

Murrells Inlet Watershed Committee (MIWC) Membership

Mission (for group)

Collaborate with diverse community stakeholders to implement the MIWP and related projects that support a healthy watershed

Vision (for watershed)

Murrells Inlet remains the seafood capital of SC - a healthy ecosystem and thriving community with open shellfish waters, safe recreation opportunities, and abundant natural resources

Overview

Murrells Inlet experiences numerous non-point sources of fecal bacterial pollution resulting in shellfish bed closures and a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). This threatens public health and economic livelihoods in this community with strong ties to the watershed.

To address these concerns, the 2014 Murrells Inlet Watershed Plan was developed by the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments to address consistent issues with bacterial pollution through best management practices and public awareness. Funding for the plan was provided by DHEC as part of EPA funding under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act to help prevent, control and/or abate nonpoint source pollution (NPS).

In years past, the Murrells Inlet Watershed Committee (MIWC) has been a driving force in the implementation of the 2014 Murrells Inlet Watershed Plan. However, several recommendations from the plan have not yet been completed and bacterial pollution remains a concern within the community. Various community stakeholders are eager to continue addressing water quality issues in Murrells Inlet.

Committee Goals

- Implement projects from the MIWP to improve water quality in Murrells Inlet
- Provide opportunities for collaboration on projects that address water quality issues in Murrells Inlet
- Foster productive relationships among relevant stakeholders and organizations

Values

The MIWC holds the following values in our commitment to our stated mission and vision:

- Respect
- Resourcefulness
- Collaboration
- Action

Membership

Balanced stakeholder membership in the MIWC is integral to the successful implementation of the watershed plan. Representation from the multi-faceted Murrells Inlet community ensures diverse perspectives are reflected in discussions and decision-making. Stakeholder engagement and community buy-in helps increase the likelihood of successful grant applications and project outcomes.

The MIWC is led by a steering committee and comprises stakeholder members selected from applicants representing a variety of community interests. The steering committee comprises County leaders and representatives from Murrells Inlet 2020, North Inlet-Winyah Bay NERR, and CCU's Waccamaw Watershed Academy.

Benefits to MIWC members

Participation in the MIWC is voluntary, but benefits to involvement include:

- Access to partner resources (grants, fundraising, volunteers)
- Access to diverse expertise
- Communication channels with other organizations working in the Inlet
- Opportunities to collaborate on efforts in the Inlet
- Less reduplication of efforts

Member Responsibilities

All members will commit to following a shared stakeholder values and membership agreement.

Steering committee will:

- Develop agenda based on watershed plan and municipal/partner needs
- Facilitate committee meetings to ensure discussions are productive, respectful, and relevant to goals
- Lead communication, project coordination, and task management for committee activities

All members will:

- Convene bimonthly to quarterly to collaborate on watershed issues. If a member cannot attend, they should attempt to find an alternate representative
- Collaborate on projects and work with diverse stakeholders
- Maintain familiarity with the 2014 Murrells Inlet Watershed Plan
- Identify conflicts of interest with MIWC and act accordingly
- Respect fellow committee members' perspectives and maintain professional dialogue
- Uphold the values of the MIWC

Membership Process

Members are required to review and adhere to the Membership Responsibilities. Membership is based on two (2) year terms, after which members may re-apply or open their position to a new stakeholder representative. Membership will be reviewed annually to ensure active and collaborative membership amongst the task force.

For questions about the Murrells Inlet Watershed Committee, contact Stacy Johnson stacy@murrellsinletsc.org.



MURRELLS INLET 2020

Title:

1) Which of the following do you or your organization address? [economic, fisheries, regulatory, etc.]

2) Why are you interested in joining the MIWC? (In a paragraph or less)

3) Briefly describe the water quality issues facing MI and why they matter to you? (In a paragraph or less)

4) What are your top three concerns for Murrells Inlet? (list three)

5) What type of activities are you interested in? (check all that apply)

☐ Grant Writing

☐ Project Installation

☐ Meetings

☐ Public Outreach

☐ Volunteering

☐ Education

☐ Project Development

☐ Other (*please describe*)

6) Please describe your membership(s) in other Associations, Service, or Social Clubs (please include offices held & Committees).

By signing below, you certify you have reviewed the Murrells Inlet Watershed Committee Membership document and that the information you provided in your application is accurate.

Signature

Date

For questions about the Murrells Inlet Watershed Committee, contact Stacy Johnson
stacy@murrellsinletsc.org.