

+Galveston Bay Estuary Program

17041 El Camino Real, Suite 210

Houston, TX 77058-2646

Telephone: (281) 218-6461

April 12, 2017

Dear Galveston Bay Council Members:

The next quarterly meeting of the Galveston Bay Council is scheduled for:

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Meeting location:

Harris-Galveston Subsidence District

1660 West Bay Area Blvd,

Friendswood, TX 77546-2640

(281) 486-1105

Information for the April 19, 2017 meeting is attached as noted below.

1. Council Agenda for April 19, 2017
2. Draft January 18, Council Meeting Minutes

Sincerely,

Sarah P. Bernhardt

Program Manager

Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) /Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)



GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING

Location: Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, 1660 West Bay Area Blvd, Friendswood, TX 77546-2640

AGENDA: Wednesday, April 19, 2017

- 9:30 A.M.:** **Call to Order:** Introduction of Members and Delegates
 Action Item: Approval of January 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes
 Report of the Chair (Nancy Parra)
 Action Item: Approval of Newly appointed Railroad Commission member
 Report of the Program (Sarah Bernhardt)
 Action Item: Approval of Fiscal 2018 Work Plan Changes
- 10:00 A.M.:** **Presentation and Discussion:** Presenting the status of and opportunities for Blue Carbon in Galveston Bay, Stefanie Simpson, Restore America's Estuaries
- 11:00 A.M.:** **Break**
- 11:15 A.M.:** **Presentation and Discussion:** Status of the Galveston Bay Plan Revision and feedback on Workshop Two (Sarah Bernhardt)
- 11:30 A.M.:** **Discussion:** Roles of the Galveston Bay Council members and vision for meetings
- 11:45 A.M.:** **Discussion:** Revisiting the goals of the Galveston Bay Regional Monitoring Program
- 12:05 P.M.:** **Subcommittee Reports:** (Subcommittees Handouts included in Packets if available)
- Consistency Review
 - Monitoring and Research
 - Public Participation and Education
 - Water/Sediment Quality
 - Natural Resource Uses
 - Invasive Species Working Group
 - Budget and Priorities Subcommittee
 - Nominations
- 12:10 P.M.:** **Council Member Roundtable:** News and Announcements
- 12:25 P.M.:** **Public comments**
- 12:30 P.M.:** **Adjourn**

Upcoming Galveston Bay Council Meeting Dates: July 19, 2017; October 18, 2017. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the quarter from 9:30am-12:30pm. If there are known conflicts, Council members are welcome to propose alternate dates to the Council.

GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Draft– Galveston Bay Council Meeting Minutes– January 18, 2017

Galveston Bay Council Chair: Nancy Parra (League of Women Voters)

Galveston Bay Council Vice-Chair: Helen Paige (Marinas)

Estuary Program Staff Lead: Sarah Bernhardt, Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP)

The January 18, 2017 quarterly Galveston Bay Council meeting was held at Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, 1660 West Bay Area Blvd., Houston, Texas, from 9:32 AM to 12:30 PM.

Members Present: Caryn Brooks, Jarod Davis, Mark Fisher, Albert Gonzales, Rebecca Hensley, John Huffman, John Jacob, Kristen Lambrecht, Mike Lee, Luz Locke, Helen Paige, Ana Partin, Russ Poppe, Ronnie Schultz, Linda Shead, Bob Stokes, Jeff Taebel, Kirk Wiles, Tracy Woody

Members Not Present/Delegates: Scott Alford, Bill Baker, Andrea Catanzaro, Glenn Clingenpeel, Phillip Goodwin*, Carla Guthrie*, James Harcourt, Kelly Holligan*, Jace Houston*, Doug Jacobson, Brian Koch, Garry McMahan*, Nancy Parra, Aaron Rice, Hanadi Rifai, Mary Beth Stengler, Sharron Stewart*, Matthew Still, Rusty Swafford, Lori Traweek*, Chuck Wemple, Kate Zultner*

(*=Member designated a proxy)

Proxies Present (council member absent/designated proxy):

Phillip Goodwin/Aaron Wieczorek, Carla G. Guthrie/Caimee Schoenbaechler, Kelly Holligan/Kerry Niemann, Jace Houston/David Parkhill, Garry McMahan/Jaqueline Munoz, Sharron Stewart/Mike Lange, Lori Traweek/Scott Harris, Kate Zultner/Mollie Powell

Current Vacancies: None

Other Attendees: Greg Biddinger, Meredith Dang, Lisa Gonzalez, Heather Schiappa, Helen Walters, Len Waterworth, Kim Wright

Additional GBEP Staff present: Cynthia Clevenger, Michelle Krause, Lindsey Lippert, Lisa Marshall, Mary Stiles

Call to Order: Introduction of Members and Delegates

Action Item: Approval of October 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Helen Paige (Vice Chair) opened the meeting with approval of the October 19, 2016 meeting minutes and opened the floor for questions and comments. A motion was requested for approval of the minutes. Rebecca Hensley commented she would like to make a change of her comment to the draft minutes. Minutes were approved by Bob

Stokes motioned to approve followed by Rebecca Hensley seconded the motion for approval.

Chair Report:

Ms. Helen Paige reported she will act as chair on Ms. Nancy Parra's behalf. If anyone would like to join other council members for lunch they may do so. Introduced Sarah Bernhardt to report on the program.

Report of the Program:

Ms. Sarah Bernhardt announced Ms. Nancy Parra (Chair) absence is due to the flooding weather in Houston, and Ms. Helen Page (Vice Chair) would act as Chair for today's meeting.

