

# MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

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**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 9, 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), Anna Armitage (TAMUG), Charlotte Cisneros (GBF), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ SWQM), Jean Wright (H-GAC), Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), Laura Jurgens (TAMUG), Hui Liu (TAMUG), Lisa Gonzalez (HARC), Erin Kinney (HARC), Yina Liu (TAMU), David Hala (TAMUG), Stacey Carr (TCEQ SWQM), Kimber De Salvo Anderson (TIRN), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Xinping Hu (TAMUCC), Jill Csekitz (TCEQ WQPD), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Christian Rines (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Patricia Thompson (GBEP), and Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP).

**Approval of September 9, 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 contract was extended through January 2021. The final report has been drafted and the storymap has been completed. Both the final report and storymap will be available for viewing after contract completion.
- Lead Isotopes and Heavy Metal Concentrations in Galveston Bay Waters, Sediments, and Oysters – UH: A contract amendment was recently completed as UH will be unable to complete a portion of the original 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. The last batch of oyster samples was collected and analyzed for heavy metals and lead isotopes.

- Characterizing PCBs and Dioxins in the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay Post Harvey - UH: UH has analyzed and plotted all data for dioxin and PCB in sediment and tissue in the context of source associations over time. The plan is to sample in the spring, provided that conditions have improved with COVID-19.

**Presentation:** Acidification of Texas Estuaries - Xinping Hu, Chair for Ecosystem Science and Modeling, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies and Associate Professor, Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences (TAMU - Corpus Christi)

#### **Member Spotlight Short Presentations**

- Jean Wright, Senior Planner, Houston-Galveston Area Council
- Charlotte Cisneros, Community Programs Manager, Galveston Bay Foundation

**Presentation:** State of the Bay Website - Erin Kinney, Research Scientist in Coastal Ecology, Houston Advanced Research Center

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

- WSQ subcommittee meeting: December 9, 2020 1:30PM - 3:30PM
- GBC meeting: January 20, 2021 9:30AM - 12:30PM

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

- Next meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 9:30AM - 11:30AM
- Spring Creek Watershed Partnership virtual meeting tomorrow (Thursday, December 10th) from 2-4 PM. The registration link is on the Spring Creek Partnership project website.
- Debris Management in Challenging Times webinar on January 7, 2021. Contact is Erin.Livingston@h-gac.com.
- Parks and Natural Areas/WISE Awards will be February 5 on Zoom. Contact: Andrea.Tantillo@h-gac.com OR Kathy.Janhsen@h-gac.com.

#### **Adjourn**