

## **GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM**

### **FINAL – Galveston Bay Council Meeting Minutes– July 19, 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 July 19, 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 12:09 PM.

**Members Present:** Scott Alford, Bill Baker Caryn Brooks, Andrea Catanzaro, Glenn Clingenpeel, Albert Gonzales, Kelly Holligan, Audrey Kuklenz, John Huffman, John Jacobs, Doug Jacobson, Kristin Lambrecht, Luz Locke, Helen Paige, Nancy Parra, Hanadi Rifai, Ronnie Schultz, Linda Shead, Sharron Stewart, Bob Stokes, Jeff Taebel, Lori Traweek, Kirk Wiles, Tracy Woody

**Members Not Present/Delegates:** Jarod Davis, Mark Fisher, Phillip Goodwin\*, Carla Guthrie\*, Jace Houston\*, Brian Koch, Mike Lee, Garry McMahan\*, Ana Partin, Russ Poppe\*, Aaron Rice, Kate Saul\*, Mary Beth Stengler, Matthew Still, Rusty Swafford\*, Chuck Wemple\*,

(\*=Member designated a proxy)

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

Phillip Goodwin/Richard Chapin, Carla G. Guthrie/Caimee Schoenbaechler, Jace Houston/David Parkhill, Garry McMahan/Jaqueline Munoz, Russ Poppe/Denise Wade, Kate Saul/Mollie Powell, Rusty Swafford/Aaron Chastain, Kate Saul/Mollie Powell, Chuck Wemple/Joshua Owens

**Current Vacancies:** None

**Other Attendees:** Kelly Burks-Copes, Glenda Callaway, Lisa Gonzales, Debra Harper, Kerry Niemann, Antonietta Quigg

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

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

Action Item: Approval of April 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Nancy Parra (Chair) opened the meeting with approval of the April 19, 2017 meeting minutes and opened the floor for questions and comments. A motion was requested for approval of the minutes. John Jacobs motioned to approve the minutes, followed by Bill Baker who seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no changes.

## **Chair Report:**

Nancy Parra reported on the survey status. The chairs have been taking time to discuss and are still working to revise the survey. Do people need more training when joining the council? Are we using people's time well? What are the GBC members' perceptions? What do they feel they will get out of participating in the GBC? Versus the draft that focused on the bylaws. Nancy reported hopefully there will be a report by the October meeting.

Nancy reported there will be a Minority position opened. Luz Locke is retiring. Luz has a 2015-2019 term representing the minority position on the GBC, but has requested that we nominate a replacement due to her changing working commitments. Luz formerly worked for the City of Pasadena and is now retired. Please submit your nominations.

The agenda for today's meeting has changed. One subcommittee will report at each quarterly meeting and give a more detailed report. This is an opportunity for council members to learn about the subcommittees of the council and potentially select one to join.

Nancy reported the next council meeting will be held October 18th. The chairs and Sarah would like to invite everyone who is available to join us for lunch after the meeting at Los Cucos restaurant.

### **Action Items: Approval of roster of member nominations for 2017-2021 terms and other changes, including nomination of a new vice-chair and chair for 2018-2019.**

Reference was made to pages 21 through 33 of the handouts.

Nancy announced there are three category one appointment nominees:

1. Christine Bergren, TXDOT for Mark Fisher
2. Caimee Schoenbaechler, TWDB for Carla Guthre
3. Taylor Rieck, CCA for Matt Still

Plus a number of other new changes of note: The Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority has changed its name to the Gulf Coast Authority, and Kate Zultner with GLO is now known as Kate Saul. Congratulations to Kate on her recent marriage. Nancy requested motion for approval, Glenn Clingenpeel made a motion for approval followed by Kirk Wiles second, also approved by all GBC members. The new nominees submitted their biographies.

Final nominations for Chair and Vice Chair two years term. There are two suggested nominations: New Chair - Nancy Parra nominated Helen Paige. Helen started with the council in 2007 with Nancy and joined PPE subcommittee. Nancy read Helen's biography. Nancy asked for a nomination for a new Vice-Chair. Lori Traweek nominated Glenn Clingenpeel. Lori providing background on Glenn's qualifications, including his position in Dallas with the Trinity River Authority, his experience with water issues and service on many committees. Bill Baker made a motion for approval of both Chair and Vice Chair nominations. which Sharron Stewart seconded. The nominations received full approval from the GBC.

## **Report of the Program:**

Sarah Bernhardt reported the nominations will be official as of November 15<sup>th</sup> TCEQ Agenda. The January 17<sup>th</sup> GBC meeting will be the true beginning of the new nominations terms.

Sarah reported staff changes at the program:

- Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program: Student intern Samantha Dunn, working on two projects with Sarah Bernhardt and Cynthia Clevenger.
- Michelle Krause's last day was May 31<sup>st</sup>, she has relocated to North Carolina where she will be seeking new employment while her husband completes his medical residency at Camp Lejeun. Michelle's position remains vacant and we plan to post that vacancy in the fall once the state hiring freeze is lifted.
- Bryan Eastham joined the program in June as the program's Technical and Quality Programs Coordinator.
- Sarah thanked GBEP staff for their extraordinary efforts during the staff transition period and during the ongoing plan revision process.

