

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

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January 12, 2021

Dear Galveston Bay Council Members:

The next quarterly meeting of the Galveston Bay Council is scheduled for:

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

WebEx

Information for the **January 20, 2021** meeting is attached as noted below.

1. Galveston Bay Council Agenda for January 20, 2021
2. Draft October 21, 2020 Galveston Bay Council Meeting Minutes

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Marshall
Program Manager
Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP)



A PROGRAM OF TCEQ

GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL (GBC) QUARTERLY MEETING

Location: Virtual - WebEx

AGENDA: *Wednesday, January 20, 2021*

9:30 a.m.: **Call to Order:** Introduction of Members and Delegates

Action Item: Approval of October 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Report of the Chair (Glenn Clingenpeel)

Report of the Program (Lisa M. Marshall)

9:45 a.m.: **Presentation & Discussion:** *Pelican Island Bridge Replacement - Seeking Reef Enhancement/Mitigation/Re-purpose Opportunities* - Sue Theiss, Texas Department of Transportation

10:15 a.m.: **Presentation:** *Galveston Bay Intertidal Oyster Reef Mapping and Analysis* - Marc Hanke, Ph.D, University of Houston and Amanda Hackney, Black Cat GIS and Biological Services

10:45 a.m.: **Presentation:** *Diamondback Terrapin: A Gem in Galveston Bay's Marshes* - George Guillen, Ph.D, Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston, Clear Lake

11:15 a.m.: **Subcommittee Updates**

1. Monitoring and Research
2. Natural Resource Uses
3. Public Participation and Education
4. Water and Sediment Quality

11:30 p.m.: **Council Member Roundtable:** News, Announcements and Discussion

12:15 p.m.: **Public comments**

12:30 p.m.: **Adjourn**

Upcoming Galveston Bay Council Meeting Dates: April 21, 2021; July 21, 2021, October 20, 2021; January 19, 2022. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the quarter from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. If there are known conflicts, GBC members are welcome to propose alternate dates to the Council.

GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM (GBEP)

DRAFT - Galveston Bay Council (GBC) Meeting Minutes – October 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 (GBEP)

Due to issues with COVID-19, the October 21, 2020 quarterly GBC meeting was held through the WebEx conferencing service.

Members Present: Scott Alford, Andrea Catanzaro, Glenn Clingenpeel, Winfred Colbert, Jeff DallaRosa, Bryan Eastham, Albert Gonzales, Lori Hamilton, Jace Houston, John Huffman, Brian Koch, Audrey Kuklenz, Kristen Lambrecht, Mike Lee, Garry McMahan, Helen Paige, Ana Partin, Melissa Porter, Lisa Rickards, Hanadi Rifai, Caimee Schoenbaechler, Ronnie Schultz, Rusty Senac, Linda Shead, Charrish Stevens, Sharron Stewart, Bob Stokes, Sue Theiss, Matthew Tilimon, Lori Traweek, Maria Valdez, Kirk Wiles

Members Not Present/Delegates: Cruz Hinojosa, Nancy Parra, Pamela Plotkin, Russ Poppe*, Taylor Rieck*, Mary Beth Stengler, Jeff Taebel*, Tracy Woody

(*=Member designated a proxy)

Proxies Present (GBC member absent/designated proxy): Russ Poppe/Glenn Laird, Jeff Taebel/Todd Running, Taylor Rieck/Shane Bonnot

Current Vacancies: None

Other Attendees: Vance Darr, Erin Kinney, Lisa Gonzalez, Elizabeth Fazio Hale, Kerry Niemann, Dianna Ramirez, Amy Settemeyer, Shane Simpson, Carion Taylor, Jacob Torres

Additional GBEP Staff Present: Cynthia Clevenger, Lindsey Lippert, Kristen McGovern, Christian Rines, Doretta Thomas, Patricia Thompson

Call to Order: Introduction of Members and Delegates

Glenn Clingenpeel brought the meeting to order.

Action Item: Approval of July 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Clingenpeel opened the meeting with approval of the minutes. A motion was requested for approval. Lori Traweek moved to approve the minutes, and a second was made by Brian Koch.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Clingenpeel indicated that the GBC will likely not be meeting in person in January due to COVID-19 numbers.

There are three newly appointed GBC members: Shane Simpson, Maria Valdez, and Elizabeth Fazio Hale.

Mr. Clingenpeel introduced Shane Simpson, the Water Quality Technician for the Lake Conroe Division of the San Jacinto River Authority, and read his bio. Albert Gonzalez introduced Maria Valdez, representing the Greater Houston Partnership, and read her bio. Lori Traweek announced that she will be retiring next month and although she will no longer participate in GBC meetings, she will still participate in the B&P subcommittee meetings. Ms. Traweek introduced Elizabeth Fazio Hale, Assistant General Manager of the Gulf Coast Authority, and read her bio.

Action Item: Approval of New Industry Representative

Ms. Traweek moved to nominate Vance Darr, Environmental Manager at Kuraray America, and read his bio. A second was made by Mr. Clingenpeel.

Action Item: Approval of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Standing Rule

The DEI statement was introduced to the GBC members. Mr. Clingenpeel stated that the intent is that the statement could be adopted as a standing rule to augment the current GBC bylaws, making it official policy for the GBC rather than a resolution. Albert Gonzales moved to adopt the standing rule, and a second to the motion was made by Bob Stokes.