Dr. Sarah Bernhardt reported the GBEP has received early comment letters and emails regarding the Galveston Bay Plan revisions for workshop 1, and subcommittee draft frameworks. As part of the revision process GBEP will respond to all comments formally as part of the public comment process. Anyone who is interested in reviewing the submit comments are invited to contact Ms. Kathy Janhsen at H-GAC or Sarah Bernhardt at the GBEP for copies.

Dr. Bernhardt announced Monitoring Workgroup meeting February 23, 2017, anyone who would like to attend may contact Lisa Marshall with GBEP to join the workgroup.

Dr. Bernhardt announced the works for setting a spring/summer TCEQ Agenda date for approval of vacancies, there are 6 items listed.

Dr. Bernhardt also reported on other program items two other major project accomplishments. The Double Bayou Watershed Protection Plan project received H-GAC's Our Great Region Diligence Award on Friday, December 2, 1016.

The Artist Boat closed on December 8th on the additional 46 acres for the Coastal Heritage Preserve on Galveston Island, bringing the total acreage to almost 600 acres for the Preserve. In addition the Artist Boat, in partnership with Texas Parks and wildlife Department were awarded a \$1 million National Coastal Wetlands Grant (9CWPPRA) to conserve additional acreage at the adjacent Anchor Bay subdivision. This habitat will also be added to the CHP.

Ms. Helen Paige introduced the first presenter to the council, Ms. Lisa Gonzales with HARC and Mr. Bob Stokes with Galveston Bay Foundation.

Presentation: Data trends in the Galveston Bay Report Card, Lisa Gonzalez, HARC and Bob Stokes, Galveston Bay Foundation

Ms. Lisa Gonzales reported on the Galveston Bay Report Card to the council and provided a slide presentation outlining the components of the Bay Information Framework. Ms. Gonzales explained the report card process and the overall health of the bay, and provided a website to council member for further information.

The Galveston Bay Report Card is a citizen - driven, scientific analysis of the health of Galveston Bay. Supported by a grant from Houston Endowment, the goal is to engage community members in meaningful discussion about Bay health topics. This is the second year that the Report Card has been published. The grading system of the indicators is easy to understand and similar to a school report card. The overall grade of Galveston Bay remained a C but there were some improvements from the past year. Water quality, which includes nitrogen, phosphorous, and dissolved oxygen, improved from a B to an A. While the overall grade for wildlife was a C as it was last year, the status of brown shrimp and terns both improved. In the category of pollution the overall grade improved from a D to a C in large part because there were fewer oil spills but also because more information was available for toxics in sediment.

Mr. Bob Stokes discussed the outreach efforts being done by the Foundation to promote the 2016 Galveston Bay Report Card. The project is gaining leverage within the community with presentation audiences increasing by 200% compared to the 2015 Report Card. The report card website, GalvBayGrade.org, has received over 14,000 visitors since its launch. The EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program awarded the Galveston Bay Foundation a three year grant to translate the report to Spanish. Translated report will be available at the end of February. Bob also requested that people participate in the public survey to gather input for the 2017 Report Card. The survey is available at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/17GBRC>. The next steps for the Report Card are to translate it into Spanish. The next version will be launched in August 2017.

Questions & Answers

City of Houston asked, "How did you decide on the grades?" Ms. Gonzales responded that the grades were developed in part by indicator work that HARD did through workshops with GBEP in 2005? (Don't think I captured this correctly)

Albert Gonzales thanked HARC/GBF for their work on this project and said it was a really good tool that helps breakdown complex issues for the public to understand. This has been needed for many years.

Presentation: Status of the Galveston Bay Plan Revision and Workshop One Results, Meredith Dang, Chief Regional Planner, Houston Galveston Area Council

Ms. Meredith Dang thank members for the invitation to attend and present on the Galveston Bay Plan Revision process. Ms. Dang reported on the re-cap of workshop #1 which took place in late October of 2016. There were over 50 council and subcommittee members in attendance. The purpose of the workshop was to establish prioritization of goals to be utilized as the framework for The Plan Revision and identify any emerging priorities.

The participants cycled through five priority areas were based on GBC subcommittee, plus vision and implementation focus area that examined bigger picture topics regarding the geography covered by the plan and how to set the plan up for success. A digital questionnaire was made available to council and subcommittee members who were unable to attend the in-person workshop. The digital questionnaire posed the

same questions as in the exercise in the workshop, a total of 12 participants completed the digital questionnaire. The results from each exercise have been summarized, ready for review.

The top ranking existing priorities for each focus area were as follows in the workshop:

- Workshop and Sediment Quality
- Natural Resources Uses
- Public Participation and Education
- Monitoring and Research

Update on Subcommittee Session since the completion of the first workshop, the subcommittees have been actively utilizing the outputs from the first workshop to develop framework actions plans. The framework action plans will provide the basis for the Draft Plan Revision content. The frameworks also build upon the existing Plan and SAP and show the linkages to those plans. At their December and January meetings each subcommittee discussed and provided feedback on these strawman, draft framework. They each also had the opportunity to provide any additional feedback during a feedback/comment window following each meeting. H-GAC staff have been updating the frameworks to reflect the requested changes of the subcommittees. H-GAC staff will work with GBEP staff and subcommittee chairs/vice chairs to ensure that the updated framework reflects the direction of each subcommittee. The updated framework for each of the Focus Areas will be sent as background material to the second workshop.

Looking ahead to Workshop #2 the planning is the three workshops that will occur during The Plan Revision Process. The second workshop will focus on vetting the framework action plans that the subcommittees are working with a focus on the implementation feasibility of the identified measures. All council members and subcommittee members are invited to attend the workshop #2 which is planned for the end of February/beginning of March the location is still to be determined.

