

WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 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), Justin Bower (H-GAC), Christian Rines (GBEP), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Christie Taylor (TX A&M AgriLife), Stacey Carr (TCEQ), Sarah Bernhardt (BPA), Mike Lee (USGS), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Denise Ehrlich (GCA), Linda Shead (Texas Coastal Partners), Mac Martin (TFS), Brian Sims (H-GAC), Steven Johnston (H-GAC), Gordon Pederson (GCWDA), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Patricia Thompson (GBEP), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ), Celina Gauthier Lowry (TX A&M AgriLife), Charlotte Cisneros (GBF), Nick Ellis (GBF), David Hala (TAMUG), Kelli Ondracek (HPRD), Marissa Llosa (HPB), Kendall Guidroz (H-GAC), Cassidy Kempf (HPRD), Webster Mangham (TRA), Jill Csekitz (TCEQ), Ray Ram (PVAMU), Rajendra Sishodia (PVAMU).

Approval of June 10, 2020 minutes - approved with no changes.

A Conflict of Interest statement was displayed at the start of the meeting. Subcommittee members were asked to acknowledge the statement and disclose any interest with a proposed project prior to discussion.

New Business

FY 22 Project Proposals and Discussion

Project proposals were sent out in advance of the meeting for review. Members were asked to keep the subcommittee priorities in mind while reviewing.

The priorities selected by the WSQ Subcommittee for the FY22 finding cycle were:

- 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

Each person presenting a proposal was given 3-5 minutes to explain their project followed by two minutes for Q&A. Guidelines for presenting proposals were as follows:

- Due to time constraints, presentations were limited to a few slides;
- Proposals were presented in order of the distributed project proposal packet;
- If a connection to a proposal was not obvious, relationship to the project was disclosed;
- If a vote was necessary, only one person from each entity could vote and represent their entity;

Once all proposals had been presented to the group, the subcommittee discussed which projects should take priority. A consensus-based decision was made to recommend four projects for FY22 funding to the Budget and Priorities (B&P) Subcommittee, including a previous GBC approved microplastics commitment, with a fifth recommendation as an alternate if any funds remain. Projects selected by the B&P Subcommittee would be presented to the GBC at the October council meeting for approval. The following project proposals were recommended by subcommittee members:

Project Name	Grantee	Total Request	Year 1 (FY22)	Year 2 (FY23)	Recommendation
Watershed Protection Plan Development for Clear Creek	H-GAC	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Supporting the Use of Green Infrastructure in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed	H-GAC	\$60,000	\$45,000	\$15,000	\$45,000
Townwood Park Green Stormwater Infrastructure	HPRD	\$90,000	\$55,000	\$0	\$55,000
Collaborative Implementation of Stream Corridor Restoration Principles along Greens Bayou	HPB-BPA	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0	Alternate

Previous Commitment - Microplastics		\$45,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000
WSQ Totals					\$175,000

**If a smaller amount of additional funding does become available, the recommendation is to put it towards the “Supporting the Use of Green Infrastructure in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed” project to remove the 2nd year commitment amount of \$15k.*

Old Business

Project Updates from WSQ Project Mangers: *Time did not permit project updates.*

Watershed Partnership Updates/Roundtable:

- Mr. Johnston announced that the Bacteria Implementation Group’s (BIG) Fall Meeting will be October 27th. Contact Steven.Johnston@h-gac.com for more information.
- Ms. Taylor announced Exploration Green’s Phase 2 has started planting and will continue Thursdays in September and October. Contact cctaylor@tamu.edu for more information on volunteering. In addition, the Houston Botanic Garden will be open to the public on September 18th.
- Ms. Bernhardt announced that the Bayou Preservation Association will be hosting their 17th Annual Symposium October 1-2. Please visit their [website](#) for more information.
- Mr. Koch reminded everyone that the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is requesting proposals for the FY21 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Program. Proposals are due September 25th. The RFP can be found at <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/programs/texas-nonpoint-source-management-program>.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program, council, and subcommittee updates:

- Ms. Marshall reminded everyone that National Estuaries Week is September 19th-26th. Details on how you can show your support for Galveston Bay will be provided in a follow-up email.
- Ms. Rines announced that the 2021 National Water Quality Monitoring Conference has put out a call for abstracts. Details will be provided in a follow-up email.

Upcoming GBEP meetings:

- M&R Subcommittee Meeting – December 9, 2020
- PPE Subcommittee Meeting – September 10, 2020
- NRU Subcommittee Meeting – September 13, 2020
- B&P Subcommittee Meeting – October 5, 2020
- GBC Meeting – October 21, 2020
- Next WSQ Subcommittee Meeting – December 9, 2020

Adjourn