

# WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

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**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 20, 2019**  
**1:30PM – 3:30PM**

Subcommittee Chair: Brian Koch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Justin Bower, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

GBEP Representative: Christian Rines

## **Call to Order, Introductions**

Attendees: Gordon Pederson (GCA), Jessica Alanis (GBEP), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Denise Ehrlich (GCA), Ryan Bare (HARC), Heather Biggs (TPWD), Chris Gum (TPWD), Rebekah Davis (TPWD), Jonathan Gregg (TPWD), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Mary Stiles (GBEP), Patricia Thompson (GBEP), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Christian Rines (GBEP), Mike Lee (USGS), Milton Torres C. (TAMU), George Guillen (EIH-UHCL), Sarah Gossett Robinson (GBF), Brian Sims (H-GAC), Linda Shead (Texas Coastal Partners/BPA), Justin Bower (H-GAC), Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ-SWQM), Christie Taylor (TCWP), Gerrad Hofmans (TCEQ by phone), Kerry Niemann (TCEQ by phone), Jason Pinchback (GLO by phone), Stephanie DeVilleneuve (TWRI by phone), Jessica Uramkin (TCEQ by phone)

***Approval of March 7, 2019 minutes – approved with no changes.***

## **New Business**

**Presentation:** Soil Health Principles and Building Healthy Soils – Brian Koch, Regional Watershed Coordinator, Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board  
*\*Presentation, notes, and Q&A available upon request.*

## **Projects Updates from WSQ Project Managers:**

### **Dickinson Bayou/Highland Bayou Watershed Protection Plans (TCWP)**

- The stakeholder groups have met three times and are reviewing the existing management measures in the draft and are also discussing sources of

bacteria in the new Assessment Units. Next steps are to prioritize the management measures based on changes in the Highland Watershed.

### **Green Infrastructure for Texas (TCWP)**

- Recently, a new stormwater wetland was completed in response to a parking lot expansion project at the MD Anderson campus. The new wetland contains some 800 plants. Additional stormwater wetlands have been proposed.
- Excavation efforts for Phase II of Exploration Green is underway and is still on schedule to be planted early fall. Houston Botanic Garden plants are still being held at Exploration Green while plans are being developed.

### **West Fork San Jacinto/Cedar Bayou/Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plans (H-GAC)**

- The funded portion of the West Fork project is officially complete. There are a few outreach events that have been rescheduled for July. The project was very successful and resulted in an extra year of implementation within the original cost of the project. There is still a lot of momentum in the watershed and work with partners continues.
- The Cedar Bayou WPP has been complete and in implementation for a few years now. H-GAC has been working with local decision makers and a county judge on flood protection and resiliency efforts and tying that into their WPP. The water quantity issue has been a great vehicle for helping move some of the water quality issues in the watershed. Mr. Koch also added that a few WQMPs have been added to the watershed.
- Cypress Creek is scheduled to hold its first public stakeholder meeting July 25th. Mr. Bower asked anyone who has current projects in the watershed or is interested in having him talk about the project to please contact him.

**Low Impact Development Implementation (H-GAC)** - No update.

### **BIG I-Plan/Basins 11 and 13 (H-GAC)**

- TMDL work for Cotton Bayou will be starting up in the next fiscal year. Efforts for the Chocolate Bayou I-Plan are starting to wrap up. They are also in the process of updating the BIG, so there will be ample opportunity to provide feedback. Work in Basins 11 and 13 are going well and coordination with other efforts in the area is underway.

### **Oyster Waters I-Plan/FOG (GBF)**

- The I-Plan continues to act as a guidance document for a lot of work that GBF does. A lot of focus has been on boater wastes and stormwater runoff. GBF has worked to try and create more boater waste advocates within the boating community to help spread the “Pump Don’t Dump” campaign message. GBF has work specifically with marina managers to provide them with messaging, signage, and e-news blurbs to share with their communities.

They've also worked with local boating groups like Texas Mariners Cruising Association and have had a presence at boating events such as Yachti Gras and Blessing the Fleet. Flags and stickers have also been passed out as a pledge to "Pump Don't Dump" to help spread the message.

- FOG is focusing on outreach and education to a broad group of stakeholders from homeowners and apartment residents to local municipalities and decision makers. The focus has been on best management practices and how to implement these practices into their communities to help improve water quality. GBF has been promoting FOG and GBAN at local events and has also provided partners with "Cease the Grease" funnels and scrapers for distribution. Becki Bagley with H-GAC has also been promoting FOG through their Coastal Communities project.