Linda Shead encouraged council members to attend the workshops for the Galveston Bay Plan Revision. For the first workshop, there was a big difference in the results between those that attended and those that participated online.

Presentation: An update on the Coastal Storm Surge Protection Concept known as “Ike Dike”, COL. Len Waterworth, Texas A&M University, Galveston

Col. Len Waterworth reported to the council that a major hurricane hits the northern six counties of Texas on a simple average of every 14 years. The last major hurricane was Hurricane Ike in 2008 which produced \$30B worth of damage. Over the last 9 years, the risk of hurricane damage has only increased for the expanding population, the improving environment the communities have worked for and business, in and around Galveston Bay. Since Hurricane Ike, Texas A&M University at Galveston has raised private funding to develop a mitigation strategy for hurricane storm damage. The Ike Dike (Coastal Spine) has proven, through modeling to be a feasible concept to protect the 4th largest city in the United States, home of the largest petrochemical

manufacturing complex that sits on the 7th largest estuary. Texas A&M Galveston's fund raising, public engagement and research continues in hopes to find a proactive mitigation strategy for the next hurricane disaster. More information can be found: <http://www.tamug.edu/CTBS/>

Questions/comments

Dr. John Jacobs asked what the Dike would look like if it breaks, any potential for failure research? He specifically asked whether failures had been modeled; he was interested in knowing the risk. Col. Waterworth answered by asking what would the risk be if nothing was done. He stated the Dike has the capacity for a breach and still be OK because the duration of the storm is short. Ms. Gonzales asked the long-term plan for sustainability of the dike system as it seems there is no current funding planned for maintenance and this could potentially encourage more people to move closer to the coast and bay areas. Col. Waterworth indicated that it could potentially cost \$20-\$30 million per year to maintain, however, he stated that the dike needs to get built first to help inform what will go into long-term maintenance. He provided the example of Indianola, as an example of not doing anything.

Ms. Gonzales followed up with asking if freshwater inflow will be considered in the construction of the gate system. Col. Wentworth indicated that the system, according to Dr. Bill Merrell, will be a “leaky system” to allow for continued freshwater inflow.

Col. Wentworth stated, “The dike will be built, but we [the stakeholders], can not decide what color do we paint it?” Meaning what elements do we want/need to need to consider and incorporate to consider environmental, economic, and socio-economic needs.

Linda Shead commented that the plans are impressive, however it was disingenuous to talk about the dike system from the Dutch perspective without mentioning that their dike system, “destroyed their estuary and they now incorporate a multiple line of defense concept.”

Col. Waterworth stated that all of these things, from the Dutch, experiences are and need to be considered in the Ike Design.

John Huffman inquired as to where the storm surge modeling data appears in their report. He asked where does the water displaced by the barrier system go according to the modeling. Col. Waterworth said they are doing modeling to look at how the storm surge data from Ike to inform how high to build the dike system. He said this is a feasibility report and all other data is being considered as well. He commented that the end conditions are important, and that “stack up” does occur for a short duration, but that the water doesn’t “bleed” over the edges as much as thought.

Mike Lange commented that the seawall creates more beach erosion and all the property from the ocean front to the road will not be there according to the report. He was concerned that in places like Follets Island, previously high risk land would be converted to prime real estate. His opinion was that large areas of land should be set

aside to keep this from happening. Mr. Lange also asked how does the report incorporate human nature/reaction to feel secure enough to build right on the wall or dike, and how will wetlands be protected in this process?

Col. Waterworth said they are looking at incorporating the human and socio-economic factors into the report. But from hip point of view, the system should be built and then policies set. Mr. Lange disagreed with that order, and provided the City of Freeport as an example to why that sequence doesn't work.

Albert Gonzalez stated that FEMA should not insure coastal property.(One of the council member's proxy - it was the proxy for the San Jacinto River Authority) asked what the timeline was to build the dike?

Col. Waterworth said there is not a date yet as they are still trying to get federal/state support, but it could be 2034 timeframe. They are working on speeding up the process, because of the need to project.

John Jacob commented, "Saying there's an Ike Dike or nothing is a false dichotomy. There are plenty of things that can be done incorporating multiple lines of defense if the dike fails to protect. That has to be part of the discussion."

Col. Waterworth responded that this is all part of the ongoing discussion with stakeholders and the feasibility process that the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores was given \$2 million to study. The Col. also stated that the NEPA is a public input process.

Linda Shead responded that NEPA is a public reaction process not a public input process. Public engagement should happen before design.

Dr. Bernhardt asked what organization could lead a collaborative discussion on the Ike Dike, and Ms. Gonzales said several groups are looking at the coastal resilience issue that also takes into climate change and drought and should be a part of this collaborative discussion. Ms. Gonzales agreed that there needs to be a group to look at these issues.

Greg Biddinger added that if we wait for a study and funding, it will take too long and the estimated \$6 billion for the dike system is under estimated. Can there be a tax increase from the legislature? Is there other funding mechanisms available? What is industry doing to help pay for the dike?

Col. Waterworth reminded the council that the New Orleans project was funded 100 percent by the federal government and that project was completed. They are looking for a Texas legislator to champion the Ike Dike in both the state and federal governments. As far as industry paying for the Ike Dike, the Col. remarked that industry is providing to the economic value of the region, state and the nation.

Subcommittee Reports: (Subcommittee Handouts included in Packets if available)

Monitoring and Research (M&R) - N/A

Public Participation and Education (PPE) - The Subcommittee meeting on January 17

was dedicated to the CCMP revision process for PPE.

