MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE
GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
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: Anna Armitage (TAMUG), Ryan Bare (HARC), Charlotte Cisneros (GBF), Cynthia Clevenger (GBEP), Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), Sarah Eagle (TCEQ-WQPD), George Guillen (UHCL-EIH), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), David Hala (TAMUG), Marc Hanke (UH), Xinping Hu (TAMUCC), Christine Jensen (TPWD), Melissa Lanclos (HARC), Michael Lee (USGS), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Hui Liu (TAMUG), Yina Liu (TAMU-GERG), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Webster Mangham (TRA), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Debbie Miller (TCEQ-WQPD), Lisa Rickards (EPA), Hanadi Rifai (UH), Christian Rines (GBEP), Ryan Seymour (TCEQ-WQPD), Michael Shields (TAMU-GERG), Jean Wright (HGAC), Vanessa Zemke (GBEP)

Approval of September 8, 2021 meeting minutes – approved.

Project Updates:

- Characterizing PCBs and Dioxins in the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay Post Harvey – UH: UH plans to sample this month and then will finish up analyses. There have been many delays due to the pandemic. The project is on track to be completed by next April.

- Effect of Microplastics on the Base of Marine Food Webs – TAMUG: TAMUG has been digesting the historical fish samples and are currently working on collecting the appropriately sized fish from the bay for the swim trials. The swim trials timeline has been pushed back a bit due to the fish being smaller this year.

- Galveston Bay Oyster Microplastics: Baselines and Impacts – TAMUG: TAMUG and UH have completed sample collection. The oyster condition index samples have been processed and analyzed. Quantification of microplastics and identification of microplastics types is underway.

- Regional Monitoring Database – HARC: HARC is in the data acquisition phase; they are working with 30 different datasets, getting them cataloged,

processed, and prepared for upload into the Regional Monitoring Database portal. HARC is also working on the functionalities for the portal user interface. The initial draft for Phase One is on track to be completed in March.

- <u>The Distribution, Fate, and Transport of Emerging Contaminants in Galveston Bay – TAMU:</u> TAMU-GERG just completed their fourth quarterly cruise in November. The water PFAS samples have been processed. The water PPCPs samples are being stored – the isotopic samples for that analysis has just arrived, so GERG can get started on processing those samples. Earlier this year, there was an issue obtaining the freeze dryer due to the pandemic, but GERG has just received it and are in the process of drying the sediment samples so that they can be processed and analyzed for PFAS and PPCPs.

Presentation: Nutrient and Sediment Monitoring of the San Jacinto River – Zulimar Lucena, Hydrologist, Texas Water Science Center, United States Geological Survey

Presentation: PFASs in the Surface Waters and Biota of Galveston Bay following the Deer Park Fire (March 2019) – David Hala, Assistant Professor, Department of Marine Biology, Texas A&M University at Galveston

Member Spotlight Short Presentations

- Anna Armitage, Professor, Department of Marine Biology, Texas A&M University at Galveston

GBEP, Council, and subcommittee updates:

- WSQ subcommittee meeting: Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
- GBC meeting: Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Announcements/Path Forward Items

- **Next meeting**: Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 9:30AM – 11:30AM
- HARC is hiring a Senior Research Assistant that has an emphasis on water quality. Ryan will send the job description/posting to Kristen and Kristen will distribute to the subcommittee for dissemination.
- In February, UHCL will be hosting the annual Texas Academies of Sciences meeting – there is a marine section. The abstract deadline has already passed, but registration to attend is still open.

Adjourn