### **Double Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (GTRI)**

- Double Bayou is in the implementation phase of the project. Stakeholders were given a tour of the Anahuac WWTF by a very engaging and experienced operator in May. The event was very informative and had a great turnout. The town is in the process of updating their wastewater treatment infrastructure, both the collection system and the treatment plant. The system is expected to be online by 2021. GTRI is working to finalize the QAPP that is currently under review. Once finalized, USGS will begin collection of water quality samples.

### **Bacteria Source Tracking (TWRI)**

- All water and fecal samples for the project have been collected. The isolates are now being analyzed by the lab for placement in the library. Data collection has ended, and the project has now transitioned into its analysis phase.

### **Planning and Priorities for FY 2021 Funding:**

- FY21 project proposal submission starts June 25<sup>th</sup> and closes July 22<sup>nd</sup>. A copy of the proposal form was provided to subcommittee members. More information will be sent out by subcommittee coordinators in the official call for proposals email.
- Actions and Outputs of the Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition: Ms. Rines passed out a spreadsheet that listed the three Action Plans of Priority One of the Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use. Subcommittee members will be asked to indicate which actions and outputs of the plan the project implements when submitting their proposals.
- Past & current WSQ projects and narrowing of priorities for FY 21 project development: A listing of WSQ projects completed or ongoing since 2012 was provided to subcommittee members. The spreadsheet also identified actions of the plan implemented by each of these projects. Those priorities previously identified by the subcommittee in the last quarterly meeting were

revisited in order to narrow down the list to three priorities. These three priorities will help the subcommittee when discussing which projects to fund in FY21. Those needs and gaps not identified as a priority in this project planning cycle will remain on the list and be revisited by the subcommittee the following year. The following three priorities were identified:

- Supporting management measures and WBPs
- Soil Health & Green Infrastructure
- Flow gages

*\*After discussions with the subcommittee chairs and several other members, the decision to remove gages as a priority was made. The thought was gages could be funded in other ways which opened money to other projects. The need for gages can still be addressed, but possibly through the CMP with either GBEP in a supporting role or USGS looking for other maintenance sponsors. This topic was replaced by waterway trash/marine debris/macro- and microplastics. The final priority list is as follows:*

- Supporting management measures and WBPs
- Soil Health & Green Infrastructure
- Waterway Trash/Marine Debris/Macro- and Microplastics

## **Old Business**

### **Galveston Bay Estuary Program, council, and subcommittee updates:**

Next Meeting: September 2019 1:30pm to 3:30pm

- Ms. Clevenger announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium will be hosted by the Plastic Pollution Prevention Partnership on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at Moody Gardens, Galveston. Events details will be provided at a later date.
- Ms. McGovern announced the Regional Monitoring Database workgroup (Status & Trends) will meet in July or August. Anyone who would like to provide feedback on the database is encouraged to attend. A doodle poll with possible dates will be sent out sometime next week.
- Ms. Marshall reintroduced Ms. Alanis, the GBEP summer intern who will be working with Ms. Govern to track implementation of the plan and with Ms. Rines to track MS4s SWMP implementation in the watershed. Ms. Marshall also asked anyone that has an opportunity to take her out into the field to please contact us.

### **Upcoming GBEP meetings:**

- Monitoring and Research Subcommittee Meeting – TBD

- Public Participation and Education Subcommittee Meeting - TBD
- Natural Resources Subcommittee Meeting - TBD
- Budget and Priorities Subcommittee Meeting - June 26, 2019
- Galveston Bay Council Meeting - July 17, 2019 at 9:30am

## **Announcements**

- Ms. Shead mentioned during the presentation that the Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance and Houston Urban Gardeners are both good organizations to become involved with if you are interested in soil health in an urban setting.
- Mr. Bower announced during the project updates roundtable that Mr. Sims has been collecting and compiling wastewater data for public use. He asked that anyone who is interested in the data or has any information to add, to please contact H-GAC. H-GAC has helped replace 16 OSSFs so far as part of their WPP implementation efforts and currently has at least 25 more systems on the waiting list. Anyone interested in the supplemental program should be directed to H-GAC.
- Ms. Taylor passed out fliers for an upcoming field day at Ghirardi WaterSmart Park.
- Ms. Kompanik asked that all users of SWQM data please send an email to [Elizabeth.Kompanik@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Kompanik@tceq.texas.gov) expressing the importance of this data to their organization.
- Mr. Koch announced an upcoming Soil Health Forum in Belton, TX on August 28-29 and several TSSWCB job openings. In addition, the TSSWCB call for proposals will be sometime in August.
- Mr. Lee suggested holding WSQ and M&R Subcommittee meetings on the same day for those who would like to attend both meetings.

Adjourn