

GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

FINAL - Galveston Bay Council (GBC) Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2019

Attendees:

Galveston Bay Council Chair: Helen Paige (Marinas)

Galveston Bay Council Vice-Chair: Glenn Clingenpeel (Trinity River Authority)

Estuary Program Staff Lead: Lisa Marshall, Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP)

The October 16, 2019 quarterly GBC meeting was held at Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, 1660 West Bay Area Blvd., Houston, Texas, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Members Present: Scott Alford, Christine Bergren, Caryn Brooks, Glenn Clingenpeel, Winfred Colbert, Bryan Eastham, Albert Gonzales, Lori Hamilton, Brian Koch, Mike Lee, Helen Paige, Nancy Parra, Ana Partin, Caimee Schoenbaechler, Ronnie Schultz, Rusty Senac, Linda Shead, Sharron Stewart, Jeff Taebel, Matthew Tilimon, Lori Traweek

Members Not Present/Delegates: Andrea Catanzaro, Jeff DallaRosa, Cruz Hinojosa, Jace Houston*, John Huffman, Doug Jacobson, Audrey Kuklenz, Kristen Lambrecht, Garry McMahan*, Will Nipper*, Melissa Porter*, Russ Poppe*, Taylor Rieck*, Hanadi Rifai, Mary Beth Stengler, Bob Stokes* Rusty Swafford, Kirk Wiles*, Tracy Woody (*=Member designated a proxy)

Proxies Present (Council member absent/designated proxy): Jace Houston/Kim Wright, Garry McMahan/Mollie Powell, Will Nipper/Maria Valdez, Russ Poppe/Glenn Laird, Melissa Porter/Dianna Ramirez, Taylor Rieck/Shane Bonnot, Bob Stokes/Scott Jones, Kirk Wiles/Andrew Myers

Current Vacancies: None

Other Attendees: Sarah Bernhardt, Brad Grimmett, Alisa Harkins, Claire Iseton, Kerry Niemann, Laura Payne, Lauren Schmied

Additional GBEP staff present: Cynthia Clevenger, Lindsey Lippert, Kristen McGovern, Mary Stiles, Patricia Thompson

Call to Order: Introduction of Members and Delegates

Helen Paige called the meeting to order, requested introductions and confirmed a quorum with Lisa Marshall before moving to the first action item.

Action Item: Approval of July 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Paige opened the meeting with approval of the minutes. A motion was requested for approval. Rusty Senac moved to approve the minutes, and Linda Shead seconded the motion and clarified that the minutes were approved with noted corrections.

Report of the Program (Lisa Marshall)

Ms. Marshall reported on the State of the Bay Symposium updates.

- Registration is now open. Participants can go to the GBEP website to register www.gbep.texas.gov.
 - Early registration is \$125 and ends, December 13, 2019 at 5:00 PM.
 - Standard online registration is \$199.
 - Onsite registration is \$250.
 - Student registration is \$60.
- The phone number for Moody Gardens Hotel room reservations is (888) 388-8484 with the block name “State of the Bay Symposium”.
- Agenda coming soon.
- GBEP is still accepting poster submissions. Email abstracts to GBEP@tceq.texas.gov.

Ms. Marshall reported on resolutions to support *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* (GBP ‘18), the comprehensive conservation and management plan for the Galveston Bay ecosystem.

- GBEP has received a number of resolutions to support the GBP ‘18.
- Ms. Marshall thanked those who submitted resolutions, and thanked Lori Traweek, Ronnie Schultz, and Rusty Senac for working with the Harris and Galveston County mayors.
- GBEP would appreciate further council support submitting signed resolutions with the goal of having the resolutions completed by the end of 2019 so the resolutions can be presented at the State of the Bay Symposium in January 2020.

This is the last day for Ms. Paige as the Galveston Bay Council Chair. Ms. Marshall thanked Ms. Paige for her support and many hours of dedication to the council and presented Ms. Paige with a plaque.

Report of the Chair (Helen Paige):

Action Item: All council members and proxies must sign the Conflict of Interest Statement annually before the council approves the GBEP Work Plan. The form was handed out as council members signed in to ensure every member/proxy acknowledged the rules.

Ms. Paige announced GBEP staff have been working closely with the subcommittees of the council to develop the fiscal year (FY) 2021 GBEP Work Plan project proposals and project budgets. The proposals were presented to the Budget and Priorities (B&P) subcommittee on September 27, 2019. The B&P subcommittee voted to recommend the FY 2021 proposed projects and budget to the council at the October 2019 council meeting.

Announcement: Newly appointed Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Representative:

Rebecca Hensley retired in August. Bryan Eastham has been selected as the new TPWD council representative. Ms. Paige welcomed him and read his bio.

FY 2021 GBEP Work Plan Presentations & Discussion: A series of short presentations by GBEP staff covering proposed projects and the budget were given. GBEP staff answered questions concerning the proposed work plan before moving forward for approval.

Action Item: Approval of each category in the proposed FY 2021 GBEP Work Plan.

Ms. Paige reminded council members to sign the annual Conflict of Interest Statement and noted there is a practice to approve the budget by category. Approval of each program area, a motion and second for each, and abstentions for each item were noted.

