

MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 4, 2020 9:30AM – 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), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ SWQM), Stacey Carr (TCEQ SWQM), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Jean Wright (H-GAC), Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), Antonietta Quigg (TAMUG), Christine Jensen (TPWD), Hanadi Rifai (UH), Nick Ellis (GBF), Charlotte Cisneros (GBF), Rime Tumia (TSU), Laura Jurgens (TAMUG), Yina Liu (TAMU by phone), Jill Csekitz (TCEQ WQPD by phone), Marc Hanke (UH by phone), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Christian Rines (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Mary Stiles (GBEP), and Patricia Thompson (GBEP).

Approval of December 11, 2019 meeting minutes – approved.

Project Updates:

- Nutrient and Sediment Monitoring of the San Jacinto River – USGS: The contract amendment has been signed and USGS will begin installation of the acoustic doppler velocity meter in the next couple of weeks.
- Characterization of the Influence Freshwater Inflow on Trinity River Delta Indicators – EIH: UHCL has completed the fieldwork and is in the process of writing the final report.
- Intertidal Oyster Reef Mapping and Analysis – UH: The mapping portion is completed. A GIS desk audit was completed, and some minor changes were made to the QAPP during the revision. A fieldwork audit was also completed; fieldwork was completed last month and UH is currently processing the macrofaunal samples.
- Lead Isotopes and Heavy Metal Concentrations in Galveston Bay Waters, Sediments, and Oysters – UH: The first batch of oyster samples have been collected and of the sediment samples have been analyzed.
- Characterizing PCBs and Dioxins in the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay Post Harvey – UH: Commencement of the scope of work is pending approval of the QAPP.

Presentation: Freshwater Inflows in Galveston Bay: Relationship to Harmful Algal Blooms – Antonietta Quigg, Regents Professor of Oceanography (TAMU) and Marine Biology (TAMUG), Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies (TAMUG)

Presentation: Fish and Crab Dioxin Tissue and Sediment Testing in the San Jacinto River and Houston Ship Channel – Hanadi Rifai, John and Rebecca Moores Professor, Director of

the Environmental Engineering Graduate Program, Associate Dean of Research and Facilities, UH

Member Spotlight Short Presentations:

Stacey Carr and Elizabeth Kompanik, Aquatic Scientists, Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program, Region 12, TCEQ

Laura Jurgens, Assistant Professor, Department of Marine Biology, TAMUG

GBEP, Council, and subcommittee updates:

- WSQ subcommittee meeting: March 4, 2020, 1:30PM - 3:30PM
- GBC meeting: April 15, 2020, 9:30AM - 12:30PM

Announcements/Path Forward Items

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 9:30AM - 11:30AM
- Public meeting at the College of the Mainland from March 4, 2020 from 6:30-9:00 pm to talk about closing all flounder fishing from November 1 - December 15 and making the minimum flounder size limit 14-15 inches
- Oyster mariculture public scoping meeting on March 6, 2020 Friday from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Agrilife Extension Office in LaMarque

Adjourn