



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

Tyndall AFB Stakeholder Working Group

Date: May 1th, 2025

Time: 12-1:30 pm Central/1-2:30 pm Eastern

Location: Teams

Prepared by: SASJBEP

Attendees: Garey Payne (USAF AFCEC CFDP), Jonathan Feldman (AFCEC REPI Program Manager), Cheri Moon (Tyndall AFB), Jessica Graham (SASJBEP), Jeff DeQuattro (TNC Gulf Program), Bob Bendick (TNC Gulf Program), Christine Shepard (TNC Gulf Program), Katie Konchar (TNC Gulf Program), David Bell (Jacobs), Mike Sharp (NFWF), Cassidy Manzonelli (FWC), Simeon Urek (USGS), Jessica Black (NOAA Restoration Center), Jake Goodwin (DARPA), Eric Christianson (Emerald Coast Regional Council), Kent Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife), Tunch Orsoy (Jacobs), Melanie Kaeser (USFWS), Rick Harter (Harter Restoration and Consulting), Daniel Medrando (DARPA/Ctr), Stephanie Dohner (Naval Research Lab), Jake Goodwin (DARPA), Nigel Temple (University of South Alabama), Jim Roncaglione (TAFB-Airspace Mgr), Kyle Johr (TAFB RAPCON-Air Traffic Control), Edwin Wallace (TAFB-Air Traffic Control), Joy Brown (Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscapes), Charlotte Cherry (Jacobs), Paul Bolden (Wakulla Environmental Institute), Grace Meade (Jacobs), Luce Bassetti (Jacobs), Michael Matichich (Jacobs), Lauren Goodman (TNC), Darryl Boudreau (NWF WMD), Carter DuVal (NRL), Lauren Williams (TNC Texas), Bryan DeAngelis (The Nature Conservancy), Christine Gralher (Jacobs), Kathy Sweezer (TNC), Ryann Rossi (SASJBEP), William Chavez (AF REPI San Antonio), Renee Carlton (NFWF), Melody Ray-Culp (USFWS), Brian Wamsley (Jacobs), Andrew Altieri (University of Florida), Matt Chasse (NOAA), Jason Bird (Jacobs Resilience), Laura Geselbracht (TNC), Mike Simons (325 FW Flight Safety Manager), Jonathan Cornman (MRP-APHIS-325 FW Flight Safety), Sarah Marrs (Jacobs), Mary Kate Brown (TNC)

Fifty-one (51) attendees representing approximately twenty-two (21) organizations participated in an information sharing session focused on the project identification and selection criteria used to develop potential future Tyndall Nature Based Solution Projects.

Meeting Objective: The objective of this meeting was to inform stakeholders of the project selection criteria used to identify future Tyndall Coastal Resilience Projects.

Meeting Summary:

Dr. Jessica Graham with the St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program (SASJBEP) started the stakeholder working group meeting by welcoming everyone and requesting that they enter their name and organization into the chat for attendance. Jessica reviewed the agenda and the excitement of seeing the next phase of Nature based Solutions to be discussed and to hear feedback from the Stakeholder group on the different projects identified.



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Meeting Details:

Welcome

Mr. Garey Payne (USAF) welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their participation today and echoed the excitement of moving toward additional project identification to keep the momentum moving.

Tyndall Future NbS Planning Project Review

Jeff DeQuattro (TNC) provided some background information about the initial keystone NbS projects planned for Tyndall AFB (i.e. Phase 1) and summarized the effort of selecting the next suite of NbS concepts (i.e. Phase 2), which is the goal of the discussion today. Jeff outlined the timing, while TNC is moving four initial Phase 1 keystone NbS projects closer to implementation we understand there are additional projects to consider and want to be comprehensive in the information considered for the future projects.

Jeff then handed the meeting to David Bell with Jacobs to provide details regarding project selection.

Mr. Bell described the process of project identification for the Phase 2 Tyndall Coastal Resilience Nature-based Solution projects. A small group from the Tyndall Stakeholder Working Group participated in a webinar to go through a multi-criteria decision framework. The group provided input on importance of six different key objectives including 1) coastal risk, 2) ecological habitat benefits, 3) mission alignment, 4) cost-effectiveness, 5) funding compatibility, and 6) minimizing impacts. This information was then combined with an additional project level filter for suitability for nature-based solutions. This screening focused on areas near the Air Force Base with feasible water depths (+1 to -10 ft NAVD88), exposure to 2040-50 year flood conditions, and avoidance of submerged aquatic vegetation and cultural resource sites. This analysis produced the first set of candidate project locations.

