
NATURAL RESOURCE USES (NRU) SUBCOMMITTEE

**GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

08 January 2021

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR Cherie O'Brien, TPWD	SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIR Philip Smith, GBF
NRU COORDINATOR Lindsey Lippert, GBEP	

Members/Participants Present

Scott Alford (USDA-NRCS), Anna Armitage (TAMUG), Alexis Baldera (Audubon Texas), Sarah Bernhardt (BPA), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), Kevin Hartke (Ducks Unlimited), Cassidy Kempf (HPARD), Karla Klay (Artist Boat), Erin Kinney (HARC), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ), Kim Korth (BPA), Haille Leija (GBF), Marissa Llosa (Houston Parks Board), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Cherie O'Brien (TPWD), Stephanie Powers (NOAA), Tim Pylate (ABNC), Dianna Ramirez (GLO), Lisa Rickards (EPA), Derek Sanford (ABNC), Linda Shead (various), Matt Singer (GBF), Christian Rines (GBEP), Chris Smith (ABNC), Philip Smith (GBF), Charrish Stevens (NOAA-NMFS), Patricia Thompson (GBEP), Colleen Ulibarri (Texas AgriLife), Heather Young (RESTORE Council)

Introductions and Housekeeping

Linda Shead commented on the previous meeting summary (September 2020) that in relation to the conflict of interest statements, members should be named on individual recommended projects in notes, instead of a blanket statement. Lindsey Lippert stated she will add that to the summaries in future project planning meetings.

State of the Bay, 4th Edition

Presentation and Walk-through: State of the Bay, 4th Edition Platform Launch - Erin Kinney, HARC (Microsoft Stream of presentation is available upon request)

Member Roundtable

The NRU Coordinator and Chairs hosted a virtual a roundtable to hear from members on what projects they're working on in the watershed. With the pandemic, working from home, and virtual meetings, many feel isolated and out of the loop in hearing the good work everyone is getting done.

The NRU Subcommittee heard updates from several members, including:

Chris Smith and Derek Sanford (Armand Bayou Nature Center) went over updates and sent pictures of an ongoing project, the West Bank Pond rookery structure and shoreline erosion project (living shoreline/crib walk) funded in part by Trees of Houston and support by the Gulf Corps. An issue was put forward by ABNC to the subcommittee regarding defoliation from bird droppings and how to protect newly installed vegetation. Amanda Hackney said it would probably be a continued issue due

to nitrogen content, but to reach out to Richard Gibbons with Houston Audubon as they have a similar setup. Sarah Bernhardt recommended reaching out to David Newstead with the Coastal Bays and Bays Estuary Program. Scott Alford also put forward input and suggested reaching out to the NRCS soil scientists to see if they had any solutions.

Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS) went over the results of the Intertidal Oyster Project with the University of Houston and Gulf Coast Bird Observatory that was funded by GBEP. The project mapped intertidal oysters in West Bay. An issue was put forward to the subcommittee by Amanda regarding the mapping methodology and classifications in the 1995 Powell study that was used as a reference for this project. Dianna Ramirez stated that during her work at EIH, the particular area that Amanda was focusing on did have a considerable number of oysters. Cherie O'Brien said she would follow up as well. A Story Map was also created for this project, and Amanda is looking for a home for it; she is in talks with the Citizens Environmental Coalition (CEC) to post. Amanda also gave a brief update on a new project, "[The Efficacy of Living Shorelines for Restoring Shoreline Habitat and Stability](#)," which is just now getting underway.

Tim Pylate (ABNC) announced that Mark Kramer, a long-time steward and employee has retired. The City of Pasadena has renamed Mud Lake to Lake Mark Kramer. A dedication ceremony is being held virtually.

Anna Armitage (TAMUG) presented slides for a few ongoing projects, including "Understanding Ecosystem Responses to the Closure of Rollover Pass on Bolivar Peninsula," "Effects of Erosion Control Structures on Shoreline Marsh Species Populations," and "The Effects of Shifting Coastal Wetland Plant Communities on the Restoration of Food Webs that Support Coastal Living Resources."