Water/Sediment Quality (WSQ) - N/A

Natural Resource Uses - Lindsey Lippert reported that the NRU meeting on January 12 was primarily dedicated to developing the living resource frameworks for the CCMP revision. In addition, Erin Kinney from HARC gave a brief discussion on the update to the Quiet Invasion Field Guide and website for invasive species in the lower Galveston Bay watershed. She asked for the subcommittee's input and comments on the potential list of species for the update.

Budget and Priorities Subcommittee - Sarah Bernhardt reported that B&P

Council Members Roundtable: News and Announcements:

John Jacob - Putting on Coastal Citizen Academy for local elected officials to educate them in planning tools.

Camiee Schoenbachler (Proxy for Carla Guthrie) - TWDB will host Water for Texas 2017 Conference, 01/23 - 25, 2017, twdb.texas.gov for more details; brochures distributed to members and guest.

Jarod Davis - Will be resigning from his role at GBC due to his roll with Dow. The new GHP new regulatory affairs director will be Mr. Will Nipper. Mr. Davis thanked GBC members and reported he learned a lot as a GBC member.

Kerry Niemann - Regarding RESTORE:

- Bucket One applications are still being reviewed by Commissioner Baker in conjunction with the Governor's Office.

Regarding the NPS Program:

- The draft Texas NPS Management Program update is tentatively scheduled to go to agenda for release for public comment on April 26, 2017. Both the Board and the TCEQ are coordinating closely on this important update. The update is due to EPA in 2017.
- The 2016 NPS Annual Report was submitted to EPA for review and approval on Tuesday, January 17. The report will be published in February, 2017.

Regarding the 2016 Integrated Report:

- The report is currently under review and will be released for public comment in 2017.

Regarding the Water Quality Standards:

- Standards are currently under preparation for the 2017 revision. The revision is on schedule for the standards to be proposed for public comment to the Commission in late spring of 2017.

Regarding the Clean Rivers Program:

The calendar of upcoming Steering Committee Meeting dates may be accessed from the statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule. Meetings occur

throughout the year and help to establish monitoring priorities. The 2017 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule has been updated and is available on the TCEQ website.

Linda Shead – On behalf of TSSCWB the new WQMP technician will begin on February 1, 2017 and will work in the Double Bayou and Cedar Bayou watersheds.

Lisa Gonzalez – February 15th - 16th HARC will host with TPWD second annual lionfish symposium contact Leslie Hartman at TPWD, TAMUG there will be a public panel at Moody Gardens; March 8 from 6:00 - 8:00pm People and Nature series, Katherian Hapo reowned “Climate and Coastal Implications” talk.

Public comments: No public comments were received.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm

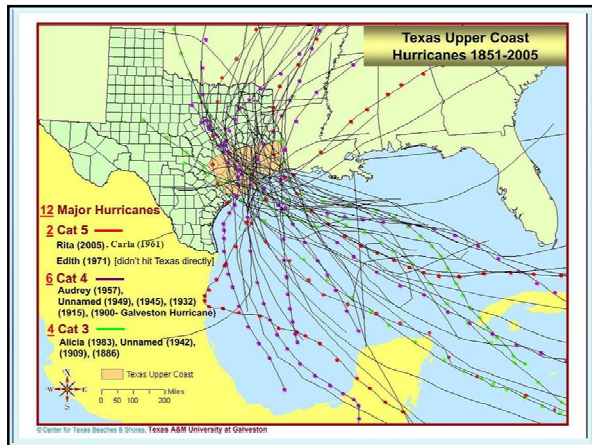
Upcoming Galveston Bay Council Meeting Dates: April 19, 2017, July 19, 2017, October 28, 2017. If there are known conflicts, Council members are encouraged to propose alternate dates to the Council. Proposed dates are all third Wednesday of each quarter from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

DRAFT



THE REGION INVESTMENT/NATIONAL SECURITY

- **PEOPLE**
 - 6 million and Growing
 - 4 largest city in US
 - Job Creation
- **ECONOMY**
 - Second largest Petrochemical Complex in the world.
 - #1 Exporting region in the United States \$110B with Regional GDP of \$450B
 - \$50B in private sector investment
- **ENVIRONMENT**
 - 7th largest estuary
 - Produces more seafood than any other estuary except Chesapeake Bay
 - Large Recreational boating and fishing communities in the United states

