

# ADEM UPDATE

The official newsletter of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management

October 4, 2022

Volume 15; Number 4

## ADEM Employees Complete CPM Training



(L-R) Ryan Cooper, Billie Jean Wascher, Austin Pierce, Christopher Harris, Eric Reidy, Alex Chavers, James Thrash, and Chris Ailor

Eight employees at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management recently completed CPM II training and have been recognized by the State of Alabama as Certified Public Managers.

The employees are Chris Ailor, Alex Chavers, Ryan Cooper, Christopher Harris, Austin Pierce, Eric Reidy, James Thrash, and Billie Jean Wascher. Their graduation will take place on October 21 at the Auburn University-Montgomery's Taylor Center.

These ADEM employees finished the rigorous study, training, presentations, and testing to earn the

designation of Certified Public Managers by completing the two-year program at Auburn University-Montgomery that involved more than 250 hours of classroom work and numerous out-of-class activities.

The CPM program prepares ADEM's engineers, scientists, and other employees to assume managerial duties critical to the success of the Department. The professional development of ADEM's staff is an important goal in operating plans and for the future growth of both the individuals and the agency.

To conclude their CPM training, four civic presentations were given on September 22 on initiatives to help state agencies and state employees in the areas of developing a future agricultural workforce; preparing students with disabilities for meaningful employment; celebrating libraries; and exploring civil rights tourism in Alabama.

The CPM program is a dynamic and engaging opportunity to develop and enhance the skills of managers, and it helps them explore methods to achieve efficiency gains and cost-savings for their agencies. It utilizes projects and course material to inspire new ways of thinking and innovative approaches to problem solving.

## Beach Nourishment Projects Set for Gulf Coast

Beach nourishment projects are being planned along Alabama's Gulf Coast for this fall and into the spring. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (Gulf State Park) and the municipalities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach have proposed projects, which are under consideration by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and ADCNR.

The proposed beach nourishment project would involve sand dredged from the bottom of the gulf and pumped back onto shore. Officials report the procedure helps ward off major damage from future hurricanes.



Over 50 people attended the beach nourishment meeting

On June 29, ADEM and ADCNR held a joint public meeting in Gulf Shores to discuss the proposed 2022 beach nourishment project. More than 50 people attended the meeting to hear details of how the project will help restore over 16 miles of coastline along Gulf State Park and in the two cities.

*Page 2*

*ADEM UPDATE*

## **ADEM Integral in State's ARPA Efforts**

More than 400 public water and sewer systems in Alabama have applied for grants to repair and make upgrades under a special program funded with COVID-19 relief money, and overseen by ADEM.

Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), \$225 million in funding has been allocated to help public water and sewer systems with the greatest infrastructure needs and individuals in need of water or sewer services. Included is funding specifically set aside for several trial projects to address unique sewer problems in the Black Belt that have plagued some communities for decades.

"This is an historic opportunity to address longstanding water and sewer needs to benefit hundreds of thousands, and potentially millions, of Alabamians," said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. "There is nothing more basic to good health than clean drinking water and sanitary wastewater disposal."

ADEM is working to award up to \$120 million to water and sewer systems that have emergency or high-need projects. These are systems previously identified through ADEM's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, or through enforcement actions due to failing infrastructure.

The Department is awarding grants based on a ranking system giving special consideration to projects that improve access to water or sewer services in communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19, or that lack local funding to complete projects on their own. No local match funding is required for these projects.

An additional \$100 million in grants is being awarded to public water and sewer systems that may require local matching funds based on their ability to pay. The proposed projects are based on need as well - both system infrastructure and financial. In the Black Belt alone, up to \$5 million is being designated for demonstration sewer projects that target specific and long-term problems.



## **Commission Approves Amendments to Solid Waste Rules**



**The AEMC voted to amend Division 13 rules in June**

At the regular meeting of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission in June, the Commission voted unanimously to approve amendments to ADEM's solid waste rules. The amended regulations are for the beneficial use of by-product materials for the purpose of land application. In addition, new standards and procedures for operating criteria for food processing residuals and treatment impoundments were included.

The Commission credited ADEM's Land Division for responding to address this issue with improved regulations. Prior to the Commission meeting, the Department held a public hearing in March to present the proposed amendments and to get input from the general public. The new rules

took effect August 15, and will enable ADEM to enhance its mission to protect soil, water, and air.

