

# WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

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**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 10, 2020**  
**1:30PM – 3:30PM**

Subcommittee Chair: Brian Koch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Justin Bower, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

GBEP Representative: Christian N. Rines

## **Call to Order, Introductions**

Attendees: Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Dr. Terry Gentry (TX A&M SAML), Steven Johnston (H-GAC), Gordon Pederson (GCWDA), Glenn Laird (HCFCD), (Michael Lee (USGS), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Denise Ehrlich (GCA), Kerry Niemann (TCEQ), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Ryan Bare (HARC), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Patricia Thompson (GBEP), Christie Taylor (TX A&M AgriLife), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ), Colleen Ulibarri (TX A&M AgriLife), Brian Eastham (TPWD), Christian Rines (GBEP), Rachel Windham (H-GAC), Heather Robinson (TCEQ), Nicole Reed (TCEQ), Theresa Morris (TIRN), Celina Gauthier Lowry (TX A&M AgriLife), Stephanie DeVilleneuve (TWRI), Charlotte Cisneros (GBF), Sarah Bernhardt (BPA), Nick Ellis (GBF), Linda Shead (Texas Coastal Partners), (Mac Martin (TFS), David Villarreal (TDA), Lisa Rickards (EPA).

***Approval of March 4, 2020 minutes - approved with no changes.***

## **Project Updates:**

### Dickinson Bayou/ Highland Bayou WPP (TX A&M AgriLife)

- Dickinson Bayou - The Coalition of Watersheds that includes both Dickinson and Highland Bayous recently received another round of funding and will be start work within the next few months pending Covid-19 restrictions.
- Highland Bayou - Charriss is currently working with TCEQ to run Select

Modeling and the team is expecting to have a new WPP draft in September.

#### GIFT (TX AgriLife)

- The contract has expired. Phase II of the Exploration Green stormwater wetland is currently capping off discovered sand banks with clay, and Phase III is about 73% constructed and will be open to the public Fall 2020. Houston Botanic Garden has tested outfall structures and is brainstorming a future planting schedule.

#### Cypress Creek/Spring Creek Watershed Protection Plans (H-GAC)

- Cypress Creek - The project successfully held a virtual stakeholder meeting the end of May 2020 and they are currently working toward completion of the WPP Draft.
- Spring Creek - This project is just getting started and will kick off public involvement Summer 2020. The first stakeholder meeting is set for late July.

#### BIG I-Plan/Basins 11 and 13/Cotton Bayou (H-GAC)

- The BIG met for its spring meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are currently collecting programmatic implementation data from all partners for the 2020 Annual Report. They are also reviewing the I-Plan itself, which was approved in January 2013 to adjust action measures and improve efforts.
- Basin 11 TMDLs include Oyster Creek and the Chocolate Bay Watershed. A stakeholder meeting to draft an I-Plan for Oyster Creek will be held June 30<sup>th</sup> for their bacteria reduction initiative. Chocolate Bay has no meetings set up but are working on developing a bacteria reduction plan for this area as well.
- Cotton Bayou held a public meeting virtually the end of April 2020 where they were able to share their early findings for drafting a characterization report.

#### Implementation of Double Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (GTRI)

- A stakeholder meeting and third outreach event were unfortunately both canceled due to Covid-19. USGS continues water monitoring and the team is brainstorming ways to virtually reach stakeholders in the interim.

#### Bacteria Source Tracking (TWRI)

- The analysis is complete, and the Draft Final Report has been submitted for review. Dr. Gentry will be presenting on the project later on in the meeting.

### Targeted Bacteria Monitoring (BPA thru H-GAC)

- The Final QAPP was approved in early March and have since completed the Preliminary Action Report and Sampling Plan. Efforts to obtain interns for starting monitoring in Fall 2020 are currently underway. Due to Covid-19 both rounds of awarded monitoring will be in the second year.

### Occurrence of Microplastics in Tributaries to Galveston Bay (USGS)

- Sampling was delayed due to Covid-19 but is currently underway again.

**Presentation:** “Bacterial Source Tracking (BST)” on Tributaries of Trinity and Galveston Bays – Dr. Terry J. Gentry, Texas A&M University Soil and Aquatic Microbiology Laboratory

*\*Presentations, notes, and Q&A available upon request.*

### **Planning and Priorities for FY 22 Funding:**

- FY22 project proposal submission will tentatively begin June 29, 2020 and close on July 24, 2020. A copy of the proposal form will be provided to subcommittee members once these dates have been finalized. More information will be sent out by subcommittee coordinators in the official call for proposals email.
- Actions and Outputs of the Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Ms. Rines provided a spreadsheet that listed the three Actions Plans of Priority One of the Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use. Subcommittee members will be asked to indicate which actions and outputs of the Plan their project implements when submitting proposals.
- Past and current WSQ projects and narrowing of priorities for FY22 project development. A listing of WSQ projects completed or ongoing since 2012 was provided to subcommittee members. The spreadsheet also identified actions of the Plan implemented by each of these projects. These priorities previously identified by the subcommittee in the last quarterly meeting were revisited in order to narrow down the list to three priorities. These three priorities will then be used to help the subcommittee decide which projects to fund in the fall. Those needs and gaps not identified as a priority for this project planning cycle will remain on the list and will be revisited by the subcommittee the following year. The following three priorities were identified:
  - Green infrastructure and soil health projects/ monitoring to improve water quality
  - Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans

- Waterway trash, marine debris, and/or macroplastics and microplastics

### **Roundtable/ Partner Announcements:**

- Ms. Glenn announced that the State of the Bay Report is out for review and input. The deadline has been extended to Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Heather Robinson w/ TCEQ introduced herself and announced that the NPS solicitation for 319 work has gone live and will close July 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Koch announced that the RFA for TSSWCB will be going out late July, early August.

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

- PPE Subcommittee Meeting - June 18, 2020, 10:00am -12:00pm
- NRU Subcommittee Meeting - June 23, 2020, 9:30am - 11:30pm
- B&P Subcommittee Meeting - June 25, 2020, 1:30Pm -3:30pm
- GBC Meeting - July 15, 2020, 9:30am - 12:00pm
- Future WSQ Meetings:
  - Wednesday, September 9, 2020 1:30PM - 3:30PM
  - Wednesday, December 9, 2020 1:30PM - 3:30PM

### **Adjourn**