

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

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**Tuesday, June 18, 2019  
10:00AM -12:00PM**

Subcommittee Chair: Kathy Janhsen, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), Principal Program Coordinator

Subcommittee Vice Chair: T'Noya Thompson, Galveston Bay Foundation, Advocacy Programs Manager

Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) Representative: Cynthia Clevenger

## ***Call to Order, Introductions***

Attendees: Becki Begley (H-GAC), Joanie Steinhaus (Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN)), Kelli Ondracek (City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD)), T'Noya Thompson (Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)), Cindy Wilems (GBF), Brenda Weiser (University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL)), Ted Driscoll (GBF), Marsha Towns (Student Conservation Association (SCA)), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Della Barbato, Native Prairies Association of Texas, Cruz Hinojosa (Galveston Bay Council), Mary Alice Trumble (Baytown Nature Center/Eddie Gray Wetlands Center), Amanda Rinehart (Artist Boat), Anna Vallery (Houston Audubon), Chelsea Lopez (Audubon Texas), Mary Stiles (GBEP), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Christian Rines (GBEP), Patricia Thompson (GBEP), Jessica Alanis (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP).

By phone: Erin Kinney (HARC), Sarah Bernhardt (Bayou Preservation Association),

## ***Meeting Minutes***

*GBEP, Galveston Bay Council Updates*

Ms. Clevenger gave an update on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands meeting that took place from June 10-13<sup>th</sup> at Gulf Shores, Alabama. GOMA highlighted the Embrace the Gulf and Paddle the Gulf campaigns. These campaigns aim to focus on the 5 Gulf states' environmental preservation and conservation efforts as well as their nature tourism, eco-system services, and education and outreach activities. GOMA's goal is to send out a message each day of the year starting in January 2020 with facts that are documented and referenced for accuracy and accountability. GOMA is also looking for partners who are either doing an activity or will create an activity to co-brand with Embrace the Gulf. The Paddle the Gulf campaign aims to highlight paddling trails and opportunities throughout the 5 gulf states. Ms. Clevenger will follow up with PPE in the coming weeks. Ms. Clevenger also proposed to have a PPE meeting in early December to talk about partnering with the GOMA effort.

Kristen McGovern announced that HARC will be facilitating a workgroup meeting at the GBEP office in late July or early August to get input on user needs for the Regional Monitoring Database (previously known as Status and Trends). A follow up email with more information and doodle poll will be sent to the PPE members.

### *PPE Business*

The PPE approved of T'Noya Thompson serving as the next PPE vice chair. She, along with Kathy as the PPE chair, will serve two-year terms according to the PPE by-laws. In 2021, the chairs and PPE will revisit the leadership positions.

Ms. Thompson is the Advocacy Programs Manager for the Galveston Bay Foundation. She has been with the GBF since 2017, and among her roles with the foundation, she coordinates the Galveston Bay Report Card and The Report Card Champion Program. She also works with other GBF team members on conservation and preservation initiatives to move awareness into actions to protect Galveston Bay.

### *Presentations*

Amanda Rinehart presented the "We Back the Bay" K-12 education program funded through an EPA grant. The program recruited and provided professional development for teachers from 5 schools in the lower Galveston Bay watershed. The schools were: Northside HS, Westside HS, Odyssey Academy, Dickinson HS, Harmony School of Technology. The teacher PD workshop was held in July and September 2018. The teachers and students went on an Eco-Art Workshops and Adventures in the Fall of 2018. The schools received \$5,000 to design and install a landscape on their campuses using best management practices which included rain gardens, bioswales, and rain harvesting cisterns. The landscapes were built in the spring of 2019. Ten percent of their budget had to go toward outreach and communication efforts using the Back the Bay messaging.

Becki Begley presented the Coastal Communities Water Quality Outreach program. The H-GAC received 319 Nonpoint Source Program funding from the TCEQ for the project. In the coastal counties, communities are typically small, staff wear many hats, and do not have many resources to communicate to residents the importance of reducing water pollution. Through this program the H-GAC has the opportunity to work with coastal communities across four counties to help assess, design, create and deliver outreach strategies AND tools to fill these gaps. A website, toolbox, outreach plan, and an outreach roadmap were created. The H-GAC has also held several stakeholder meetings and through these meetings, additional outreach and education opportunities have been developed. The next step is to do outreach through the fats, oils and grease (FOG) messaging, which was identified by these coastal communities as a need. GBF's Cease the Grease FOG campaign will be used to pilot an outreach effort targeting apartment buildings and engaging the public works departments from the cities in these communities. This program has also provided resources for these coastal communities for on-site sewage facilities (OSSF). Twenty-one systems have been replaced, nine are in progress, and 28 are in the queue waiting to be installed. A total of \$132,226 has been spent in these communities for the OSSFs.

