PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 14, 2021
10:00PM – 12:00PM
Via Microsoft Teams

Subcommittee Chair: Vacant

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Vacant

GBEP Representative: Cynthia Clevenger

Attendees: T'Noya Thompson, NAAEE; Kendall Guidroz H-GAC; Cindy Wilems, Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF); Charlotte Cisneros, GBF; Kendall Guidroz, H-GAC; Joanie Steinhaus, Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN); Alicia Mein-Johnson, Citizen's Environmental Coalition CEC; Marsha Towns, Student Conservation Association; Amanda Hackney, Black Cat GIS; Sasha Francis, GBF; Alexis Baldera, Audubon Texas; Erin Kinney, Houston Advanced Research Center; Kacy Ray, American Bird Conservancy (ABC); Kelly Martin, ABC; Kristin Vale, ABC; Della Barbato, Native Prairies Association of Texas; Rose Esteves, City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department; Kimber De Salvo Anderson TIRN; Lisa Rickards, EPA; Amanda Brown, Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELF); Lindsey Lippert, GBEP; Patricia Thompson, GBEP: Kristen McGovern, GBEP; Lisa Marshall; GBEP; Christian Rines, GBEP; Cynthia Clevenger, GBEP

Presentations

State of the Bay Report, 4th Edition by Erin Kinney with the Houston Advanced Research Center

The State of the Bay includes analysis based on datasets available through December 2017. In some cases, included datasets may be older due to quality assurance review processes and/or data availability at the time of analysis. It is reviewed and created through the collaboration and support of stakeholders and partners who are the experts in their fields working on, in and around Galveston Bay. The goal of the State of the Bay is to summarize information that will facilitate and improve management of Galveston Bay through the Galveston Bay Plan. Access the report at https://www.stateofgalvbay.org/welcome

Intertidal Oyster Reef StoryMap – Amanda Hackney, Black Cat GIS Biological Services
The primary goal of this project was to study and map present composition and avian utilization of intertidal reefs in Galveston Bay. The data obtained from this project helped create a StoryMap that would aid in public outreach and education efforts on this topic. The PPE subcommittee helped provide project managers with information and ideas for the StoryMap throughout the project. Amanda Hackney presented the final product. Find a link to the StoryMap on the GBEP website on the Monitoring Portal page.

An Overview of Program Evaluation by Noelle Wyman Roth with the Applied Research & Evaluation at Duke University
This presentation looked at what it means to evaluate a program and why it is important. Program evaluation is a process that starts in the initial planning phase to set goals and assessments and to help demonstrate a program's impact. Evaluation also helps communicate experiences with stakeholders and partners and can provide support for evidence-based decision-making. Program evaluation is not meant to decide a program's worthiness, rather the goals, outputs and activities help support the impact of the program. Members discussed developing a theory of change and logic models in program development, and some PPE members shared specific models that had been developed as examples. PPE members expressed a desire to have a workshop on program evaluation to explore this area further.

Announcements/Path Forward Items
- Several partners are working on a marine debris project for Galveston Bay – HARC, ABC, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Keep Texas Beautiful, Black Cat GIS – includes public outreach, data collection, and cleanup events. Trash that directly impacts a waterway are priority sampling areas.
- Kelly Martin, ABC, announced that beach cleanups now are on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Safe outdoor wetland walkabout at Exploration Green on February 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be interactive information booths. Contact Sasha Francis with GBF for more information.
- Della Barbato Announced a workday at the Deer Park prairie every 4th Saturday of the month.