

WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 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 N. Rines

Call to Order, Introductions

Attendees: Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Justin Bower (H-GAC), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Ryan Bare (HARC), Charriss York (TCWP), Christie Taylor (TCWP), Stacey Carr (TCEQ), Sarah Bernhardt (Bayou Preservation Association), Mike Lee (USGS), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Denise Ehrlich (GCA), Theresa Morris (TIRN), Linda Shead (Texas Coastal Partners/Bayou Preservation Association), Sarah Robinson (GBF), Mac Martin (TFS), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Bryan Eastham (TPWD), Justin Cournoyer (TPWD), Claire Iseton (TPWD), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Patricia Thompson (GBEP), Mary Stiles (GBEP), Christian Rines (GBEP), Brian Sims (H-GAC), Kerry Niemann (TCEQ by phone), Roger Miranda (TCEQ by phone), Stephanie DeVilleneuve (TWRI by phone).

Approval of September 11, 2019 minutes - approved with no changes.

A Conflict of Interest statement was distributed at the start of the meeting. Subcommittee members were asked to sign and disclose any interest with a proposed project prior to discussion.

New Business

Presentation: Regional Monitoring Database – Ryan Bare, Research Associate, HARC

**Presentation, notes, and Q&A available upon request.*

FY 21 Project Proposals and Discussion

Project proposals were sent out in advance of the meeting for review. Members were asked to keep the subcommittee priorities in mind while reviewing. The priorities selected by the WSQ Subcommittee for the FY21 finding cycle were:

- Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans
- Soil health and green infrastructure
- Waterway trash, marine debris, and/or macroplastics and microplastics

Each person presenting a proposal was given 3 minutes to explain their project followed by two minutes for Q&A. Guidelines for presenting proposals were as follows:

- Due to time constraints, slides were not used during proposal presentations;
- Proposals were presented in order of the distributed spreadsheet;
- If a connection to a proposal was not obvious, relationship to the project was disclosed;
- If a vote was necessary, only one person from each entity could vote and represent their entity;

Once all proposals had been presented to the group, the subcommittee discussed which projects should take priority. A consensus-based decision was made to recommend four projects for FY21 funding to the Budget and Priorities (B&P) Subcommittee, with a fourth recommendation if any funds remain. Projects selected by the B&P Subcommittee would be presented to the GBC at the October council meeting for approval. The following project proposals were recommended by subcommittee members:

Project Name	Grantee	Recommended Total Funding	Year 1 (FY21)	Year 2 (FY22)
Green Infrastructure for Texas: Expanding Stormwater Wetlands in Brazoria County	TCWP	\$30,000	\$30,000	-
Targeted Bacteria Monitoring (Phase II)	BPA thru H-GAC	\$40,000	\$40,000	-
Baseline Assessment of Microplastics in Galveston Bay	U.S. Geological Survey	\$90,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
Outreach Implementation for Galveston Bay Watershed Water Quality Projects	H-GAC	\$65,000	\$40,000	\$25,000
Microplastics in the Galveston Bay Watershed: The Big Impacts of Tiny Pollution	TIRN	*If any funds remain	-	-

Old Business

Project Updates from WSQ Project Mangers:

Dickinson Bayou/ Highland Bayou WPP (TX AgriLife)

- Dickinson - No update.
- Highland - Currently revising the WPP. LDC and FDC modeling has been completed by the contractor and is being incorporated into the plan.

GIFT (TX AgriLife)

- The construction of Phase II of the Exploration Green stormwater wetland has been completed and planting is set to start on September 21, 2019. Additional planting days will take place on October 19, 2019 and November 16, 2019.

West Fork San Jacinto/Cedar Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (H-GAC)

- West Fork - No update.
- Cedar Bayou - No update.
- Cypress Creek - The Cypress Creek Partnership had a great turnout for its first meeting for the Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plan. The next meeting will be held September 26, 2019 from 5:30-7:30PM. Meeting details and location can be found on the project website. A steering committee will be selected at the upcoming meeting. Those interested in a leadership role for the project are encouraged to attend.

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

BIG I-Plan/Basins 11 and 13 (H-GAC) - No update.

Oyster Waters I-Plan/FOG (GBF) - No update.

Double Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (GTRI) - The project's QAPP is currently under review. No other updates.

Bacteria Source Tracking (TWRI) - All samples have been collected and project is still in analysis phase. No other updates.

Watershed Partnership Updates/Roundtable:

Mr. Koch announced the TSSWCB Request for Proposals for 319(h) grants is out and is accepting submittals until September 27, 2019. He also announced two TSSWCB job openings, an engineer and accountant in the Temple, TX office.

Ms. York announced upcoming field days for the GIFT project. A brief classroom session followed by time in the field will be held at Sheldon Lake State Park on September 26, 2019 and at Exploration Green on October 15, 2019.

Ms. Bernhardt announced that BPA will be hosting its annual symposium, “The Dirt on Watersheds: The Quest for Healthy Soils” on October 30, 2019 at the United Way of Greater Houston. A BPA vacancy for a project coordinator was also announced.

Ms. Lucena announced that per the recently executed Microplastics contract, a site selection meeting will be held. A poll will be sent out to determine the best meeting date for everyone.

Mr. Bower announced that H-GAC will be taking action on a WPP for Spring Creek this month and will be running it concurrently with Cypress Creek.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program, council, and subcommittee updates:

- Ms. Lippert announced that pre-proposals are now out for Bucket 2 of RESTORE funding and gave a brief summary of the proposed projects. Comments are due September 23, 2019. Mr. Miranda asked that Ms. Lippert send a link for the projects.
- Ms. Marshall asked that everyone look for the Symposium registration in October.

Upcoming GBEP meetings:

- M&R Subcommittee Meeting - December 11, 2019
- PPE Subcommittee Meeting - December 12, 2019
- NRU Subcommittee Meeting - September 13, 2019
- B&P Subcommittee Meeting - September 27, 2019
- GBC Meeting - October 16, 2019
- Next WSQ Subcommittee Meeting - December 5, 2019

Adjourn