T'Noya Thompson gave an update on the pre-work being done for the Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM)/public assessment project for the Galveston Bay report card that will start in September 2019. This project was selected by the PPE and approved by the Council for the fiscal year 2020. Ms. Thompson has been working with graduate students from the University of Houston's Hobby School of Public Affairs on gathering some pre-research data that will help inform the public awareness assessment. The Hobby school will also be involved in gathering data for the public assessment that will be used for this project after it begins. Ms. Thompson will also create a workgroup that will help guide this project, and she will be providing PPE with updates.

## *Information Gaps and Needs for the Region - Priorities for Fiscal Year 2021 Project Development*

For FY21 funding, HARC-GTRI/GBF will resubmit and ask for support to fund the remaining portion of the CBSM/public assessment project for the Report Card. At last year's project proposal meeting, PPE members agreed to expend the public assessment portion of the project, and HARC-GTRI/GBF submitted a larger budget for that effort for a total of \$86,000. Through the Budget and Planning subcommittee process, to fund as many projects as possible, the amount for the project was reduced to \$61,000. The PPE agreed to support HARC-GTRI/GBF resubmitting the remaining \$25,000 for FY21 funding.

Members discussed the priorities for FY2021 that align with the Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Members agreed that there needs to be more K-12 education efforts and discussed needing an assessment of available materials in the region that focus on the Galveston Bay watershed. Members also discussed a priority to evaluate what resources are needed by area educators to incorporate environmental education into their classrooms.

Additionally, the group talked about supporting programs and projects that reach the underrepresented communities in the region. "Underrepresented communities" needs to be defined, but members did not form a definition at this meeting. Members also discussed efforts to reach out to these communities to assess what information and resources are needed to engage these residents.

The priorities selected by the PPE and the Action Plans that are associated with these priorities are:

1. Projects that support underrepresented communities.
  - a. SPO-1
  - b. SPO-2
  - c. SPO-3
  - d. PEA-2
2. Projects with an emphasis on K-12 education efforts.
  - a. PEA-3
3. Projects that are driven by user need and / or relevant data.
  - a. SPO-1
  - b. SPO-4
  - c. PEA-2
  - d. PEA-3

The "Engage Communities" action plan in the GBP '18, is available on the GBEP website under the [Priority Plan page](#). Both the Stakeholder and Partner Outreach Action Plan (SPO) and the Public Health and Awareness Action Plan (PHA) are available to download.

The project proposal form will be sent out the week of June 24<sup>th</sup> to the PPE and all the other GBEP subcommittees.

PPE discussed a possible rubric for evaluating proposals but agreed that there isn't time to develop this for full PPE subcommittee support prior to the September project proposal meeting. Members agreed to have a small workgroup look at developing a rubric for the FY22 priorities and project planning meetings next year.

## ***Round table***

The next [Galveston Bay Report Card](#) will be released on August 28<sup>th</sup> at Sea Star Base in Galveston. Contact T'Noya if you'd like more information at [tthompson@galvbay.org](mailto:tthompson@galvbay.org).

The [2019 Basin Highlights Report](#) is now available.

The Native Prairies Association of Texas will host a Pollinator Workshop at the Deer Park Prairie Preserve on June 19 from 6-8 p.m. The group will also provide teacher workshops on June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Deer Park Prairie Preserve. Must RSVP. Contact Della Barbato at [della-barbato@TexasPrairie.org](mailto:della-barbato@TexasPrairie.org) for more information.

Artist Boat is holding a 4-day PD for educators on climate change initiatives. Contact Amanda Rinehart for more information at [arinehart@artistboat.org](mailto:arinehart@artistboat.org).

The Student Conservation Association is hiring an intern to work with the City of Houston on the Connecting Children to Nature - Houston program. For more information visit the [SCA website](#).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Plastic Pollution Symposium will take place on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Moody Gardens in Galveston. A save the date will be forthcoming.

**The next meeting: Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.**