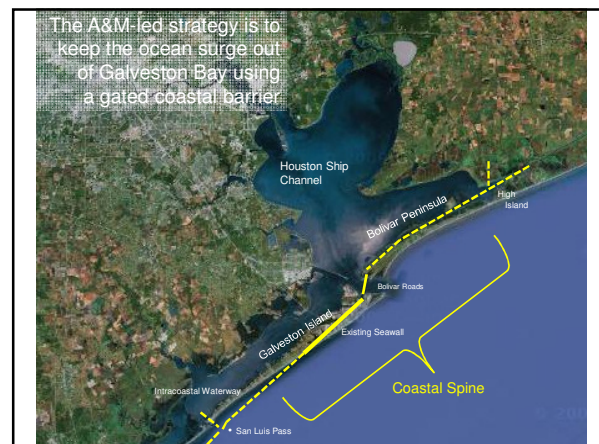


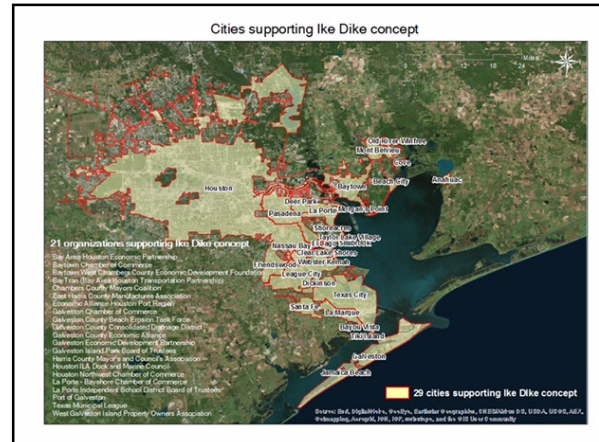
COST OF IKE CATEGORY 2 STORM

- **DAMAGES** 3rd costliest hurricane in U.S. history behind Hurricane Andrew and Hurricane Katrina Estimated \$30 billion in U.S. damages
- 34 Texas counties declared federal disaster areas
- 92,000 homes damaged in Harris County
- 2,400 injuries in Harris County 11 fatalities in Harris County
- 7,100 businesses damaged in Harris County
- 3,266 homes destroyed on Bolivar Peninsula
- 24,165 structures damaged in Galveston County
- 646 businesses damaged in Galveston County
- 700 homes destroyed in Chambers County
- 3,418 additional with major damage
- 27,000 miles of wire down
- 2,431 signals damaged in the City of Houston
- 1,100,000 traffic signs damaged
- \$428 million in damages to UTMB Galveston
- \$132 million in damages to transportation systems
- 52 oil platforms destroyed

95% Reduction in Damage

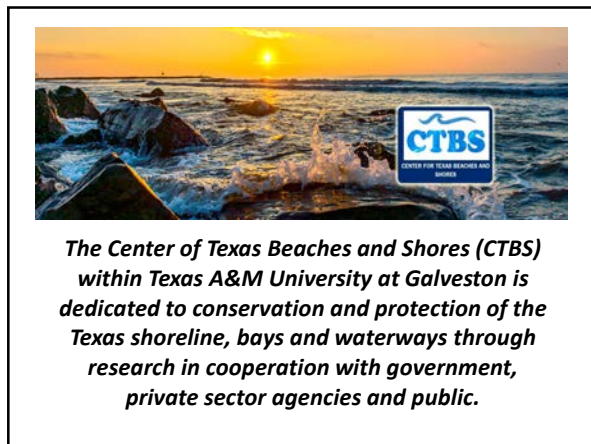
- Dr. Bill Merrell started talking with Guidry News Nov 2008 ref the Ike Dike Concept and seeking private research funding
- Protect People, Industry and the Environment defend well forward
- Research has led to a coastal spine
- Doesn't build on Bay Bottom Habitat
- "If the Ike Dike was in place, there would have been an 95% reduction in damage from IKE"





The Coastal Spine is feasible!

Next Step



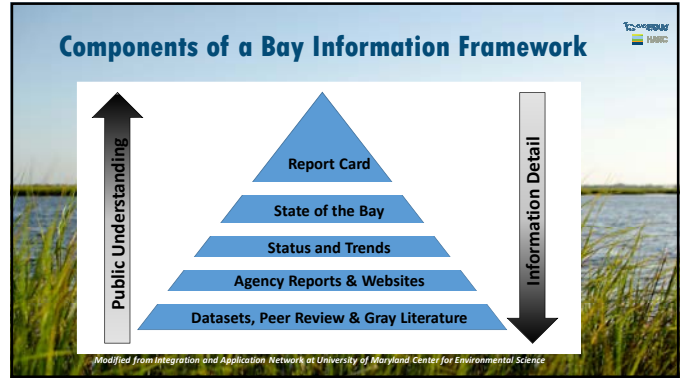
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- **Established by the Texas Legislature (with no funding) to address beach erosion and wetlands loss throughout the state.**
 - **Comprehensive approach to Texas coastal research and restoration solutions incorporating natural, economic and political processes**

GALVESTON BAY REPORT CARD

Houston Advanced Research Center: Lisa Gonzalez, Erin Kinney, Ryan Bare

Galveston Bay Foundation: Bob Stokes, Heather Schiappa, Scott Jones

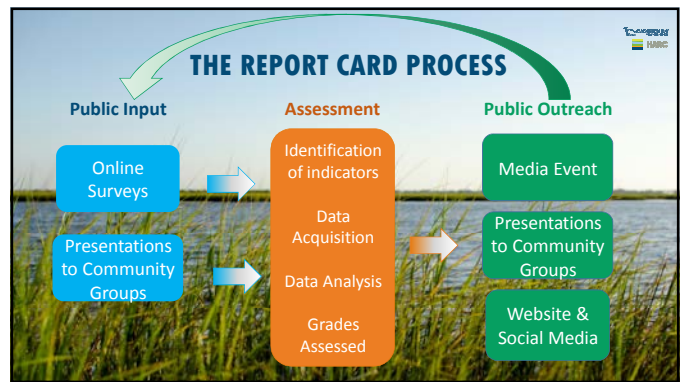
Galveston Bay Council Meeting, January 18, 2017



ABOUT THE REPORT CARD: WHAT IS IT?

HARC GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION HOUSTON ENDOWMENT
A PHILANTHROPY ENDOWED BY JESSE H. AND MARY GRIS JONES

- Easy-to-understand grading system to communicate the health of the Bay to the public.
- First released in 2015 with additional annual releases.
- We use public interest to help shape the report each year.



