

# MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

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## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 10, 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 (Via Microsoft Teams)

Attendees: George Guillen (EIH-UHCL), Mandy Lopez (UH), Webster Mangham (TRA), Mike Lee (USGS), Anna Armitage (TAMUG), Charlotte Cisneros (GBF), Christine Jensen (TPWD), Christopher Marshall (TAMUG), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ SWQM), Jean Wright (H-GAC), Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), Hanadi Rifai (UH), Laura Jurgens (TAMUG), Hui Liu (TAMUG), Jessica Fitzsimmons (TAMU), Lisa Gonzalez (HARC), Mike Shields (BEDF), Lisa Rickards (EPA), Ryan Bare (HARC), Scott Jones (GBF), Theresa Morris (TIRN), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Yina Liu (TAMU), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Christian Rines (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Mary Stiles (GBEP), and Patricia Thompson (GBEP).

**Approval of March 4, 2020 meeting minutes - approved.**

### Project Updates:

- Nutrient and Sediment Monitoring of the San Jacinto River - USGS: USGS is making preparations to install the gage. Supplies and equipment have been ordered. There is a telephone line in the installation area; USGS needs to contact the owner of the line before installation can begin.
- Intertidal Oyster Reef Mapping and Analysis - UH: The GIS portion of the project is almost complete. Additional ground-truthing may occur at a couple of the study sites. The lab work was put on hold due to Covid19; the researchers are now able to access the lab to continue sample analyses. The contract may be extended for three months due to time lost.
- Lead Isotopes and Heavy Metal Concentrations in Galveston Bay Waters, Sediments, and Oysters - UH: The contractor is working to compare heavy metal concentrations to TCEQ SWQM and Texas Risk Reduction Program criteria.
- Characterizing PCBs and Dioxins in the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay Post Harvey - UH: The QAPP has been approved; work was temporarily on hold due to Covid19.

### Member Spotlight Short Presentations:

**Webster Mangham**, Environmental Services Manager, Trinity River Authority

**Amanda Mulcan Lopez**, PhD Candidate, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences,  
University of Houston

### **Information gaps and priorities for FY 22 project development**

Due to the inability to host an in-person meeting and discussion to select FY 2022 M&R project priorities, M&R Subcommittee members were encouraged to submit additional priorities that met M&R actions in The Galveston Bay Plan to Kristen. The M&R subcommittee members then ranked the priorities (there were ten in total) using a survey posted on SurveyMonkey. The top three voted priorities will be the focus priorities for FY 2022 project planning. Because numbers three and four tied, numbers one and two will be combined into a single priority:

1. Effects of chemical and oil spills on species populations (RES-2) (combine with #2)
2. Contaminant fate and transport and/or effects of contaminants on species populations (RES-2, RES-5) (combine with #1)
3. Estimation of spatial/ temporal trends in point source and/or nonpoint source loading and compliance with effluent standards (RES-1, RES-2)
4. Effects of increased frequency of flood tides and erosion on species populations (RES-3)

### **Procedures and timeline for FY 22 project development**

The application will be similar to previous years; the FY 2021 proposal form was reviewed during the meeting. Budget justifications will additionally be required beginning this year. Tentative dates for the FY 2022 project development process are:

- June 29th - GBEP will send out solicitation for FY 2022 project proposals
- July 22nd - FY 2022 project proposals due
- Early to mid-August - GBEP will distribute all proposals to subcommittee members to review before September meetings

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

- WSQ subcommittee meeting: June 10, 2020 1:30PM - 3:30PM
- PPE subcommittee meeting: June 18, 2020 10:00AM - 12:00PM
- NRU subcommittee meeting: June 23, 2020 9:30AM

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

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 9:00AM - 12:00PM
- HARC announced that the public comment period for the State of the Bay Report 4<sup>th</sup> Edition is still open and will likely be extended
- There is an entry level position open at the Trinity River Authority, please contact Web Mangham for more information
- UHCL-EIH announced that they will be conducting the National Coastal Condition Assessment, which is completed every five years and archived by the EPA - some of the data is collected in Galveston Bay and may be of some interest to those working with heavy metals
- HGAC announced that the Clean Rivers Program 2020 Basin Highlights Report is now available on their website

### **Adjourn**