Cassidy Kempf (HPARD) presented the HPARD Riparian Restoration Initiative to the Subcommittee, which will have every park adjacent to a bayou restored by 2030 (70 parks). Seven were completed this year, planting 8,000 trees. Sylvan and Blackhawk Park prairie sites were also worked on, along with policy work, including the Nature Preserve Ordinance (which will protect 7,000 acres of parkland from future development), the Native-only Tree List, and the Bird City Texas Designation. HPARD is now planning a Dead Tree Policy and Wildlife Feeding rule.

Dianna Ramirez (GLO) updated the subcommittee on CMP funding (announcements soon), Master Plan project funding, and the Coastal Texas Study public comment period ends January 10.

Philip Smith (GBF) gave an update on the Dollar Bay restoration project (construction getting started) and the Kemah Living Shoreline (completed breakwater, planting process started).

Karla Klay (Artist Boat) are working on two land conservation projects through TPWD and CWPRA and have raised half of the \$700,000 needed for match. They are applying to multiple foundations along with GCBO and are hoping to close by June 30. They are also restarting the dune restoration program due to some of the recent storms. An oak motte is also being installed at the Coastal Heritage Preserve. Virtual curricula have also been developed from Crenshaw and Bolivar, and resources are being developed for two other organizations.

Cherie O'Brien gave an update on the Follet's Island Project. Mike Lange is doing the due diligence. To date 1,150 acres have been conserved and another 500 have been targeted.

Sarah Bernhardt (BPA) have continued their work at Challenger Seven Park (45 acres) but with COVID restrictions. BPA are working with the City of Houston and private landowners on Sims Bayou. BPA also has a new employee, Kim Korth.

Heather Young (RESTORE Council) presented the drafted Funded Priorities List (RESTORE FPL 3b- <https://www.restorethegulf.gov/funded-priorities-list-3b>). There are fact sheets for the 4 large Texas proposed restoration and conservation programs- Chenier Plain Restoration Program, Living Shoreline Program, Water Quality Program, and Land Acquisition Program. Funding will be administered by the TCEQ.

Marissa Llosa (Houston Parks Board) gave an update on the annual planning process and are working on planning in forested areas and wetlands, along with prairies and finishing out 150 miles of trails.

Amanda Hackney is working with HARC and Keep Texas Beautiful on a Marine Debris Survey project cataloging trash with interns to inform the Report Card. If anyone has sites with easier access to sample the shoreline, please send them to Amanda.

Erin Kinney (HARC) brought up the Invasive Species Working Group and is working on a lit review of IS climate change research to see if Florida models will work in the region, and Lindsey will work to set up a meeting.

Matt Singer (GBF) gave a CAP update; the workgroup allocated due diligence funding for the year at the November meeting supporting 6-7 projects. The Dollar Bay acquisition project closed in December, which was a supplemental project to the restoration project previously mentioned by Philip Smith.

Haille Leija (GBF) updated the subcommittee on GBF's work with TPWD and the Nature Conservancy on large-scale reef restoration in Trinity Bay, which was recently completed on Monday, utilizing sink-source approach that has both harvestable and non-harvestable reef (approx. 40 acres). GBF is still in the E&D with Jones Bay Oystercatcher Project

(Microsoft Stream of presentations is available upon request)

Updates from the Estuary Program

NRU Project Updates

*Spreadsheet available on request.

GBEP staff are working on moving forward the FY 2021 and 2022 projects. Lisa Marshall announced the PPE, B&P and Council meetings and presentations.

Other

Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting - Deferred

Announcements

Christian Rines announced the site selection meeting for the USGS project, “Baseline Assessments of Microplastics in Galveston Bay.

Dianna Ramirez announced that GLO will start beach debris removal from summer storms in the near future.

The City of Pasadena honored an incredible steward of not only Armand Bayou Nature Center, but the entire Galveston Bay watershed by renaming Mud Lake to Lake Mark Kramer and held a dedication ceremony via Zoom on January 11, 2020 at 2:00pm.

ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER

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ARMAND BAYOU

LAKE MARK KRAMER

CLEAR LAKE PARK

-YOU'RE INVITED-

THE DEDICATION OF LAKE MARK KRAMER

JAN. 11TH, 2020
2:00PM
VIA ZOOM

Click here or copy paste this into your browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88251410008?pwd=-VDVBemIrRW9taWU0bzVVUXAwQ1hoZz09>

Adjourn

Future Meetings

Quarterly NRU Meeting - April 2021

Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting - TBD

Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting - TBD