Report of the Program (Lisa Marshall)

Ms. Marshall reported that Mary Stiles retired after 20 years with GBEP. GBEP will be posting the opening as soon as possible.

Ms. Marshall reviewed the Conflict of Interest form.

Presentation and Discussion: Fiscal Year 2022 GBEP Work Plan. A series of short presentations by GBEP staff covering the projects and programmatic costs being proposed.

Action Item: Approval of each category in the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 GBEP Work Plan.

Ms. Marshall indicated that the Council would be voting on and approving the budget by category. Approval of each program area, a motion and second for each, and abstentions for each item were noted.

Projects were approved by program area:

Program Area	Motion	Second	Abstain
Programmatic	Linda Shead	Brian Koch	Lori Hamilton
WSQ	Rusty Senac	Linda Shead	Lori Hamilton, Todd Running
NRU	Winfred Colbert	Rusty Senac	Bryan Eastham, Lori Hamilton, John Huffman, Mike Lee, Melissa Porter,

			Linda Shead, Bob Stokes, Lori Traweek, Kirk Wiles
PPE	Lori Traweek	Rusty Senac	Jeff DallaRosa, Bryan Eastham, Lori Hamilton, John Huffman, Mike Lee, Maria Valdez, Kirk Wiles
M&R	Rusty Senac	Linda Shead	Jeff DallaRosa, Bryan Eastham, Lori Hamilton, John Huffman, Mike Lee, Maria Valdez, Kirk Wiles

Presentation: *State of the Bay, 4th Edition, New Website* - Lisa Gonzalez and Erin Kinney, Ph.D, Houston Advanced Research Center

Lisa Gonzalez and Erin Kinney presented highlights from the State of the Bay Report, 4th Edition website, including greater connectivity to The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition, a data viewer, and storymap highlighting GBEP successes.

Presentation: *Scalable Roadway-Level Flood Warning Systems* - Jacob Torres, Ph.D., Torres and Associates, LLC

Jacob Torres presented on road-way level flood warning systems; existing flood gauge signage in the Bryan-College Station area that were retrofitted with wet/dry sensors, LED lights, and other electronics to turn them into smart flood gauges. When water reaches a predetermined height, a text notification is sent. These gauges can be set up to notify emergency personnel and/or residents.

Council Members Roundtable: News and Announcements

Glenn Clingenpeel (TRA) - The flood planning process is kicking off; the first meeting for the Trinity basin will be held October 27, 2020.

Lori Traweek (GCA) - Texas Conservation Fund made the decision to hold Trash Bash virtually; the agenda is still being developed. The event will be primarily held on March 27, 2020 and likely go through the weekend; any presentations will be uploaded to and available on the website.

Brian Koch (TSSWCB) - The 319 watershed-planning Request for Proposals closed on September 25, 2020. 21 proposals were submitted totaling \$5.2 million. The week of October 26, 2020, the state meeting for conservation districts, directors of TSSWCB districts across the state, will meet virtually.

Kerry Niemann (TCEQ WQPD) - Regarding the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program:

- Two TMDLs for indicator bacteria in Caney Creek are scheduled to go to Agenda to release for public comment on January 27, 2021.

- One TMDL and one Implementation Plan for indicator bacteria in Arenosa Creek are scheduled to go to Agenda to release for public comment on January 27, 2021.
- One TMDL for indicator bacteria in Hillebrandt Bayou is scheduled to go to Agenda to release for public comment on February 10, 2021.

Regarding the Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program: Joint development of the 2020 NPS Annual Report is underway and scheduled to be submitted to EPA for approval in January of 2021.

Regarding the 2020 Integrated Report: EPA approved the report on May 12, 2020.

Regarding Water Quality Standards: The Surface Water Quality Standards Advisory Work Group held two half-day meetings on June 29 and June 30, 2020. The agenda and handouts are available on the TCEQ website.

Regarding the Clean Rivers Program: The calendar of Steering Committee Meeting dates may be accessed from the statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule. Meetings occur throughout the year and help to establish monitoring priorities.

Dianna Ramirez (TGLO) – Coastal Texas Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be released to the public on October 30, 2020 for a 45-day public comment period closing December 14, 2020. The reports and storymaps can be accessed at <https://coastalstudy.texas.gov/>.

Caimee Schoenbachler (TWDB) - The TWDB is holding a period of public review and comment that closes on October 21, 2020 regarding its application to TGLO Hurricane Harvey state mitigation competition. TWDB is applying for funding to amplify current efforts in data collection for flood forecasting and analysis, and for infrastructure improvements to the state's existing stream gage and weather station networks. The first round of meetings for the 15 regional flood planning groups are being kicked off between October 26–November 5, 2020. Meetings will be held virtually. The public notice for each group's planning meeting is on the TWDB website.

Lisa Gonzalez (HARC) – HARC is hosting the virtual Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium October 28–29, 2020; the link to the registration page is on HARC's website.

Bryan Eastham (TPWD) – TPWD has had some retirements and is getting ready to post three positions in the next few weeks. Positions include coastal ecologists as well as a position to lead the oyster mariculture program.

John Huffman (USFWS) – A project was completed with Ducks Unlimited to install a fully certified ADA duck-hunting blind at Brazoria NWF, which will be available for this hunting season.

Helen Page (Marinas) – Boat sales are up 50–75% this year as more people are boating due to Covid-19.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

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