Nancy Parra thanked Sarah for her staff report and introduced Antonietta Quigg's presentation, noting that Dr. Quigg's project was funded by the GBEP and was just completed in May 2017.

**Presentation and Discussion: Galveston Bay: Changing Land Use Patterns and Nutrient Loading: Causal or Casual Relationship with Water Quality, Quantity, and Patterns (Dr. Antonietta Quigg, Texas A&M University, Galveston) – No slides were provided.**

Antonietta Quigg gave an overview of her research in Galveston Bay and discussed the results and described additional research which is ongoing.

**Presentation and Discussion: Preview of the main actions in the draft Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, the CCMP Revision (Sarah Bernhardt, GBEP) – See attached slides**

Sarah Bernhardt presented to the council the development of The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition DRAFT was informed by more than 150-stakeholders over eight separate workshops and meetings, and countless one-on-one phone calls.

The Galveston Bay Estuary Program, with support from the Houston-Galveston Area Council, took the feedback provided by stakeholders and developed an approach that takes the best of The Plan from 1995 and the Strategic Action Plan, but condenses it down to a more accessible format.

Based on stakeholder feedback at Workshop Two, there are four types of Action Plans in The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition DRAFT.

The first type is Engage Communities in the Conservation of Galveston Bay. There are two Action Plans under this type, which were driven primarily by objectives identified by the Public Participation & Education subcommittee, but there are key crossovers with the Monitoring & Research subcommittee.

There are six Objectives supporting these two Action Plans.

The second type is Inform Science-Based Decision Making in Galveston Bay. There are two Action Plans under this type, which were driven primarily by objectives identified by the Monitoring & Research subcommittee, but there are key crossovers with the Public Participation and Natural Resource Uses subcommittees.

There are ten Objectives supporting these Action Plans.

- 1 -3. Conduct biological, physical, and geochemical stressor monitoring and research
- 4 -5. Conduct M&R to address limits to contact recreation and limits to seafood consumption
6. Conduct research on ecosystem service and economic valuation of bay resources
7. Complete coastal resiliency and acclimation studies
8. Support tracking the status and trends of environmental stressor indicators of GB ecosystem health
9. Expand the dissemination of easy to access GB monitoring and research

The third type is Ensure Safe Human Use of Galveston Bay. There are three Action Plans under this type, which were driven primarily by objectives identified by the Water & Sediment Quality subcommittee, but there are key crossovers with the Public Participation & Education and Monitoring & Research subcommittees.

There are 12 Objectives supporting these Action Plans, the most of any other type.

The main goals are:

Nonpoint Source (NPS) Action Plan

1. Support watershed based plans
2. Support NPS water quality improvement projects
  1. NPS education campaign
  2. NPS BMP demonstration projects
  3. NPS technical workshops

Point Source (PS) Action Plan:

1. Conduct storm water point source outreach (with Phase I and II storm water programs)
2. Increase WWTF and sanitary sewer system compliance

Promote Public Health Awareness Action Plan

1. Improve public health outreach
2. Improve watershed based plans
  1. Contact recreation safety
  2. Human shellfish consumption
  3. Human recreational finfish consumption
3. Improve public health monitoring and research
  1. Seafood consumption advisory program
  2. Characterize contact recreation risk

3. Sediment legacy pollutant characterization studies
4. Characterize pollutant loads from air deposition

The fourth type is Protect and Sustain the Living Resources of Galveston Bay. There are three Action Plans under this type, which were driven primarily by objectives identified by the Natural Resource Uses subcommittee, but there are key crossovers with the Public Participation & Education and Monitoring & Research subcommittees.

There are eight unique Objectives supporting these Action Plans, and several objectives that cross reference other action plans.

These objectives include: land acquisition, habitat restoration, habitat enhancement, native species management, invasive species control, and three freshwater inflows support objectives (encourage participation in regional water planning groups to develop policies to ensure adequate quantities of freshwater (FW) reach Galveston Bay; support research to understand annual and seasonal FW needs for bay; develop/support initiatives that promote water conservation and educate public on FW inflows)

Next Sarah shared what comprises an Action Plan using the two Action Plans under Engage Communities in the Conservation of Galveston Bay as an example.

In order to Engage Communities in the Conservation of Galveston Bay, an Action Plan for *Stakeholder & Partner Outreach* was developed.

*Stakeholder & Partner Outreach* seeks to address two Priority Issues:

1. Stakeholders Lack a Sense of Ownership and / or Responsibility in the Health of Galveston Bay.
2. Stakeholders & Partners Do Not Feel Connected to the Health and/or Protection and Preservation of Galveston Bay.

The Goals, Objectives and Actions Identified within this Action Plan all work toward addressing the Priority Issues.

In The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition DRAFT, there will be additional detail on the Measures and Outputs for each Objective. This will ensure that activities under each Action Plan are tracked, with clear milestones and outcomes used to measure successful achievement of an Objective.