OVERALL HEALTH OF THE BAY **C**

ADEQUATE FOR NOW

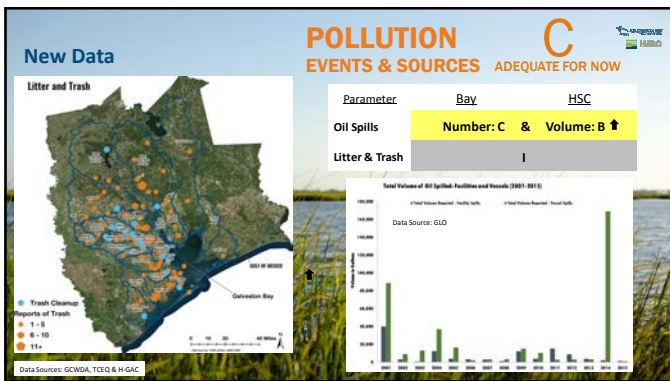
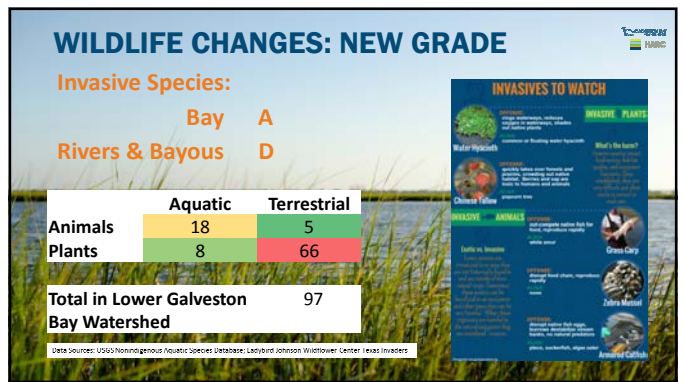
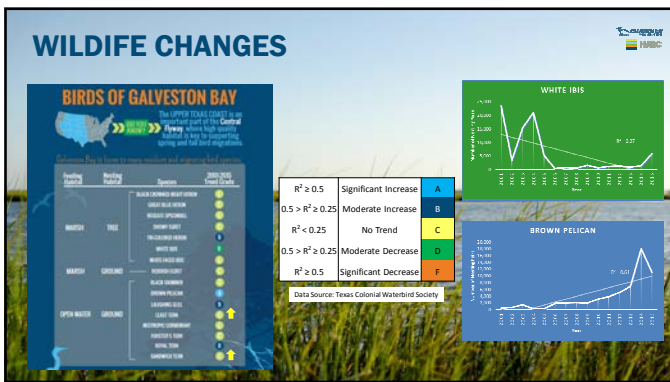
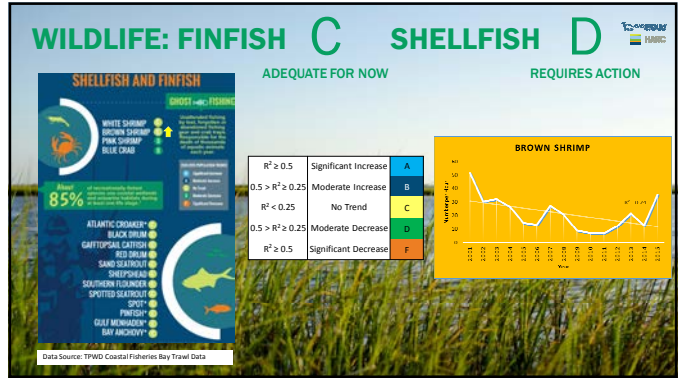
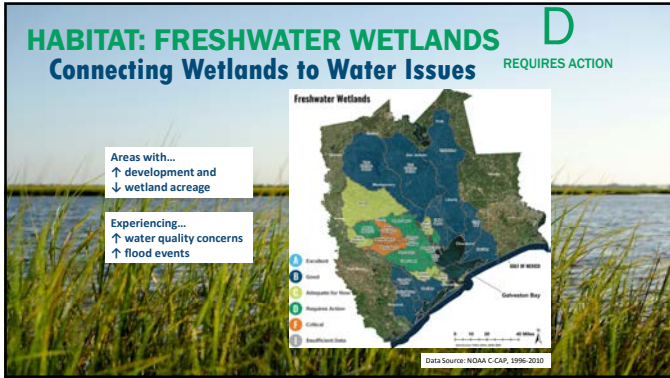
C means "Adequate for Now" – the Bay is faring well considering significant challenges such as habitat and shellfish declines, pollution, and the impacts of coastal change – But we must act now to prevent facing a crisis in the future.

WHAT HAS IMPROVED? WATER QUALITY – A

(B in 2015): Improvement in all areas

Parameter	2015 (2014 Data Year) B		2016 (2015 Data Year) A	
	Bay	Rivers & Bayous	Bay	Rivers & Bayous
Nitrogen	A (19% exceedance)	B (21% exceedance)	A (7% exceedance)	A (12% exceedance)
Phosphorus	B (33% exceedance)	C (43% exceedance)	A (14% exceedance)	B (34% exceedance)
Dissolved Oxygen	A (2% exceedance)	A (11% exceedance)	A (0% exceedance)	A (3% exceedance)

Data Sources: TCEQ, H-GAC, TPWD



REPORT CARD TOOLS: www.GalvBayGrade.org

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. **Collect Data:** Get reports from schools in the GalvBay area. **Online Reports:** Get reports from schools and districts.
2. **Use Data:** Use the data to make decisions about your school and district.
3. **Use up all your data and generate reports of your data.**
4. **Plan a plan:** Plan what actions you will take to improve the school and the district.
5. **Use the data to make decisions about your school and district.**
6. **Use the data to make decisions about your school and district.**
7. **Use the data to make decisions about your school and district.**
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19. **Use the data to make decisions about your school and district.**
20. **Use the data to make decisions about your school and district.**

FIND YOUR WATERSHED

VISIT GALVBAYGRADE.ORG TO LEARN MORE

HARC

Thank You
www.GalvBayGrade.org

Galveston Bay Foundation
Heather Schiappa
hschiappa@galvbay.org

Houston Advanced Research Center
Erin Kinney
ekinney@HARCresearch.org

THE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL
c/o Galveston Bay Estuary Program
17041 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 210
HOUSTON, TX 77058-2646
(281) 218-6461

April 4, 2017

Dr. Steven Pennings, Director, UH Coastal Center
Department of Biology and Biochemistry
University of Houston, Houston TX 77204

Dear Dr. Pennings,

The Galveston Bay Council strongly supports the proposed legislation relating to the establishment of the Texas Institute for Coastal Prairie Research and Education (TICPRE) at the University of Houston.