Mr. Bell went on to describe that the next steps once the locations were identified was to select the appropriate project type at the location. So, the second set of criteria explores where the project is situated, what the conditions are, what the forcing factors are and where it is relative to the flight lines for Tyndall as well as the potential for increasing risk, intertidal vs. subtidal and seagrass presence.

Mr. Bell then revealed 17 projects concepts that were identified through this assessment and ranking process and described the map online. He didn't review each of the projects but highlighted a few components. For example, the projects shown in pink were offshore submerged breakwater concepts similar to Phase 1 living shoreline and oyster reef breakwater concepts because of the presence of seagrass. Project 2 concepts were also noted as being offshore outside of the BASH focus area and, if they were to be forwarded to design, then the final height of the breakwaters might be higher and exposed for a longer period of time than the concepts forwarded under Phase 1.



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This would provide large wave attenuation and better protection under various future scenarios. Project 5 is a large area of potential marsh enhancement as it is low lying with existing mud flats and salt marsh. Additional projects were discussed but particular note was made that these were just potential projects and not a set of instructions of what should be done in which locations. This was meant to provide a suite of projects with a range of feasible options that could be considered but not a ranking. All of these criteria were combined together and the small group added another filtering layer of ranking the importance of each of these objectives that helped refine the project selection.

Floor Opened for Questions and Discussion

- Has the potential opening of the Old Pass been incorporated into these projects.
 - Mr. Bell confirmed that the location of the project was considered to ensure that there would not be any conflict. He also added that the Sabre district was also avoided for projects because this is really the core base mission and mainly includes military housing with a lot of other projects. Mr. Bell also noted that looking back to the beach area there are a few more reasons why projects may not be best suited. There are access concerns and ongoing work on the dunes.
- Is there a phasing plan for these projects to maximize the benefit?
 - Mr. Bell responded that these project ID numbers are not in order of importance or ranking and do not represent a phasing approach.
- Joy Brown asked for an explanation on how gray – green projects were considered when trying to mesh with nature-based solutions.
 - Mr. Bell responded that at this point we've identified the project and the exact dynamics of the project such as a living shoreline with rock or no rock which would move it along the nature-based continuum.
 - Mr. Boudreau added that although rock is used in a project such as Greenshores doesn't necessarily make it unnatural as it provides substrate for oyster growth.
 - Stephanie Dohner added that there is a way to workshop the proposal to use more acceptable language than changing the project itself.
 - Jessica added that breakwaters don't always mean oyster reefs depending on project location and dynamics.
- Jonathan Feldman noted to the team and working group a reminder that any projects on base would not be eligible for funding through REPI funds and asked if that would lower the score on some of the projects.
 - Mr. Bell confirmed that these discussions have been had by the project team and it was decided to include them with this exercise just to see how they shook out and we see that those on base projects really are very important and might be a part of the long-term base resilience even with the additional hurdles.



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- Jonathan also confirmed that any of the projects that fall into the both category that are off base would be eligible for REPI and would be eligible for a partnership funding.
- Joy Brown asked for clarification as she believed REPI challenge funds could be used on base and Jonathan corrected that any REPI funds needed to be funding projects off base.
- Another question asked about trade-offs in materials longevity and or expected lifetime for greener alternatives.
 - Mr. Bell confirmed that it had been considered but this is more of a planning exercise and we weren't giving projects that level of scrutiny but rather by project type. The materials used would be considered in the next steps.
- Was funding used in the scoring?
 - The project team started down the path of looking at listing grants but we felt it was a bit too complicated at this stage but that could be done at the later stage.
- A question about the Florida TIG data gaps project for oyster habitat suitability.
 - Jessica provided an answer that it should be completed by end of 2026 and will give more information on areas that are suitable but is anticipated that East Bay would be ranked highly.
- Mr. Bell also added that another part of this funding was a project to look at the feasibility of recycled concrete aggregate as a material type as a replacement for the traditional rip rap quarry stone. TNC has a copy of that report and once it is finalized they will share that out. One aspect that was revealed is that the recycled concrete often comes down to availability.
 - Katie Konchar added some information about a small scale experiment testing oyster larval preference among a few different types of limestone as well as recycled concrete just to get some baseline data. This is occurring in a couple different estuaries across the Panhandle where these large scale nature based solutions and the oyster projects occur.
- There was general discussion regarding the Dupont bridge demolition and understanding the timeline and possible use.

Jessica asked the group if there were any announcements from the stakeholders and hearing none, thanked everyone for attending and to keep their eyes out for the next meeting possibly in August based on the progress made on restoration projects.