Each action in the plan will identify measures and outputs (ie. the steps to achieve our objectives and desired deliverables our outcomes).

Each action will identify lead implementers, partners, and estimated funding costs.

The second Action Plan under Engage Communities in the Conservation of Galveston Bay, *Public Awareness & Education*, seeks to address a single, crucial Priority Issue:

1. An Absence of Continued, Enhanced and Estuary-Focused Education Limits Long-Term, Lasting Success in Environmental Stewardship.

As with the Action Plan for Stakeholder & Partner Outreach, all of the Goals, Objectives and Actions identified within this Action Plan all work toward addressing the Priority Issue.

The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition DRAFT will include photos, maps and figures along with text to ensure the reader has appropriate context when reading it.

Currently, GBEP is incorporating feedback on The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition DRAFT from the EPA, TCEQ and our Plan Revision Advisory Committee (the chairs of the subcommittees and council plus EPA and TCEQ).

Once incorporated, The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition DRAFT will be laid out graphically and presented for Public Comment at Workshop #3.

**Presentation and Discussion: Back the Bay Campaign Update – Summer 2017: What Happens in Houston Ends Up in Galveston Bay, and other Public Participation and Education (PPE) subcommittee accomplishments (Cynthia Clevenger, GBEP) – see attached slides**

Cynthia Clevenger gave an overview presentation of the Back the Bay Campaign, provided an update on the recent meetings of PPE, and provided an overview of the current efforts of all four subcommittees to review Galveston Bay Plan priorities, identify fiscal 2019 funding priorities, and develop project proposals during the summer 2017 meetings in preparation to present a draft work plan budget to the GBC at the October 2017 GBC meeting.

No additional subcommittee meeting updates were provided at the meeting.

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

**Sharron Stewart** – The UTMSI in Port Aransas will have a Sea Level Rise Workshop on 08/08 at the Cinema starting at 8:45am - 4:45pm

**Nancy Parra** – Invited Council members to join together after the meeting for lunch

**Caimee Schoenbaechler** (Proxy for Carla Guthrie) – In early September, 2017 TWDB will have hiring positions opened.

**Lori Traweek** – Announced Gulf Waste Disposal has changed their name to Gulf Coast Authority

**Glenda Callaway** – SB2 activities in Trinity River basin sediment did not change, but biology did. SB3, BBAS and TWDB tie flows to flood stages.

**Linda Shead** – Bayou Preservation Association to host annual symposium on October 19, 2017

**Kerry Niemann** – TCEQ is planning to add an FTE to the GBEP. Kerry mentioned the positive impact Back the Bay/What happens in Houston, ends up in Galveston Bay PSAs have on praising the program and the council on the good work they have done and continue to do. A 15-20 sec PSA can have a profound impact on the public...and partners.

Regarding RESTORE:

- The public comment period for the draft Multi-year Implementation Plan (MIP), which includes a draft list of projects, ended on June 30, 2017. Over 1400 comments were received. The comments are being reviewed as the next stage in

the on-going evaluation process to determine activities for inclusion, as well as the final determination of what will be applied for funding and ultimately what will receive funding through grant contracts with the TCEQ. Due to ongoing payments into the RESTORE Trust Fund, the total funding available under the Direct Component (Bucket 1) grant program now exceeds the \$56 million originally identified in the Request for Grant Applications.

Regarding the NPS Program:

- The public comment period for the draft NPS Management Program closed on June 12, 2017. A public hearing was held on Thursday June 1. Two comments in support of the program were received. The program is tentatively scheduled to go to agenda for approval by the Commission on September 20. After approval from the TCEQ and the Board the program will be sent to the Governor for approval. Once approved it will be sent by the Governor to the EPA for final approval in the fall.

Regarding the 2016 Integrated Report:

- The TCEQ and EPA are coordinating to resolve remaining issues. Once these issues are resolved, the IR will be released for public comment.

Regarding the Water Quality Standards:

- Standards are currently under preparation for the 2018 revision. Standards will be proposed for public comment to the Commission in August of 2017. Following approval by the Commission there will be a 45 day formal public comment period.

**Andrea Catanzaro** - Announced the Ship Channel study nearing end with draft feasibility report and EIS. September 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>:public meetings. The USACE follows smart planning principles.

**Doug Jacobson** - Announced Lori Traweek has been promoted to be the new General Manager of Gulf Coast Authority.

**Public comments:**

**Lisa Gonzales** - Announced 08/09/2017 Galveston Bay Report Card at the Corinthian Yacht Club @ 10am, partnership with GBF and will be on the website galvbaygrade.org.

In May a Waterway, Trash, and Marine Debris Summit was held at the Houston Zoo. The outcome will be a regional prevention plan. You may contact Stephanie Glenn with HARC or Cynthia Clevenger with GBEP for further questions.

The Invasive Species Guide is located online at galvbayinvasives.org. HARC received funding from TPWD for reprinting the guides. Coastal Management Funding - Final Report.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:09pm

**Upcoming Galveston Bay Council Meeting Dates:** October 18, 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.

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