The Galveston Bay Council is charged with the general health of the Bay and its ecosystems. One of the most imperiled ecosystems is the Texas coastal prairie. Over nine million acres once existed. Today less than 1% remains as a refuge for rare and endangered birds, mammals, reptiles, insects and plants. Much of the prairie has been used as pasture for cattle grazing or for growing rice and other grains. Coastal prairies also continue to be threatened by increasing urban and suburban development.

Land conservation and habitat preservation must be undertaken to protect the habitat diversity of the coastal prairie. The Galveston Bay Council would support the proposed institute being a leader in acquisition and protection of coastal prairies.

The University of Houston Coastal Center (UHCC) has been actively involved in the research, education and service activities related to coastal prairies. Its location, on property owned by a tier-one university, is one of the last remaining native coastal prairies left in Texas. The establishment of TICPRE at UHCC will further help preserve the highly endangered coastal prairie habitat, providing a setting for conducting environmental research and education on coastal prairies and prairie restoration.

By supporting this proposed legislation, the Galveston Bay Council hopes to enable the preservation and restoration of the endangered coastal prairies.

Sincerely,



Nancy Parra
Chair, Galveston Bay Council

Galveston Bay Council Member Terms (as of 4/12/2017)

Shading identifies nominees for either expiring terms or positions which were vacated before the term expired. Individuals denoted with * are new to the council i.e., have not served prior terms on the Council. ~~All other individuals are renewing their positions.~~ Galveston Bay Council members serve a four-year staggered term such that approximately half the terms will expire biennially in November.

Category 1, named entities, are nominated by their respective agency or organization as listed in *The Galveston Bay Plan* and are presented in regular font. If a vacancy exists under Category 1, the representative nominated by that respective entity may begin serving prior to confirmation by the commission. Category 2, named interests, are nominated by existing members of the Galveston Bay Council, County Judges, and other Galveston Bay partners at large, as applicable, and are presented in *italic font*. Category 2 nominees cannot begin serving until approved by the commission.

Positions highlighted in yellow have terms that will end in November 2017. Those members need to either be nominated by their organizations or by the GBC to take on a new term (2017-2021) or a new nominee/appointee needs to be identified to fill that position in November 2017.

Type Of Organization	Interest Represented	Appointee/Nominee	Term
Federal Agencies	U.S. Coast Guard	Matthew White, MSTC	2015-2019
	U.S. Geological Survey	Michael T. Lee	2015-2019
	National Marine Fisheries Service	Rusty Swafford Appointed by NMFS 4/16. Approved by GBC 5/25/16 (Heather Young resigned NMFS 4/16)	2015-2019
	Natural Resource Conservation Service	Scott Alford	2015-2019
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Andrea Catanzaro Appointed by USACE 6/29/16, approved by GBC 7/19/16 (Carolyn Murphy retired 4/16)	2013-2017
	Environmental Protection Agency	J. Douglas Jacobson	2013-2017
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	John Huffman	2013-2017
State Agencies	Texas Department of Agriculture	Kristen Lambrect	2015-2019
	Texas General Land Office	Kate Zultner Saul Name change requested	2015-2019
	Texas Department of State Health Services	Kirk Wiles	2015-2019
	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Kelly Holligan	2015-2019
	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	Rebecca Hensley	2015-2019
	Texas Railroad Commission	James Harcourt	2015-2017
	Texas Department of Transportation	Mark Fisher	2013-2017
	Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board	Brian Koch	2013-2017
	Texas Water Development Board	Carla Guthrie	2013-2017
Regional/Local Governments	Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority	Lori Traweek	2015-2019
	Houston-Galveston Area Council	Jeff Taebel	2015-2019

