

**GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAMFINAL** - Galveston Bay Council (GBC) Meeting  
Minutes-April 18, 2018

**Attendees:**

**Galveston Bay Council Chair:** Helen Paige (Marinas)

**Galveston Bay Council Vice-Chair:** Glenn Clingenpeel

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

The April 18, 2018 quarterly GBC meeting was held at Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, 1660 West Bay Area Blvd., Houston, Texas, from 9:32 AM to 12:10 PM.

**Members Present:** Scott Alford, Christine Bergren, Caryn Brooks, Glenn Clingenpeel, Albert Gonzales, Rebecca Hensley, Brian Koch, Audrey Kuklenz, Kristin Lambrecht, Mike Lee, Garry McMahan, Will Nipper, Nancy Parra, Ana Partin, Pamela Plotkin, Taylor Rieck, Hanadi Rifai, Kate Saul, Caimee Schoenbaechler, Ronnie Schultz, Linda Shead, Sharron Stewart, Bob Stokes, Kirk Wiles

**Members Not Present/Delegates:** Andrea Catanzaro, Phillip Goodwin\*, Kelly Holligan\*, Jace Houston\*, John Huffman, Doug Jacobson, Luz Locke, Russ Poppe\*, Aaron Rice, Mary Beth Stengler, Rusty Swafford, Jeff Taebel\*, Lori Traweek, Chuck Wemple, Tracy Woody

(\*=Member designated a proxy)

**Proxies Present (council member absent/designated proxy):**

Phillip Goodwin/Richard Chapin, Kelly Holligan/Kerry Niemann, Jace Houston/Kim Wright, Russ Poppe/Glenn Laird, Rusty Swafford/Aaron Chastain, Jeff Taebel/Todd Running

**Current Vacancies:** None

**Other Attendees:** George Guillen (UH-Clear Lake), Scott Galaway (TWDB), Lisa Gonzalez (HARC), Mollie Powell, General Land Office (GLO); Stennie Meadours (GBAC)

**Additional GBEP Staff present:** Cynthia Clevenger, Cassidy Kempf, Lindsey Lippert, Mary Stiles

**Call to Order: Introduction of Members and Delegates**

Vice-Chair Glenn Clingenpeel called meeting to order and confirmed a quorum before moving to the first action item.

Glenn Clingenpeel announced Chair Helen Paige would be late attending the meeting due to an emergency at the Marina early in the morning. Vice Chair will fill in for the Chair until she arrives.

**Action Item: Approval of January 31, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Glenn Clingenpeel opened the meeting with approval of the January 31, 2018 meeting minutes and opened the floor for questions and comments. A motion was requested for approval of the minutes. Brian Koch moved to approve the minutes followed by Nancy Parra who seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no changes.

## **Report of the Program (Sarah Bernhardt)**

Dr. Sarah Bernhardt announced an update on the 2019 Funding at the Environmental Protection Agency and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality level of funding. Dr. Bernhardt reported on the Estuary Resilience Assessment and that Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) will be assisting with Galveston Bay Estuary Program to complete the project. She also reported on the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) comments and gave an update. Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) received two very detailed letters with lots of comments, there were commonalities between the two letters.

## **Report of the Chair:**

Glenn Clingenpeel announced there was a discussion held by Budget and Priorities (B&P) regarding addressing CCMP comments. At the next meeting B&P will draft a letter to send a response to each of the commenters. Volunteers that are interested in participating may reach out to the Chair Helen Paige.

Glenn Clingenpeel reported on the status of nominations and anticipates nominations at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Utilities and Underrepresented Communities.

## **Presentation & Discussion: State of the Bay Report, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition: Update and Path Forwards; Lisa Gonzalez, President, HARC**

Lisa Gonzalez presented to the council the history of the State of the Bay (SOB) reports and HARC's staff changes. Ms. Gonzalez described the new format that is being proposed and will become available online, but it will also include a printable summary document that **can be taken to the legislature**. Similar process to involve Galveston Bay Council with one big change and communications will occur in coordination with GBC members and subcommittees. Emails **will be accepted from Sarah and Galveston Bay Estuary staff, but also from Lisa Gonzalez and Erin Kinney. The first few chapters will include Data Heavy Chapters from the first chapter to the third chapters, these editions will be re-organized by the four main areas of the Galveston Bay Plan, second edition.** Lisa Gonzalez presented success stories that will be included in the third edition and will be requesting feedback from subcommittee members, ESRI story map and will show a mock-up of a sample State of the Bay fourth edition on the website. Lisa also showed examples of story maps for G.B. Major Task and Timelines: **Quality assurance will be seeking donations of photographic input.** Presentation & Discussion: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) updates on the State Flood Assessment and Disaster Recovery Financial Assistance; Caimee Schoenbaechler, Manager of Bays and Estuaries and Scott Galaway, Program Specialist, TWDB

Scott Gallaway presented on TWDB, it was developed in 1950 to create reservoirs and there were two main functions 1) state water resource planners, 2) water infrastructure financing. There is a non-regulatory resource agency for anything that is water related. There are four areas of project finance and science.

