

# MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

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**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 30, 2022**  
**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), Stacey Carr (TCEQ SWQM), Charlotte Cisneros (GBF), Cloelle Danforth (EDF), Brittani Flowers (BPA), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), David Hala (TAMUG), Laura Jurgens (TAMUG), Michael Lee (USGS), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Webster Mangham (TRA), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Grant Moss (BPA), Hanadi Rifai (UH), Christian Rines (GBEP), Ryan Seymour (TCEQ-WQPD), Joanie Steinhaus (TIRN), Michael Shields (TAMU-GERG), Kristin Vernin (HARC), Vanessa Zemke (GBEP)

**Approval of December 8, 2021 meeting minutes - approved.**

## **Project Updates:**

- Characterizing PCBs and Dioxins in the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay Post Harvey - UH: UH has completed sampling and lab analyses and are working on data analyses and the final report.
- Effect of Microplastics on the Base of Marine Food Webs - TAMUG: TAMUG has had some difficulties catching fish of the correct size for the swim trials and will likely be making some changes to the project regarding the swim trials and the methods for plastic analysis.
- Regional Monitoring Database - HARC: HARC just completed the first phase of the project, which involved developing the portal which will serve as the interface for all of the aggregated datasets that will be available for download. This phase is under review by GBEP and HARC is commencing work on the second phase of the project.
- The Distribution, Fate, and Transport of Emerging Contaminants in Galveston Bay - TAMU: TAMU just completed the March cruise and were able to sample both water and sediment. They will be able to start processing the samples for PFAS this week and will freeze the PPCPs for analyses later.
- The Fate of Emerging Per- and Polyfluoroalkylated Substances (PFAS)

Pollutants in Shellfish and Fish of Galveston Bay - TAMUG: TAMUG is updating the analytical method and recalibrating standards and have improved their detection limits and are now ready to begin processing the fish samples for analyses.

- Effects of Erosion Control Structures on Shoreline Marsh Species Populations - TAMUG: TAMUG has been scouting sites, the QAPP is completed, and they are preparing to begin collecting data.

### **Presentation:**

- Understanding the Drivers for Gulf Coast Resiliency Using Natural Infrastructure: Initial Data from Fish Sampling - Charlotte Cisneros, Community Programs Manager, Galveston Bay Foundation and Cloelle Danforth, Senior Scientist, Health Program, Environmental Defense Fund

### **Member Spotlight Short Presentations**

- Amanda Hackney, GIS and Biology Consultant, Black Cat GIS
- Ryan Bare, Research Scientist, Watershed Ecology, Houston Advanced Research Center

### **GBEP, Council, and subcommittee updates:**

- WSQ subcommittee meeting: March 30, 2022 1:30PM - 3:30PM
- B&P subcommittee meeting: April 12, 2022 9:00AM - 11:00AM
- GBC meeting: April 20, 2022 9:30AM - 12:30PM

### **Announcements/Path Forward Items**

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 9:30AM - 11:30AM
- USGS will be hiring two new hydrologist positions; the postings will be on [usajobs.gov](https://usajobs.gov).

### **Adjourn**