

# MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

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**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 11, 2019**  
**9:00AM -11:30AM**

Subcommittee Chair: George Guillen, Environmental Institute of Houston-University of Houston Clear Lake (EIH-UHCL)

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Mike Lee, United States Geological Society (USGS)

GBEP Representative: Kristen McGovern

## **Call to Order, Introductions**

Attendees: George Guillen (EIH-UHCL), Mike Lee (USGS), Sarah Gossett (GBF), Chris Marshall (TAMUG), Jan Culbertson (TPWD), Christine Jensen (TPWD), Hui Liu (TAMUG), Yina Liu (TAMU), Garrett Sansom (TAMU), Stacy Carr (TCEQ SWQM), Bryan Eastham (TPWD), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Marc Hanke (UH), Anna Vallery (Houston Audubon), Richard Gibbons (Houston Audubon), Theresa Morris (TIRN), Ryan Bare (HARC), Jean Wright (H-GAC), Mandy Mulcan Lopez (UH by phone), Web Mangham (TRA by phone), Kerry Niemann (TCEQ by phone), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Mary Stiles (GBEP), Patricia Thompson (GBEP), and Christian Rines (GBEP).

**Approval of June 19, 2019 meeting minutes - approved.**

## **New Business**

### **Project Updates:**

Freshwater Inflows in Galveston Bay: Relationship to HABs - TAMUG: The final report has been completed and will be available shortly on the GBEP website.

Nutrient and Sediment Monitoring of the San Jacinto River - USGS: The USGS recently completed a contract and QAPP amendment to extend the project end date and add isotopic analysis to the project.

Seafood Evaluation in a Portion of Galveston Bay - DSHS: The final report has been completed and will be available shortly on the GBEP website. DSHS will be presenting findings to the Galveston Bay Council at the October meeting.

Characterization of the Influence Freshwater Inflow on Trinity River Delta Indicators - EIH: UHCL has completed sampling and is currently working on data analysis. UHCL has requested to extend the contract end date by three months for allow for more time for data analysis.

Intertidal Oyster Reef Mapping and Analysis - UH: The southern regions are mapped, still working on the central and west regions. Two quadrats have been sampled for oysters and bird observations.

The subcommittee asked if Kristen could notify them when final reports are posted to the GBEP website, and she agreed to do so.

**Conflict of Interest** - A conflict of interest statement was distributed and signed by subcommittee members stating that any connection to proposals would be announced

### **FY 21 Project Development**

Each person with a proposal was given 10 minutes to present three slides followed by a brief Q&A. Once all of the presentations were completed, the subcommittee continued with a discussion of the proposals.

The subcommittee discussed how to handle rankings for projects that have been jointly submitted by multiple voting members of the subcommittee. The main question was whether each person on the proposal could rank that project as a "1" on their ranking spreadsheet. In the end, the subcommittee decided to rely on the honor system, trusting that members will vote in the best interests of the subcommittee rather than in the best interests of themselves.

Kristen stated that she would send out the spreadsheet for ranking by Thursday, September 12, 2019 and that members would have until the end of the day on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 to submit their rankings. Each entity/lab has one set of rankings. Once the rankings are complete, the M&R recommended projects will be presented to the B&P subcommittee.

### **GBEP, Council, and subcommittee updates:**

- NRU subcommittee meeting: September 13, 2019 9:30 AM - 11:30AM
- GBC meeting: October 16, 2019 9:30AM - 12:30PM
- The Rollover Pass closure is moving ahead beginning this month.

### **Old Business**

#### **Announcements/Path Forward Items**

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 9:30AM - 11:30AM

### **Adjourn**