Regional water plans rollup into the state water plans a planning document for fifty years horizon and considers municipalities, ag, industry and power generations. Regional bottom up planning process San Jacinto Regional Area and Region H is the

local sponsor. Current plan 2017 includes an interactive tool you can logon at <http://texasstatewaterplan.org>. more web sources from TWDB are [texasflood.org](http://texasflood.org). proves information on what do during and after a flood and real-time stream gage data linked state wide from all [www.texmesonet.org](http://www.texmesonet.org) provides weather forecasting. Mr. Gallaway explained his role is to promote their financial assistance products. The booklet provided provides information on pages 4&5 about EPA. To get started you may setup a meeting with TWDB or Scott Gallaway.

Caimee Schoenbaechler presented to the council 2017, the 85th Texas Legislature passed an exceptional item which, among other activities, enables the Texas Water Development Board to create the first ever statewide assessment of flood risk. The State Flood Assessment, a report that will be completed prior to the start of the 2019 legislative session, will provide comprehensive information about flooding impacts and programs in Texas as well as policy recommendations to reduce flood risk. Three goals guide this first step toward developing comprehensive flood planning for the state: (1) to assess flood risk and catalogue the roles and responsibilities of relevant entities, (2) to estimate the statewide cost to mitigate flood risk, and (3) to envision the future of flood planning in Texas.

The vital importance of this opportunity to ensure adequate flood planning and risk mitigation to communities and citizens throughout Texas hinges on stakeholder input. The success of this effort depends on input and guidance from stakeholders—most importantly the 1,200+ floodplain managers in Texas. Several opportunities for input and engagement were available throughout March and April 2018, including eight regional workshops, one-on-one meetings, water-related conferences, and an online survey. Once datasets are compiled and stakeholder input is reviewed, the draft report will be completed by the end of June, available for review and public comment in July, and finalized in the latter half of the year.

This first step toward developing comprehensive flood planning for Texas does not seek to fund specific strategies or projects related to flood planning, mitigation, warning, or recovery. Instead, this effort seeks to obtain and communicate information that will determine the need for and benefits of statewide flood planning and financial investment. To learn more about the TWDB's State Flood Assessment effort, please visit the website at <http://www.texasfloodassessment.com>.

**Q:** Will Flood planning process align with state planning regions?

**After the Break:** Glenn Clingenpeel brought the meeting to order and introduced Kate Saul (General Land Office)

**Presentation & Discussion: Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan Update; Kate Saul, Texas General Land Office**

Kate Saul presented on the Texas General Land Office (GLO)'s efforts to develop the 2019 Update to the 2017 Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan. The 2017 Plan also presents resiliency strategies and recommended nature-based projects to mitigate the impacts of the issues of concern. The 2017 Plan was presented to the Texas Legislature and Texas Congressional members in Spring 2017. You may view the 2017 Plan on the GLO's website: [www.glo.texas.gov/coastalgrants/projects/files/Master-Plan.pdf](http://www.glo.texas.gov/coastalgrants/projects/files/Master-Plan.pdf). Identifying that further education and coastal restoration is necessary to

mitigate the coastal issues of concern, the GLO is working on the 2019 version of the Plan. The 2019 Plan has a broader scope to address the natural and built environments as they pertain to resiliency for coastal communities. Two rounds of meetings with a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) have been conducted in each of the five coastal planning regions to solicit feedback. Another round of meetings will be held late summer/early fall with the TAC to solicit feedback on the draft update. The 2019 Plan will be presented to the Texas Legislature and local elected officials in Spring 2019.

**Q:** Albert Gonzalez: How much interaction with Rice/Speed Center?

**A:** Kate Saul responded by informing the council The Resiliency project will not evaluate any currently facilitated federal projects, because GLO is a partner and want to let federal process run its course. Comment period open for online survey closing April 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Subcommittee Reporting:**

**Presentation & Discussion: Public Participation and Education subcommittee Cynthia Clevenger) including a presentation and Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM) followed by a local case study where CBSM has been implemented at Texas City Dike (TCD) by subcommittee member Stennie Meadours, Galveston Bay Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists and Plastic Pollution Prevention Partnership (P3P)**

Presentation introducing the Community Based Social Marketing modeled by the PPE coordinator Cynthia Clevenger. The CBSM model emphasizes understanding the barriers that exist to fostering sustainable behaviors before implementing public outreach and education campaigns, CBSM includes tools that can help entities create programs that measure success of behavior change as well as the return on the investments for programs. To demonstrate a project in the Galveston Bay watershed that is implementing the CBMS model, Stennie Meadours representing the Plastic Pollution Prevention Partnership (P3) and the Galveston Bay Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist will present the Texas City Dike (TCD) monofilament fishing line project. Stakeholders identified an abundance of fishing line on the TCD causing wildlife engagements and rescues. They have formed a partnership with the City of Texas City's solid waste manager to develop a pilot program aimed at helping anglers keep fishing line off the dike. Stennie Meadours presented to the council the history and facts about Texas City Dike and the five miles built by USACE. The popular fishing area which include boat ramps and fishing. There are four Facebook pages on fishing Texas City Dike followed by 10,000 people, there are no data on dike usage. The current phase is to identify pilot strategies working with City of Texas City.

