

MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 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), Jan Culbertson (TPWD), Hui Liu (TAMUG), Yina Liu (TAMU), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ SWQM), Ryan Bare (HARC), Jean Wright (H-GAC), Mandy Mulcan Lopez (UH), Leah Whiddon (USCG), Matt Tilimon (USCG), Mackenzie Mullins (USGS), Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), Scott Jones (GBF), Laura Jurgens (TAMUG), Lisa Gonzalez (HARC), Andrew Myers (DSHS), Web Mangham (TRA by phone), Theresa Morris (TIRN by phone), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Mary Stiles (GBEP), and Patricia Thompson (GBEP).

Approval of September 11, 2019 meeting minutes – approved.

Project Updates:

- Nutrient and Sediment Monitoring of the San Jacinto River – USGS: USGS has a contract amendment in process to add the installation of an index-velocity meter at the project site (San Jacinto at Sheldon).
- Characterization of the Influence Freshwater Inflow on Trinity River Delta Indicators – EIH: UHCL has finished data collection and is working on quality assuring and analyzing the data and writing up the final report.
- Intertidal Oyster Reef Mapping and Analysis – UH: Blackcat GIS/UH is almost finished with the GIS portion of the project; UH has completed some of the groundtruthing and data collection but have had some delays due to weather.
- Lead Isotopes and Heavy Metal Concentrations in Galveston Bay Waters, Sediments, and Oysters – UH: The project QAPP was approved in October, and UH has moved forward with some of the water and sediment heavy metals concentrations analyses. Some sediment samples are being prepared for Pb isotope analysis. The first sub-batch of oysters has been collected.
- Characterizing PCBs and Dioxins in the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay Post Harvey – UH: The QAPP is under preparation and is on track to be submitted to TCEQ this month.

Presentation and Discussion: Regional Monitoring Database (RMD) – Ryan Bare, HARC

Ryan Bare provided an update on RMD activities to date. A workgroup was held in

August 2019 to collect feedback and input from stakeholders to maximize usability of the RMD. The focus area was extended to include the northern watersheds of the San Jacinto river basin. The period of record was defined as the entire historical record (as available). Users would like the ability to subscribe to a notification service that will send alerts when datasets that the user is interested in are updated. Stakeholders would also like to be able to submit user feedback and comments on the RMD portal. These suggestions will all be incorporated into the RMD.

The RMD will be released in phases over a three-year period. Phase 1 will allow for users to download a subset of the datasets as bulk downloads encompassing the entire period of record. The structure of the site for Phase 1 will be similar to an FTP download site. These datasets should be updated through 2020 by the Phase 1 release. Subsequent releases of the RMD will still retain this functionality but will also include a geospatial mapping application and analyses and graphing tools. Pg. 145 of The Galveston Bay Plan includes information on the Regional Monitoring Database; pgs. 153-155 lists the indicators that inform the RMD datasets.

Presentation: Re-Evaluation of Upper Galveston Bay Fish and Shellfish Consumption Advisory - Andrew Myers, DSHS

Member Spotlight Short Presentations:

Mike Lee, Coastal Science Program Coordinator and USGS Scientific Diving Program - Regional DSO, Texas Water Science Center, USGS

Hui Liu, Associate Professor, Departments of Marine Biology (TAMUG) and Oceanography (TAMU)

GBEP, Council, and subcommittee updates:

- NRU subcommittee meeting: December 13, 2019 9:30AM
- GBC meeting: January 21, 2020 evening (TBD)
- State of the Bay Symposium: January 22-23, 2020
 - Early registration has been extended through December 20

Announcements/Path Forward Items

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 9:30AM - 11:30AM
- **Rollover Pass:** Rollover Pass is officially closed as of December 6. Dewatering will likely begin on Monday (December 16). TPWD has a data sonde collecting temperature and salinity data on a private pier at Rollover Bay where NOAA has their gage station. This data will be posted on the TWDB website.
- **Coastal Spine:** The constriction for the latest design is down to 10% at Bolivar Roads. There are now no structures planned at San Luis Pass. The proposed land levy has been updated to a dune system on Galveston Island and Bolivar. The next report will come out in February 2021. There should be public meetings before the comment period starts.
- USGS will have vacancies posting in January for entry-level/ recent graduates and students. The branch chief position should also be posting.

Adjourn