	City of Houston	Phillip Goodwin	2015-2019
	<i>Medium Local Governments - pop 25K- 500K</i> (Galveston County Health District)	Ronnie Schultz	2015-2019
	<i>Small Local Governments - pop <25,000</i> (Chambers County)	Mary Beth Stengler	2015-2019
	Trinity River Authority	Glenn Clingenpeel	2015-2019
	Port of Houston Authority	Garry McMahan	2013-2017
	<i>Large Local Governments - pop >500K</i> (Harris County Flood Control District)	Russ Poppe Nominated and approved by GBC on 10/17/16; (Michael D. Talbott retired effective 8/31/16)	2013-2017
	San Jacinto River Authority	Jace Houston	2013-2017
Environmental/ Citizen's Groups	Galveston Bay Foundation	Bob Stokes	2013-2017
	<i>Citizens-at-Large</i> (Brazoria County)	Sharron L. Stewart	2015-2019
	<i>Minority Community Representative</i>	Luz Locke	2015-2019
	League of Women Voters	Nancy Parra ¹	2015-2019
	Coastal Conservation Association	Matt Still	2013-2017
	<i>Low-income Community Representative</i> (Harris County Small Business Owner)	Albert Gonzales	2013-2017
	<i>Other Conservation Organizations</i> (Texas Coastal Partners)	Linda Shead	2013-2017
Private Sector	Galveston County Chambers of Commerce (Gulf Coast Economic Development District)	Charles Wemple	2015-2019
	Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) (Dow Chemical)	Jarod D. Davis (Changing roles at Dow. Awaiting GHP designation of replacement.)	2015-2017
	Utilities (NRG Energy, Inc.)	William Baker	2013-2017
	Industry (Lyondell Basell)	Caryn Brooks Nominated by GBC on 7/19/16 (Gregory Biddinger retired 5/23/2016)	2013-2017
	Marinas (Marina Bay Harbor Yacht Club in Clear Lake Shores)	Helen Paige ²	2013-2017
	Commercial Fisheries (Oysterman- Manager of Jeri's Seafood)	Tracy Woody	2013-2017
	East Harris County Manufacturer's Association	Ana Partin	2013-2017
Research/ Academia	<i>Major Universities</i> (University of Houston)	Hanadi Rafai	2015-2019
	Texas Sea Grant Program	John Jacob	2013-2017

¹Galveston Bay Council Chair (2016-2017)²Galveston Bay Council Vice-Chair (2016-2017)

PRG Area	Project Name	Lead	Federal	State	Change	Reason	Federal Current	State Current
PRGM	Salary, Fringe, Indirect, Travel, Intern, Supplies	GBEP	\$ 605,705	\$ 24,613	↑/↓	Federal: Increase in Fringe and Indirect rates by 6.5%. State: Decrease to compensate for project #6 negotiated indirect rate.	\$ 621,063	\$ 24,467
PRGM	1) State of the Bay Report, Fourth Edition	HARC-GTRI	\$ 85,000		None		\$ 85,000	
PRGM	2) GBEP Website/Back the Bay Website Update and Maintenance	TBD	\$ 33,098	\$ 5,821	↓	Compensate for increase in F&I	\$ 32,505	\$ 5,821
NRU	3) Conservation Assistance Program	TBD	\$ 120,000		↓	Compensate for increase in F&I	\$ 100,000	
NRU	4) Coastal Heritage Preserve – Anchor Bay Acquisition	Artist Boat		\$ 40,000	None			\$ 40,000
NRU	5) Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline	GBF		\$ 85,000	None			\$ 85,000
NRU	6) Green Infrastructure for Texas – Freshwater Wetland Restoration	Texas Coastal Watershed Program		\$ 37,500	↑	Compensate for increase negotiated indirect rate		\$ 37,646
WSQ	7) Bacterial Source Tracking on Tributaries of Trinity and Galveston Bay* (Year 1 of 3, total project cost \$240,000)	Texas Water Resources Institute	\$ 80,000		None		\$ 80,000	
WSQ	8) Coordinating Implementation of a Watershed Protection Plan for Double Bayou	HARC-GTRI		\$ 31,679	None			\$ 31,679
WSQ	9) Green Infrastructure for Texas – Stormwater Treatment Wetlands	Texas Coastal Watershed Program	\$ 37,500		None		\$ 37,500	
WSQ/M&R	10) Evaluating the potential of an index-velocity discharge station and surrogate parameters to estimate flow, nutrient and suspended-sediment loads from the San Jacinto River to Galveston Bay	USGS		\$ 40,000	None			\$ 40,000
WSQ	11) Designing for Impact: Promoting Low Impact Development Implementation	H-GAC	\$ 30,000		None		\$ 30,000	
M&R	12) Seafood Evaluation in a Portion of Galveston Bay* (Year 1 of 2, total project cost \$99,375)	DSHS	\$ 30,000		None		\$ 30,000	
M&R	13) Characterization of the Influence of Freshwater Inflow on the Trinity River Delta Salinity, Rangia, and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	UHCL-EIH	\$ 42,000		None		\$ 42,000	
M&R (Supported by NRU)	14) Proposed Monitoring Regime for Sheldon Lake State Park Freshwater Wetland Restoration Sites	Texas Coastal Watershed Program	\$ 36,697		↑	Added \$1 because cannot have odd number due to match (cannot use \$0.50 of state funds to match federal funds)	\$ 36,698	
M&R	15) The Impacts of Assimilative Capacity of Reservoirs on Coastal Inflows* (Year 3 of 4, total project cost \$160,000)	HARC-GTRI	\$ -		↑	GBC committed additional \$80,000 to phase II in FY 17 work plan (allocated \$41,300 in FY 17, project still needs \$38,700, committing \$27,842 in FY 18)	\$ 27,842	
PPE	16) River, Lakes 'N Bayous Trash Bash	H-GAC	\$ 5,000		None		\$ 5,000	
PPE	17) White Oak Parkway Native Habitat Restoration and Outreach	Houston Parks and Recreation Department	\$ 45,000		None		\$ 45,000	
PPE	18) TERN Citizen Science Program in Galveston Bay	TPWD	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	↑	\$20,000 of FY 17 state money removed during state budget scrub. Reallocating \$17,392 from canceled GBAN project to compensate	\$ 27,392	\$ 20,000
PPE	19) Galveston Bay Action Network (GBAN) Education and Outreach Campaign	GBF	\$ 40,000		↓	Removed from work plan; money reallocated to projects #15 and #18	\$ -	
* denotes subcommittees and council are committed to multiple years of official state funding allocation has not been released, state funded projects subject to change			Project Total	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 284,613		\$ 1,200,000	\$ 284,613
			Difference	0	0		0	0