



WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 8, 2021 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

Attendees: Justin Bower (H-GAC), Christian Rines (GBEP), Rachel Windham (H-GAC), Bryan Eastham (TPWD), Christie Taylor (TX A&M AgriLife), Stacey Carr (TCEQ), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Mike Lee (USGS), Linda Shead (Texas Coastal Partners), Steven Johnston (H-GAC), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Kristen McGovern (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Vanessa Zemke (GBEP), Rose Esteves (HPARD), Charlotte Cisneros (GBF), Kendall Guidroz (H-GAC), Cassidy Kempf (HPARD), Jason Pinchback (GLO), Jazmyn Milford (TCEQ), Joanna Wilson (GCA), Michael LaMontagne (UHCL), Shane Simpson (SJRA), Jason Pinchback (GLO), Celina Gauthier Lowry (AgriLife), John Nielsen-Gammon (TAMU), Carlotta Robson (CEC Intern).

Approval of the September 8, 2021 minutes – Ms. Rines opened the meeting with approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

New Business

Presentation and Discussion: *From All Sides - Coastal Extreme Weather Threats to Water Quality* - Dr. John Nielson-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist and Regents Professor at Texas A&M University

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

Subcommittee Business:

- Vice-chair discussion – Mr. Bower announced his stepping down as vice-chair of the WSQ Subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee thanked him for his many years of service with the subcommittee. Mr. Bower announced that Mr. Johnston would be stepping in to represent H-GAC in future WSQ meetings, in addition to any other staff that already attend. This opened the discussion for any nominations of the vice-chair position. No recommendations were made, however Ms. Rines announced

that some existing members had expressed interest and discussions would take place individually. Ms. Rines also asked any other interested members to please contact her before the new year. Once all nominations had been received, a discussion would be had with the current chair and a vice-chair selection would be made.

- Presentation of FY23 funding awardees - Ms. Rines provided a brief summary of all WSQ projects that were approved by the Galveston Bay Council to receive FY23 funding. The FY23 WSQ project awardees are as follows:

Project Name	Grantee	Total Request	Year 1 (FY23)	Year 2 (FY24)	Final Recommendation
Watershed Protection Plan Development for Clear Creek	H-GAC	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Supporting the Use of Green Infrastructure in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed - Part Two	H-GAC	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
Targeted Bacteria Monitoring (Phase III)	H-GAC	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
HPARD Water Management Plan	HPARD	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
WSQ Totals					\$135,000

Roundtable/ Partner Announcements and Updates:

Ms. Guidroz announced that the first workgroup meeting for the CBSM portion of the Coastal Communities project will be held on January 5, 2022. Anyone interested in attending should email Ms. Guidroz at Kendall.Guidroz@h-gac.com. A meeting invite will be shared with the subcommittee at a later date.

Ms. Rines announced that HARC is looking to fill a Senior Research Assistant in the Water Quality program and will be responsible for performing technical assistance, supporting projects pertaining to water resources management, ecology systems and functions, watershed assessments, and water quality analyses. A link to the position advertisement will be sent out with the meeting summary.

Ms. Rines asked that any requests for future presenters to please be sent to her in preparation for the March and June meetings. She also announced that there have not been any recent updates from the TCEQ regarding a return to office plan for GBEP. The decision as to if the March meeting will have a hybrid option or be one-hundred percent virtual has not yet been made.

Old Business

Project Updates from WSQ Project Mangers:

- Implementation of Watershed Protection Plan for Double Bayou (HARC) – Project complete, no update.
- Targeted Bacteria Monitoring (BPA thru H-GAC) – Ms. Guidroz announced that the last phase of monitoring was completed by the interns over the summer. Since then, the team has been working to finalize the Targeted Monitoring Report. The report has been sent to City of Houston Public Works staff and the Harris County Flood Control District to try and get feedback as to what jurisdictions are in proximity to the sampling locations. H-GAC will also be using additional Clean Rivers Program funds to produce a concurrent effort on other waterbodies.
- Occurrence of Microplastics in Tributaries to Galveston Bay (USGS) – Ms. Lucena announced that all samples have been collected and shipped to the lab. The project is awaiting the results in order to prepare the data and final report.
- Baseline Assessment of Microplastics in Galveston Bay (USGS) – Ms. Lucena announced that sampling continues in the bay and the team has reached out to TIRN to coordinate with some of their sampling events.
- Outreach Implementation for Galveston Bay Water Quality Projects (H-GAC) – Ms. Guidroz announced that they will be convening a workgroup for the CBSM portion of the project to discuss fats, oils, and grease targeted outreach, that resulted from needs assessments meetings with non-MS4 communities. They are looking to use messaging that will target renters in the select communities.
- Dickinson Bayou/Highland Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) (TCWP) –Ms. Gauthier Lowry announced that they have been working with individual stakeholders since the last coalition meeting. A Coalition of Watersheds meetings will be scheduled in January. Meeting information will soon be sent out.
- Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, and Clear Creek WPPs (H-GAC) – Ms. Windham announced that the Cypress Creek WPP was approved earlier this year by the EPA and the team is currently working on some initial implementation efforts, especially with forestry. The Spring Creek WPP is still pending approval. The document is currently with the TCEQ and will either be sent back for additional edits or go to the EPA for final approval. The Clear Creek project is just starting up. The team is reaching out to its partners in the watershed and trying to get the first meetings scheduled for early 2022.
- BIG I-Plan/Basins 11/Cotton Bayou (H-GAC)/ – Cotton Bayou: Ms. Windham announced that the team is waiting on data that will help support the technical support document and TMDL so that an I-Plan can get sent out to stakeholders in 2022. BIG I-Plan: The Implementation Plan is currently being revised. It has almost been 10 years since the original plan was put into place. Basin 11: Mr. Johnston announced that the QAPP is currently being updated, so some things are on hold at the moment. The TMDL documents for Chocolate Bayou, Oyster Creek, Halls Bayou, and Mustang Bayou are currently being finalized with TCEQ. While awaiting those approvals the team is working on Implementation Plans to roll out in Spring 2022. Mr. Johnston also added that H-GAC has secured funding for the East Fork of the San Jacinto River and will ramp up efforts this upcoming year.
- Supporting the Use of Green Infrastructure in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed (H-GAC) – Mr. Johnston announced that the team is currently waiting on execution of the Contract to begin development of the QAPP. A stakeholder

group representing different green infrastructure in the watershed with associated water quality monitoring will be convened in the spring. Anyone interested should get into contact with him.

Upcoming GBEP meetings:

- NRU Subcommittee Meeting - TBD
- B&P Subcommittee Meeting - January 11, 2022 (9:00am -11:00am)
- PPE Subcommittee Meeting - January 13, 2022 (10:00am -12:00pm)
- GBC Meeting - January 19, 2022 (9:30am -12:30pm)
- M&R Subcommittee Meeting - March 9, 2022
- Next WSQ Subcommittee Meeting - March 9, 2022

Adjourn