



WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:30PM – 3:30PM

Subcommittee Chair: Brian Koch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Ryan Bare, Houston Advanced research Center (HARC)

GBEP Representative: Christian N. Rines

Call to Order

Attendees: Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Ryan Bare (HARC), Christian Rines (GBEP), Jose Hinojosa (LRGV Stormwater Management Task Force), Augusto Sanchez (Cameron County), Raul Gomez (Cameron County), Melisa Gonzalez (LRGV Stormwater Management Task Force), (Brittani Flowers (BPA), Grant Moss (BPA), Christie Taylor (TX A&M AgriLife), Stacey Carr (TCEQ), Mac Martin (TFS), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Linda Shead (Texas Coastal Partners), Steven Johnston (H-GAC), Kirsten Vernin (HARC), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Gordon Pederson (GCA), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Vanessa Zemke (GBEP), Kerry Niemann (TCEQ), Jill Csekitz (TCEQ), Kelli Ondracek (HPARD), Rose Esteves (HPARD), Charlotte Cisneros (GBF), Kendall Guidroz (H-GAC), Natalie Bue (HPARD), Elizabeth Kompanik (TCEQ), Ray Ram (PVAMU), Joanna Wilson (GCA), Jason Pinchback (GLO).

Approval of the December 8, 2021 minutes – Ms. Rines opened the meeting with approval of the minutes. Mr. Koch entertained a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no changes.

New Business

Subcommittee Business: Ms. Rines announced that after discussion with the subcommittee chairs and review of nominations, Mr. Bare with HARC was chosen to replace Justin Bower as the vice-chair. Anyone who opposed was asked to speak up at that time. No members opposed.

Member Presentation: *Houston Advanced Research Center: An Overview of Current Projects* – Ryan Bare, Research Scientist, Watershed Ecology, Houston Advanced Research Center

Member Presentation: *Bayou Preservation Association: Introduction to Programs and New Staff* - Grant Moss, Program Manager, Bayou Preservation Association

Guest Presentation: *Building and Maintaining Relationships - The Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Stormwater Task Force a coalition of 32 local governments, Founded 1998* - Jose Hinojosa, Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Stormwater Management Task Force

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

Old Business

Project Updates from WSQ Project Mangers:

- Targeted Bacteria Monitoring (BPA thru H-GAC) - Ms. Guidroz announced that the most recent phase of monitoring was completed by SEC interns over the summer in 2021. Two phases of monitoring have been completed in total, accounting for 4.5 of the 5 total assessment units in the study. Since then, the team has been working to identify communities adjacent to these waterways to provide targeted outreach in these areas. The Draft Targeted Monitoring 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 the project is nearing completion. 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 is hoping for some big sampling events in April-June.
- Outreach Implementation for Galveston Bay Water Quality Projects (H-GAC) - Ms. Guidroz announced that they have met with several local communities and identified what resources will be beneficial that are already on the Coastal Communities and what materials may need to be created. They have convened a work group for the CBSM portion of the project and are developing targeted messaging for fats, oils, and grease targeted outreach geared toward rental properties. The next work group meeting will be on April 6th from 10:00 am-12:00 pm.
- Dickinson Bayou/Highland Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) (TCWP) - Ms. Taylor announced that the Coalition of Watersheds has been working with local stakeholders in Hitchcock and Santa Fe on fats, oils, grease, and wipes education and outreach. Bill inserts have been sent out and social media toolkits, partner data, and downloadable graphics are available on the website. The Coalition also helped host the Stream and Riparian Workshop with TWRI in La Marque.
- Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, and Clear Creek WPPs (H-GAC) - Mr. Johnston announced that H-GAC will now be going forward with having in person meetings once again. The meetings will be offered as hybrids so that there will still be an option to attend remotely. Spring Creek: The WPP has been written and is still pending approval. Clear Creek: The project is just starting up and had its first public meeting on March 3rd. The next meeting will most likely be

held late April or early May. Cypress Creek: The WPP was approved earlier this year by the EPA and the team is currently working on some initial implementation efforts, especially with forestry. Beginning in the fall, H-GAC will begin implementation efforts for many of their approved WPPs. This will cover the West Lake Houston area consisting of Cypress and Spring Creek, along with the West Fork of the San Jacinto River. Please reach out to Rachel or Steven if you are interested in participating in any of these groups.

- BIG I-Plan/Basins 11/Cotton Bayou (H-GAC)/ - Cotton Bayou: Mr. Johnston announced that they are working with TCEQ to adjust some of the flow data for the technical support document and will be reengaging with stakeholders sometime in late May. Basin 11: Mr. Johnston announced that the QAPP is currently being updated. 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 and will be meeting with stakeholders. BIG I-Plan: The BIG will meet May 24th. This will be offered as a hybrid meeting. The BIG workgroups will be meeting in late April and early May. Those meeting invites will be sent out soon.
- Supporting the Use of Green Infrastructure in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed (H-GAC) - Mr. Johnston announced that contract has been executed and the kick-off meeting with GBEP will be held April 4th. A stakeholder group representing different green infrastructure in the watershed with associated water quality monitoring will be convened late spring/early summer. Anyone interested should get into contact with him.
- Townwood Park Green Stormwater Infrastructure (HPARD) - Ms. Kempf announced that the location of the bioswale feature within the park has been identified. The project was previously considering two features but will now focus on one larger feature. The bioswale will be located in an area of the parking lot already designed for drainage. Ms. Rines added the kick-off meeting for this project will also be held next week.

Roundtable/ Partner Announcements and Updates:

Mr. Johnston announced that Jeff Taebel, H-GAC's Director of Community and Environmental Planning, will be retiring on April 1st.

Ms. Shead encouraged members to go out to the Art Car Parade on April 9th. BPA will showcase their own car in the parade to promote messaging to celebrate, protect, and restore our bayous.

Ms. Rines announced that USGS has two hydrologist positions that will close the end of April if anyone is interest, please visit USAjobs.gov.

Upcoming GBEP meetings:

- B&P Subcommittee Meeting - April 12, 2022 (9:00am -11:00am)
- GBC Meeting - April 20, 2022 (8:30am -12:30pm)
- M&R Subcommittee Meeting - June 8, 2022
- Next WSQ Subcommittee Meeting - June 8, 2022 (1:30pm - 3:30pm)
- PPE Subcommittee Meeting - June 15, 2022 (10:00am - 12:00pm)
- NRU Subcommittee Meeting - TBD

Adjourn