would like the city to address. He helped Juanita give the tree report, trees from last year were finally planted and we can apply for the next Alabama Power tree grant. Older trees needed maintenance and have been sprayed. Ron said before the end of 2026 there will be a program in place to get rid of dilapidated buildings. He is working with the new City Building Department director who filled Mike Black's position.

Juanita continued the report to say the City Planner who had been helping us with the tree grant no longer works for the city, and Janice suggested she and Juanita could fill it out if Juanita will get the application.

Barbara Sharp was sick and could not attend, but she asked Janice to announce the Yard of the Month, Drew and Rylee Tranchina at 6775 TM Brett Blvd. It has been posted to Facebook.

Rob showed the group Bear Locks for trash cans, and he is going to give a few sets to Councilman Jesse to distribute.

Newton made a motion to adjourn at 1:26pm.