Projects were approved by program area:

Program Area	Motion	Second	Abstain
Programmatic	Linda Shead	Brian Koch	Lori Hamilton, Mike Lee, Scott Alford
NRU	Rusty Senac	Brian Koch	Lori Hamilton, Mike Lee, Scott Alford, Linda Shead
PPE	Nancy Parra	Ronnie Schultz	Lori Hamilton, Mike Lee, Scott Alford, Jeff Taebel
WSQ	Lori Traweek	Winfred Goodwin	Lori Hamilton, Mike Lee, Scott Alford, Jeff Taebel, Linda Shead
M&R	Rusty Senac	Brian Koch	Lori Hamilton, Mike Lee, Scott Alford,

Presentation: Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) Re-evaluation of Upper Galveston Bay Fish and Shellfish Consumption Advisory – Andrew Myers, TDSHS Seafood and Aquatic Life Group (SALG)

Mr. Meyers presented on the current TDSHS advisory (Fish and Shellfish Consumption Advisory 55) issued in 2015 and revised in 2019 which recommends that women past child bearing age and adult men can eat up to one meal (8 ounces) per month and that women of childbearing age and children < 12 DO NOT EAT catfish, spotted seatrout, and blue crab from the study area (Upper Galveston Bay and all contiguous waters north of a line from Red Bluff Point to Five-Mile Cut Marker to Houston Point). See Table 1.

Table 1. Current TDSHS Fish and Shellfish Consumption Advisory 55

Species	Women of Child-Bearing Age and Children <12	Women Past Child Bearing Age and Adult Men
All species of catfish, spotted seatrout, and blue crab	DO NOT EAT	1 meal (8 ounces)/month

Mr. Meyers reported that in April and May 2018, SALG sampled catfish, spotted seatrout, and blue crab from five sites in Upper Galveston Bay to analyze for dioxins, metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), semi volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Based on the analyses, SALG recommends blue crab be removed from the advisory (no restrictions), gafftopsail catfish remain on the advisory as DO NOT EAT, and recommended meals per month for spotted seatrout be increased to a maximum of two meals per month (see Table 2). Because a spill event occurred after this data was collected, it is possible that the advisory may not be revised.

Table 2. SALG Recommendations Based on this Study

Species	Women of Child-Bearing Age and Children <12	Women Past Child Bearing Age and Adult Men
Gafftopsail catfish	DO NOT EAT	DO NOT EAT
Spotted seatrout	2 meals (4 ounces each)/ month	2 meals (8 ounces each)/ month
Blue crab	No restrictions	No restrictions

This presentation is available upon request.

Presentation: FEMA Coastal Flood Risk – Lauren Schmied, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Ms. Schmied of the Engineering Resources Branch of FEMA presented on the state of coastal flood risk, the way FEMA develops its coastal flood risk products, and the direction FEMA is going with future products.

Ms. Schmied focused on the RiskMAP program, which is geared toward developing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and regulatory products. RiskMap was developed to address data gaps and improve management of the program through information sharing and expedited delivery. From FY 2010–2015 FEMA invested nearly \$223 million dollars in updates to coastal flood risk information and resources. To date all programs across the coastal states have been funded and 75% have been completed.

This presentation is available upon request.

Subcommittee Updates: None

Council Members Roundtable: News and Announcements

Matthew Tilimon – The Coast Guard is putting a workgroup together and is looking for participants to develop a water sampling annex (for inclusion in the Central Texas Coastal Area Contingency Plan) to collect, process, and distribute information to key decision makers and the public during an incident.

Jeff Taebel – The Houston-Galveston Area Council extends its congratulations to the Texas Conservation Fund and Trash Bash for receiving the EPA Gulf Guardian Award. Cedar Bayou will meet on October 24. The fall meeting of the Bacteria Implementation Group will be held on October 29 from 1–3 p.m.

Brian Koch – TSSWCB’s RFP ended on September 27; proposals are under review.

Caimee Schoenbaechler – On October 3, the TWDB board considered publishing the rules of the Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund. On November 14, the board considers publishing the rules for flood financial assistance for public comment. On December 5, the board considers publishing flood plain rules.

Linda Shead – The BPA symposium will be held on October 30.

Nancy Parra – The state election will be held on November 5. Voting will be held on amendments to the Texas constitution, mayor for the city of Houston, and the Harris County Metro bond. This year you can vote at any voting site in Harris County.

Sarah Bernhardt – The BPA symposium will be held on October 30 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the United Way. BPA is seeking nominations for the Terry Hershey award for watershed stewardship, categories include public, private, and nonprofit. The annual fundraising gala will be held on November 13.

Shane Bonnot – Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) – On November 5, voting will be held on Proposition 5, which supports TPWD state parks. The TPWD commission meets on November 6 and there will be a briefing on oyster mariculture/aquaculture.

Kerry Niemann – Announced the following updates on behalf of the TCEQ’s Water Quality Planning Division.

Regarding the TMDL Program:

A TMDL for Indicator bacteria in Oso Creek was adopted by TCEQ on July 31 and submitted to EPA for approval.

Two TMDLs for bacteria in the Lavaca River and Rocky Creek were adopted by TCEQ on August 14 and submitted to EPA for approval. The I-Plan was approved by TCEQ on August 14.

Two TMDLs for bacteria in the Navasota River below Lake Limestone were adopted by TCEQ on August 28 and submitted to EPA for approval. The I-Plan was approved by TCEQ on August 28.

Regarding the NPS Program: Joint development of the 2019 Nonpoint Source Annual Report is underway and scheduled to be submitted to EPA for approval in January of 2020.

Regarding the 2016 Integrated Report: EPA approved the report on August 6, 2019.

Regarding the 2018 Integrated Report: The second submission of the Draft 2018 Integrated Report was adopted by the Commission on September 27.

Regarding Water Quality Standards: The 2018 Surface Water Quality Standards were adopted by the Commission on February 7, 2018. EPA approved multiple provisions on November 2, 2018. Revisions are currently being planned for 2021.

Regarding the Clean Rivers Program: The calendar of Steering Committee Meeting dates may be accessed from the statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule. Meetings occur throughout the year and help to establish monitoring priorities.

Public Comments: None

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Upcoming Galveston Bay Council Meeting Dates: January 21, 2020; April 15, 2020, July 15, 2020, October 21, 2020. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the quarter from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.