

WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 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), Sarah Bernhardt (BPA), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Mac Martin (TFS), Gordon Pederson (GCWDA), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Patricia Thompson (GBEP), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ), Stacey Carr (TCEQ), Rachel Windham (H-GAC), Jason Pinchback (TX GLO), George Guillen (UHCL), David Hala (TAMUG), Erin Kinney (HARC), Nick Ellis (GBF), Kendall Guidroz (H-GAC), Avery Patton (SCA), Chelsea Veloso (SCA), Laura Ryckman (TCEQ), Steven Johnston (H-GAC), Cassidy Kempf (HPRD), Kimber De Salvo Anderson (TIRN), Kim Korth (BPA), David Villarreal (TDA), Margaret Cook (HARC).

Approval of September 9, 2020 minutes – Ms. Rines opened the meeting with approval of the minutes. A motion was requested for approval. Ms. Glenn moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Bernhardt seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no changes.

New Business

Presentation and Discussion: [State of the Bay, 4th Edition](#) Platform Launch – Erin Kinney, HARC

Presentation: Targeted Bacteria Monitoring – Kendall Guidroz, H-GAC and Avery Patton/Chelsea Veloso, SCA

Presentation: Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) Update – Steven Johnston, H-GAC

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

Subcommittee Discussion: Ms. Rines opened a discussion to collect input from the group as to what topics or issues they'd like to see in future WSQ Subcommittee meetings.

Mr. Bower mentioned that large scale flood mitigation projects such as the Texas Coastal Study could make appreciable changes to the hydrology of the bay. He suggested that summaries, meta-analyses, or presentations concerning these impacts would be beneficial to the group.

Ms. Bernhardt seconded a presentation related to the Coastal Texas Study and its impacts on water quality, bay circulation, and flood impacts.

Ms. De Salvo Anderson expressed interest in the Coastal Barrier System and its impacts to the system.

Old Business

Project Updates from WSQ Project Mangers:

- Dickinson Bayou/Highland Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) (TCWP) – No Dickinson Bayou update. The Highland Bayou WPP has been submitted to TCEQ and is currently under review and will be submitted to the EPA by the end of the week. There is currently a unilateral agreement for a 90-day extension.
- Green Infrastructure for Texas (TCWP) – All planting at the Houston Botanic Garden stormwater wetland has been completed. Planting has started for Phase II of Exploration Green but has not yet been completed.
- Cypress Creek and Spring Creek WPPs (H-GAC) – Cypress Creek is wrapping up the WPP and will begin the review process soon. Education, implementation, and outreach efforts will continue in the meantime. The Spring Creek WPP is still under development. A stakeholder meeting will be held December 10th from 2:00 - 4:00pm. A registration link was provided in the meeting chat.
- BIG I-Plan/Basins 11 and 13 (H-GAC)/Cotton Bayou – Basin 11: The draft documents for Oyster Creek and Chocolate Bayou are currently being developed and will be sent out for public comment in fall 2021. The TMDLs for Mustang Bayou and Highland Bayou will be proceeding with drafting in 2021. Basin 13: The TMDL for Caney Creek will be available for public comment starting February 5th. Cotton Bayou: Ms. Windham will be managing this project. The characterization report was submitted

last fall. The team will work to develop a technical support document and the TMDL for the watershed in 2021.

- Implementation of Watershed Protection Plan for Double Bayou (HARC) – The team is currently working to develop a series of short videos that are easier to download for those stakeholders with less bandwidth. Information will include topics that would typically be discussed in an in-person stakeholder meeting, in addition to educational resources. Mr. Koch announced that Jimmy Weaver (SWCD) will continue his assignment with the watershed.
- Bacterial Source Tracking (TWRI) – Project complete. The final report has been uploaded to the GBEP Website.
- Targeted Bacteria Monitoring (BPA thru H-GAC) – Despite a hold up with sampling media, SCA interns were able to resume sampling. Windshield surveys were completed, and all remaining sampling will be completed by the next round of interns in Spring 2021.
- Occurrence of Microplastics in Tributaries to Galveston Bay (USGS) – Approximately 60-70% of the samples have been collected. Sample analysis is awaiting Agreement and QAPP Amendments to reflect a change in the contracted lab.
- Baseline Assessment of Microplastics in Galveston Bay – The QAPP is currently under development. The site selection meeting for this project will be held early 2021.

Watershed Partnership Updates/Roundtable:

- Mr. Johnston announced the Parks and Natural Areas Awards ceremony on February 5, 2021 from 9:00am – 11:00am and a Solid Waste Management Workshop on May 20, 2021, time TBD.
- Ms. Bernhardt mentioned that the Regional Flood Planning Group will hold a public meeting on December 10, 2020 at 9:00AM. Please visit the [RFPG website](#) for more information. In addition, the Harris Country Flood Resilience Community Task Force is looking to fill its remaining seats. There are still three days to submit applications for those that are interested.
- Ms. Robinson announced that the letters for those that have applied to the 319 funding in the latest RFGA have went out.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program, council, and subcommittee updates:

- Ms. Lippert announced that the upcoming NRU meeting in January will be an open discussion to allow everyone to get together and see what each other has been working on throughout the pandemic. A specific date has not yet been set.

Upcoming GBEP meetings:

- B&P Subcommittee Meeting – TBD
- NRU Subcommittee Meeting – January 2021

- PPE Subcommittee Meeting - January 14, 2021 (10:00am -12:00pm)
- GBC Meeting - January 20, 2021 (9:30am -12:30pm)
- M&R Subcommittee Meeting - March 10, 2021
- Next WSQ Subcommittee Meeting - March 10, 2021

Adjourn