

GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

FINAL – Galveston Bay Council Meeting Minutes–October 18, 2017

Attendees:

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 October 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 12:22 PM.

Members Present: Scott Alford, Bill Baker, Caryn Brooks, Andrea Catanzaro, Glenn Clingenpeel, Phillip Goodwin, Rebecca Hensley, Kelly Holligan, Doug Jacobson, Brian Koch, Kristin Lambrecht, Mike Lee, Garry McMahan, Helen Paige, Nancy Parra, Hanadi Rifai, Caimee Schoenbaechler, Ronnie Schultz, Linda Shead, Bob Stokes

Members Not Present/Delegates: Christine Bergren, Andrea Catanzaro, Albert Gonzales, Jace Houston*, John Huffman, John Jacob, Audrey Kuklenz, Luz Locke, Will Nipper*, Ana Partin, Russ Poppe*, Aaron Rice, Taylor Rieck, Kate Saul*, Jeff Taebel*, Mary Beth Stengler, Sharron Stewart*, Rusty Swafford*, Lori Traweek*, Chuck Wemple, Kirk Wiles, Tracy Woody

(*=Member designated a proxy)

Proxies Present (council member absent/designated proxy):

Jace Houston/Jordan Austin, Will Nipper/Maria Valdez, Russ Poppe/Glenn Laird, Kate Saul/Mollie Powell, Sharron Stewart/Bruce Bodson, Rusty Swafford/Aaron Chastain, Jeff Taebel/Todd Running, Lori Traweek/Phyllis Frank

Current Vacancies: None

Other Attendees: Stuart Carlson, Lisa Gonzalez, George Guillen, Deborah January-Bevers, Erin Kinney, Kerry Niemann, Jamie Steichen, Rachel Windham, Lance Wood, Kim Wright, Heather Young

Additional GBEP Staff present: Cynthia Clevenger, Bryan Eastham, 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. Glenn Laird moved to approve the minutes, followed by

Doug Jacobson who seconded the motion. Corrections were noted and minutes were approved.

Report of the Chair Report:

Nancy Parra reported TCEQ Agenda is set for November 15, 2017 in Austin. Anyone will have the opportunity to speak on behalf of GBC and GBEP to the Commissioners. November 21st is the anniversary of the establishment of the GBC as an advisory committee (November 21, 1995). The Agenda location: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 9:30AM, 12100 Park 35 Circle Room 201S, Bldg. E, Austin, Texas. Coordinate with Nancy to attend. Linda Shead reported she is available to carpool.

Nancy Parra reported there would be three upcoming changes on the Galveston Bay Council, starting in January 2018.

Bill Baker will be leaving NRG in January for early retirement and working with his son in business. He will be stepping down on both position the "Utilities" representative and the vice-chair of the Natural Resources Uses subcommittee. Nominations are welcome to be brought to the chairs or Budget and Priorities subcommittee. Today is Bill Baker's last GBC meeting, we appreciate his contributions and a round of applause from the members.

The Texas Coastal Watershed Program (and in turn John Jacob) will no longer be affiliated with Texas Sea Grant, starting in January 2018 due to funding reallocation. We have reached out to Texas Sea Grant Director Pamela Plotkin to request they appoint their new representative.

Luz Locke has retired and is no longer affiliated with the City of Pasadena and is not currently doing any work that allows her to represent the "Minority" interests on the Council. Nancy asked the members if they know of anyone who would be a good candidate to fill the position.

This is the last meeting for Nancy Parra as "Chair". She stated it was an honor to be a representative to the Galveston Bay Council, it was a privilege to be chair during the Galveston Bay Plan revision accomplishments of Galveston Bay and the council.

Upcoming Galveston Bay Council Meeting Dates: January 17, 2018; April 18, 2018; July 18, 2018 and 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 welcome to propose alternate dates to the council.

Lastly, Budget and Priority Subcommittee decided the Galveston Bay Symposium will be held January 2020, instead of January 2019 to avoid conflict with the next Texas Legislative session.

Report of the Program:

- Sarah Bernhardt gave an update to the council on the upcoming State of the Bay Report, 4th Edition by HARC.
- Rescheduling annual budget discussion until January 2018 due to Hurricane Harvey delays.

- Received 40 applications for the estuary program vacancy. Will be interviewing later this month.
- GBEP anticipates sending out a draft The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition for GBC and subcommittee review later this fall. This will be a word document. After those comments have been incorporated into the draft there will be a Workshop #3, which will present the draft plan for public comment.

Sarah Bernhardt welcomed Lisa Gonzalez.

Lisa Gonzalez reported HARC/GTRI has contracted with the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to update the report for the 4th edition of the State of the Bay report.

HARC worked on previous reports in 2002 the 2nd and 3rd edition. The 4th edition will be an opportunity to change the outline that was used for the 1st and 3rd editions. The new edition will reflect the new Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) outline.

Previous editions were hardback and CD, but with new technology the 4th edition on be on a PDF web-base, with a PDF there will be a backup document and will be able to handout to as a government document with the executive summary. Lisa reported that a lot of input will be requested from the subcommittees and Galveston Bay Council members to incorporate input of stakeholders to be included in the 4th edition.