ADEM's Land Division Chief Stephen Cobb presented the rules amendments to the Commission before the vote was taken.

"In the past two years we have conducted numerous inspections, and we've visited facilities and we have learned a lot," said Cobb. "This is part of a continuing process in making adjustments as necessary to keep the regulations where they need to be."

Commissioners said they were impressed with the Department’s procedures in regards to the proposed rules changes, and with the way ADEM staff responded to the comments received - both written and oral - during the public comment period.

## Recycling Grants Reach \$2.3 Million



**ADEM awarded \$2.3 million in recycling grants for FY 2023**

In the continued effort to enhance recycling and assist economic growth, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management has awarded \$2.3 million in recycling grants to communities across the state for the 2023 fiscal year to enhance recycling and assist economic growth.

The 22 grants will be used to pay for collection equipment, educational materials, processing equipment such as glass-crushers, and other projects. The funds will benefit close to 600,000 households, including those in many disadvantaged communities.

For the last 14 years, ADEM has awarded grants to 230 recipients under this program with more than \$23 million in funds being distributed over that period.

Funding for the grants is made possible through the Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act, passed by the Alabama Legislature in 2008.

The legislation imposed a \$1-per-ton fee on all solid wastes disposed of in state landfills. A quarter of the proceeds generated by this fee goes to the Alabama Recycling Fund, which provides the foundation for ADEM to award the recycling grants on an annual basis.

“These grants will have an unprecedented effect on recycling efforts in Alabama,” ADEM Director Lance LeFleur said. “ADEM has had a consistent focus on working with our local communities, including those that are disadvantaged, to develop robust recycling infrastructure. This will increase the reuse of discarded materials, decrease the amount of waste entering our landfills, and contribute to a more sustainable future.”

LeFleur said ADEM is seeking additional funding for recycling projects in Alabama by applying for federal recycling grants funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed by Congress last year.

The following groups received recycling grants:

|                                    |           |                                      |          |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| City of Mobile                     | \$340,000 | City of Rainbow City                 | \$41,103 |
| West Alabama Recycling Partnership | \$315,572 | City of Selma                        | \$40,000 |
| City of Irondale                   | \$311,777 | Keep Oxford Beautiful                | \$37,614 |
| Shoals Solid Waste Authority       | \$201,487 | City of Fayette                      | \$24,545 |
| Mobile County Commission           | \$197,624 | City of Gadsden                      | \$22,518 |
| City of Florence                   | \$191,818 | City of Talladega                    | \$15,309 |
| City of Cullman                    | \$154,000 | City of Millbrook                    | \$14,615 |
| City of Guntersville               | \$147,299 | City of Prattville                   | \$11,797 |
| East Alabama Recycling Partnership | \$88,428  | Albertville-Boaz Recycling Authority | \$5,225  |
| City of Opp                        | \$87,945  | City of Northport                    | \$4,714  |
| Calhoun County Commission          | \$45,070  | City of Alexander City               | \$1,535  |

## ADEM Urges Hurricane Preparedness

Two months remain in the 2022 hurricane season, and meteorologists are predicting it to be an active time for tropical storms in the Southeastern United States. With that in mind, ADEM is encouraging everyone to make preparations to protect their lives, property, and the environment.

During a hurricane, storm surge and flooding are important considerations. Wind-driven rains can quickly overwhelm public infrastructure and sweep dangerous debris and hazardous materials into dwellings and other

common areas. To protect homes and the environment, ADEM recommends that everyone make a hurricane preparedness plan and be ready to evacuate. Plans should address adequate water, non-perishable food, extra clothing and other readily available emergency supplies, maps to plot primary and alternate evacuation routes and the adoption and practice of a communications plan.

## ADEM UPDATE Available Online

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management publishes the *ADEM UPDATE* quarterly to inform Alabamians on the latest news and activities of the Department. As a cost-savings measure, the *ADEM UPDATE* is no longer printed. It is distributed electronically and available online through the publications link on the ADEM website at [adem.alabama.gov](http://adem.alabama.gov). The ADEM website also has links to videos related to the Department's programs, public hearings, and recent events of interest.



*The Alabama Department of Environmental Management does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the administration of its programs, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.*



Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
P.O. Box 301463  
Montgomery, AL 36130-1463  
(334) 271-7700  
[www.adem.alabama.gov](http://www.adem.alabama.gov)