

## **GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM**

### **FINAL - Galveston Bay Council (GBC) Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2020**

#### **Attendees:**

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

**Galveston Bay Council Vice-Chair:** Albert Gonzales (Low Income Communities)

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

The January 21, 2020 quarterly GBC meeting was scheduled to be held at the Moody Gardens Hotel Cafe in the Park, 7 Hope Boulevard, Galveston, Texas, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Christine Bergren, Caryn Brooks, Glenn Clingenpeel, Jeff DallaRosa, Bryan Eastham, Albert Gonzales, Lori Hamilton, John Huffman, Doug Jacobson, Brian Koch, Mike Lee, Nancy Parra, Pamela Plotkin, Dianna Ramirez, Caimee Schoenbaechler, Ronnie Schultz, Rusty Senac, Linda Shead, Jeff Taebel, Matthew Tilimon

**Members Not Present/Delegates:** Scott Alford, Andrea Catanzaro, Winfred Colbert, Cruz Hinojosa, Jace Houston\*, Audrey Kuklenz, Kristen Lambrecht, Garry McMahan, Will Nipper\*, Helen Paige, Ana Partin, Russ Poppe, Melissa Porter\*, Taylor Rieck, Hanadi Rifai, Mary Beth Stengler, Sharron Stewart\*, Bob Stokes\*, Rusty Swafford, Lori Traweek, Kirk Wiles, Tracy Woody

(\*=Member designated a proxy)

**Proxies Present (GBC member absent/designated proxy):** Jace Houston/Kim Wright, Will Nipper/Maria Valdez, Melissa Porter/Julie McEntire, Sharron Stewart/Mike Lange, Bob Stokes/Scott Jones

**Current Vacancies:** None

**Other Attendees:** Glenda Callaway, Tom Douglas, Cory Horan, Carla Guthrie, Kerry Niemann

**Additional GBEP Staff Present:** Cynthia Clevenger, Lindsey Lippert, Kristen McGovern, Christian Rines, Mary Stiles, Patricia Thompson

#### **Call to Order: Introduction of Members and Delegates**

Glenn Clingenpeel 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 October 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Clingenpeel opened the meeting with approval of the minutes. A motion was requested for approval. Rusty Senac moved to approve the minutes, and Nancy Parra seconded the motion.

**Report of the Program** (Lisa Marshall)

Ms. Marshall welcomed Glenn Clingenpeel (Chair) and Albert Gonzales (Vice Chair) to the GBC meeting as the new chair and vice chair. Ms. Marshall thanked members for attending the State of the Bay Symposium.

**Report of the Chair:** (Glenn Clingenpeel)

Mr. Clingenpeel reported it is a privilege to serve as chair of the GBC and welcomed everyone to Galveston and to the State of the Bay Symposium.

**Action Item: Official Acknowledgement of Resolutions to support The Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**

Mr. Clingenpeel announced that there were 25 resolutions in support of the Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition from different organizations and thanked the GBC for their support. Mr. Clingenpeel mentioned that Lori Traweek will officially present the resolutions at the symposium and asked for any comments by the GBC members.

**Presentation: The Final Straw Galveston – Joanie Steinhaus, Turtle Island Restoration Network:**

Joanie Steinhaus reported their program is celebrating 30 years of conservation and advocacy work. Turtle Island Restoration Network headquarters is located in California with additional staff in Hawaii.

- Most of the work is community based with staff located all over the world.
- The program works with communities to educate the public on the impact of plastics on the environment and to advocate for the world's oceans and marine wildlife.
- Their focus is providing education on watersheds and interactive opportunities such as art projects (e.g., murals and a bronze sea turtle along the sea wall). A total of 31 turtle-themed art projects will be placed around Galveston Island.
- Outreach and education are core values of the program. The Final Straw Galveston campaign supports community efforts to reduce single-use plastics and Ms. Steinhaus highlighted that the City of Galveston passed a resolution encouraging local businesses to provide straws made of biodegradable materials or plastic straws only upon request. Moody Gardens is participating in the Final Straw campaign by using paper straws.

Ms. Steinhaus encouraged members to stop by their booth in Exhibit Hall B at the symposium to learn more about their program.

**Council Members Roundtable: News and Announcements**

**Glenda Callaway** - The Region H Regional Water Planning Group meeting will be held February 5<sup>th</sup> in Conroe; the project is in the final stage of the water supply planning for the state.

**Scott Jones** - The Galveston Bay Foundation's new office headquarters - located in Kemah, North of Hwy 146; now has a roof in place on the storage building which will be their temporary housing. The estimated date for move-in will be sometime in March through May of this year.

**Joanie Steinhaus** - **Ms. Steinhaus** will provide a presentation at the State of the Bay Symposium.

**Doug Jacobson** - Mr. Jacobson thanked Joanie for a great presentation at the Plastic Pollution Symposium and encouraged members to review the Trash Free Waters and Texas Trash Free Waters websites.

**Bryan Eastman** - **The** Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) flounder rules scoping meetings held up and down the coast are completed, and the Science and Policy Branch of Coastal Fisheries is briefing the TPWD Commissioners on options. Once the commissioners have heard the suggestions, TPWD will open the public comment period and hold public meetings to receive input on rule change proposals.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjourn:** Meeting was Adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

**Upcoming Galveston Bay Council Meeting Dates:** 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.