Action Item: Annual Conflict of Interest Forms Completions

Nancy Parra reminded members and proxies to complete the annual acknowledgement form conflicts of interest form and submit to the GBEP team. This is required per the bylaws of the GBC. Copies were provided in the handouts via email and additional copies are available at the back table. They can submit via email or form can be fill out during break and submitted after the meeting.

Hurricane Harvey Lightning Round Presentations & Discussions:

A series of short five minute presentations by numerous Galveston Bay Council member and organizations and partners.

Sarah Bernhardt announced she will introduce each presenter, as well as time each presentation, and informed the presenters they could stand at the podium and give their presentation or provide their verbal update from their seat. Presentations slides attached.

Subcommittee Reporting: Presentation from the Monitoring and Research subcommittee (Lisa Marshall). including a presentation on the Galveston Bay Post-Harvey Task Force by subcommittee member Stuart Carlton, Ph.D, Healthy Coastal Ecosystems & Social Science Specialist, Texas Sea Grant College Program

Lisa Marshall reported on the FY 2019 project development process and provided status.

Lisa Marshall reported on recently closed contracts for FY 2017, and gave a report on each subcommittee.

Monitoring and Research Subcommittee

- Galveston Bay Estuary Program Status and Trends (S&T) Maintenance Project (TAMUG – Brody)
- Galveston Bay: Changing Land Use Patterns and Nutrient Loading, Causal or Casual Relationship with Water Quality, Quantity, and Patterns (TAMUG – Quigg)
- Mangrove Restoration in Galveston Bay: Ecological Benefits and Effective Restoration Techniques (TAMUG – Armitage)

Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee

- Bacteria Implementation Group's Top Five Most and Top Five Least
- Impaired Water Bodies (H-GAC)

Natural Resource Uses Subcommittee

- West Bay Galveston Island Bayside Marsh Restoration (TPWD)
- Conservation Assistance Program (GBF)

Public Participation and Education Subcommittee

- Back the Bay (Texas Creative)

Lisa Marshall gave a summary of the project development process for the GBEP. The process has been delayed this year due to Hurricane Harvey. The B&P Subcommittee will approve the budget and projects at a special meeting on November 13, 2017 and the projects and budget will be presented to the GBC during the January 17, 2018 meeting.

Lisa Marshall then introduced Stuart Carleton Ph.D., Healthy Coastal Ecosystems & Social Science Specialist, Texas Sea Grant College Program who reported on the Galveston Bay Post-Harvey Task Force Partnership that is being facilitated by Texas Sea Grant and the Galveston Bay Estuary Program.

- Post-Harvey Task Force Website: bitly.com/galveston-harvey?
- To sign up for the listserv, which is the primary mode of Task Force communication, send an email to listserv@listserv.tamu.edu and put the following in the email body: SUBSCRIBE galveston-harvey first name last name.
- Stuart Carlton: stuartcarlton@tamu.edu

Budget and Priorities

- B&P will meet November 13, 2017

Council Members Roundtable: News and Announcements:

Glenn Clingenpeel – Trinity River Authority (TRA) recently completed their Phase II Instream Flows Assessment for the Trinity and would be happy to share it upon request

Caimee Schoenbaechler – The TWDB has an opening for a senior staff member, and the TWDB is gearing up to write a statewide flood plan

Glenn Laird – More education is needed for the public, re: watersheds, flooding in this area.

Nancy Parra – Reminder about the Texas Constitutional Amendment, Early Voting October 23 – November 3rd 2018, School Board Election also in Harris County

Mollie Powell –GLO in La Porte will have an entry level position opening soon

Brian Koch – TSSWCB's NPS 319 program closed their annual request for proposals. They received 34 proposals to ID funding recipients.

Todd Running – HGAC BIG meeting on October 31st, 2017, Bacteria TMDL meetings

Linda Shead – BPA Symposium October 19, 2017 at the United Way

Kerry Niemann - 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 NPS Management Program was approved by the Commission on September 20, 2017. The document incorporates EPA's eight components of an effective program; establishes long- and short-term goals; and provides for the coordination of activities with other partners. In fiscal year 2017, Texas received \$7.6 million dollars in CWA Section 319(h) federal grant funds to utilize and award to sub-grantees across the state.
- The TCEQ and TSSWCB solicit applications for funding eligible activities annually. They then rank and evaluate the applications for EPA Grant Work Plan consideration.

Regarding the 2016 Integrated Report:

- The TCEQ and EPA are coordinating to resolve remaining issues related to the assessment of nutrients in reservoirs. 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 were proposed for public comment to the Commission in August of 2017. The 45 day

formal public comment period closed yesterday on October 17, 2017. It is anticipated that standards will be presented to the Commission for adoption in February 2018.

- 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 2018 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule has been updated and is available on the TCEQ website.

Bob Stokes - GBF will have their annual Bike-Around-the Bay this weekend - 21,000 cyclists have registered.

Heather Young - Gulf of Mexico Alliance will have mini grants (two page applications) for post Harvey funding.

Public comments:

Lisa Gonzales - HARC is hosting Speaker Bill Ritter (former Governor of New Mexico) at MFA Brown Auditorium, who will be talking about new energy economy. Galveston Bay Invasive Field Guides, the new pocket guide will be available at the end of October 2017.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 12:22pm

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