

# MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

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Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 9, 2020  
9:00AM - 12:00PM

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), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ SWQM), Jean Wright (H-GAC), Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), Laura Jurgens (TAMUG), Hui Liu (TAMUG), Lisa Gonzalez (HARC), Marc Hanke (UH), Ryan Bare (HARC), Yina Liu (TAMU), Antonietta Quigg (TAMUG), David Hala (TAMUG), Dave Wells (TAMUG), Stacey Carr (TCEQ SWQM), Kerry Niemann (TCEQ WQPD), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Christian Rines (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), and Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP).

**Approval of June 10, 2020 meeting minutes - approved.**

## Project Updates:

- Nutrient and Sediment Monitoring of the San Jacinto River - USGS: USGS has installed the gage, and real time data is available for viewing online. USGS continues to collect samples for water quality measurements and isotopic analysis.
- Intertidal Oyster Reef Mapping and Analysis - UH: The GIS portion of the project is almost complete. 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 is in the process of being extended for three months to January 2021 due to time lost.
- Lead Isotopes and Heavy Metal Concentrations in Galveston Bay Waters, Sediments, and Oysters - UH: The last batch of oyster samples will be collected in the coming months. There are both a QAPP amendment and contract amendment in progress. UH will be unable to complete a portion of the analysis due to Covid-19. The UH researcher was going to use an

instrument at TAMUG to analyze lead isotopes in water samples. TAMUG is closed to outside visitors until further notice, so the contractor will not be able to access the lab to perform the analysis. The lead isotope analyses for sediment and oysters and the heavy metals concentrations analyses for water, sediment, and oysters are still being conducted. UH will add a new analysis to the contract - UH will analyze a dated sediment core from Galveston Bay using the same methods for sediments outlined in the SOW and QAPP to determine either the change of heavy metals deposited in the sediment over time and back to pre-anthropogenic times (few hundred years), or if the sediments have been disturbed, will assess the depth of disturbance in Galveston Bay.

- Characterizing PCBs and Dioxins in the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay Post Harvey - UH: Project activities were put on hold due to Covid-19. UH is currently in the process of getting the samples sent out for analyses.

## **FY 22 project development**

Each person with a proposal was given 10 minutes to present three slides followed by a brief Q&A. Once all of the presentations were completed, the subcommittee continued with a discussion of the proposals.

Each person with a proposal indicated how/if their project could be scaled down in terms of scope and costs.

Kristen stated that she would send out the spreadsheet for ranking later today. Each entity/lab has one set of rankings. Once the rankings are complete, the M&R recommended projects will be presented to the B&P subcommittee. Final project selections will be available in late October/early November following the GBC meeting.

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

- WSQ subcommittee meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
- PPE subcommittee meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2020, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- GBC meeting: Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

## **Announcements/Path Forward Items**

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 9:30AM - 11:30AM

## **Adjourn**