**Monitoring and Research and Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittees:** Request for input on knowledge gaps (Mike Lee and Brian Koch)

Brian Koch and Mike Lee each spoke about their subcommittees and stated they are each chair on their subcommittees and asked the council members to provide input on knowledge gaps.

#### **Council Members Roundtable: News and Announcements**

**Todd Running:** The H-GAC Clean Rivers Steering Committee meeting will be May 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:30-3:30. H-GAC is also looking for OSSFs that are failing or in need of repair.

The homeowner must be below 80% of their community's median income to qualify for repairs.

Coastal Communities Residential Outreach Project Update: Identified 22 communities without MS4 permits in four coastal counties, support implementation through outreach for existing watershed protection plans, TMDL I-plans, and other water quality projects in the region. Their goal is to work with residents to change behaviors that often contribute to water pollution issues such as pet waste, fats, oil, grease, litter and illegal dumping abatement, on-site sewage system maintenance. Currently conducting needs assessments to determine how to proceed with outreach plans for each community, for further information [www.coastalcommunitiestx.com](http://www.coastalcommunitiestx.com).

The 24<sup>th</sup> Trash Bash results are in: 3,591 volunteers, 85.5 tons of trash, .94 ton of recycling, and 158.5 miles of shoreline cleaned. This year Rivers, Lakes, Bays "N Bayous Trash Bash was the winner of the 2018 Texas Environmental Excellence Award (civic/community category). Save the date for Trash Bash 2019 will be March 30, for more information you can logon to [www.trashbash.org](http://www.trashbash.org)

**Pam Plotkin:** Free screening of "Straws" in College Station this Friday with a panel discussion. They are also hoping to provide a free screening at A&M Galveston in the future.

**Kate Saul:** Adopt -A-Beach will be Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>, volunteers may sign-up on the website <http://www.glo.texas.gov/adopt-a-beach>. The CMP application process is beginning soon, with a workshop May 9<sup>th</sup> in Galveston. This year, pre-applications are required and will be due on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Caimee Schoenbaechler:** Texas Water Development Board has hired a new hydrodynamic modeler who will work on a modeling system for Galveston Bay.

(TPWD) hired a new hydrodynamic modeler from Virginia Institute Marine Science. The model will be used for Galveston Bay will be expanded.

**Linda Shead:** Artist Boat closed March 8<sup>th</sup> on sixty-eight acres. Earth Day event will be Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> Bayou Preservation Association will exhibit an art car this year.

**Kerry Niemann:** Regarding the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Management Program: The GLO and TCEQ continue to work with NOAA and EPA on approval of six (6) remaining conditions. The remaining conditions are watershed protection, site development, existing development, new development, and roads, highways, and bridges, which have been combined; and On-site Disposal Systems (which includes OSDS Contributions to Nitrogen Limited Waters, and the inspection of OSDS at a frequency adequate to ascertain if they are failing). The deadline to submit an approvable program is June 2019.

Regarding the TMDL Program: The Lower San Antonio River Implementation Plan was released for public comment on March 23. The public comment period will run for 30-days. The Sycamore Creek TMDL is scheduled to go to agenda for release for public comment on May 23.

Regarding the NPS Program: The 2017 NPS Management Program was approved by EPA on March 23. The 2017 Annual Report was approved by the EPA on April 3. The annual Request for Grant Applications is scheduled to open June 1 and will post for 60 days.

Regarding the 2016 Integrated Report: It is being prepared for public comment and should be released in the Spring.

Regarding Water Quality Standards: They were adopted by the Commission on February 7, 2018 and became effective as a state rule on March 1st. Now with EPA pending approval.

Regarding the Clean Rivers Program: The calendar of 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 2018 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule has been updated and is available on the LCRA's website.

**Mike Lee:** U. S. Geological Survey is posting three to four jobs in the next six months. They will be available at [www.USAJobs.gov](http://www.USAJobs.gov).

**Lisa Gonzalez:** Galveston Bay Report Card funded by Houston endowment for additional two years.

**Mollie Powell:** General Land Office Harvey debris cleanup in beaches and bays will be completed with existing funds.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm

**Upcoming Galveston Bay Council Meeting Dates:** October 17, 2018. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the quarter from 9:30am - 12:30pm. If there are known conflicts, Council members are encouraged to propose alternate dates to the Council.