

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EDUCATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 10, 2022  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Hybrid Meeting (Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams and In-person at 17041 El Camino Real, Suite 210, Houston, TX 77058)**

Subcommittee Chair: Cindy Wilems, Education Director, Galveston Bay Foundation

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Vacant

GBEP Representative: Lisa Marshall

Attendees: Cindy Wilems, Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF); Karastin Katusin, Bayou Land Conservancy (BLC); Jaime Gonzalez, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Richard Gibbons, American Bird Conservancy (ABC); Ryan Francisco, Bayou Preservation Association (BPA); Charlotte Cisneros, GBF; Kendall Guidroz, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC); Marsha Towns, Student Conservation Association (SCA); Sasha Francis, GBF; Erin Kinney, Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC); Kelly Martin, ABC; Della Barbato, Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT); Rose Esteves, City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD); Cassidy Kempf, HPARD; Lisa Rickards, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Linda Shead, BPA; Brittani Flowers, BPA; Kirsten Vernin, HARC; Lindsey Lippert, Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP); Lisa Marshall, GBEP; Kristen McGovern, GBEP; Christian Rines, GBEP; Vanessa Zemke, GBEP

***FY 23 Approved Projects***

FY	#	Contractor	Title	Initiation	Expiration	Source	FY23	Total Encumbrance	QAPP	QAPP Expiration, if applicable
23	TBD	HCDE	Engaging Diverse Communities in Conservation	In progress	8/31/2024	Federal	\$ 58,140.00	\$ 58,140.00	No	N/A
23	TBD	HARC	Galveston Bay Report Card Vietnamese Outreach	In progress	3/31/2025	Federal	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	Yes	Not approved yet
23	TBD	H-GAC	Trash Bash	In progress	8/31/2024	State	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	No	N/A
23	TBD	H-GAC	Water Quality Outreach Implementation for Vulnerable Rural Populations	In progress	5/31/2025	Federal	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	No	N/A

***Presentations***

Jaime Gonzalez of the Nature Conservancy of Texas gave his presentation, *Wildly Healthy, Climate Ready: Co-creating Healthier Communities Using Nature and Nature-Based Solutions in the Houston-Galveston Area*. This presentation discussed a variety of issues and concerns that impact our region and how they are not just issues of human health, biodiversity, and ecosystems, but a combination of all three. He then went on to discuss that because of this, possible solutions should look at addressing all three aspects from a singular health and wellbeing standpoint. The entire presentation is available on the GBEP Website. [Wildly Healthy, Climate Ready](#)

Lisa Marshall provided attendees with current projects to provide updates on those projects. (Figure 1: Current Project Spreadsheet is below)

- Kendall Guidroz (19-90216, Trash Bash): Event will be held Saturday, March 26 at 14 sites. First in-person event since 2019.
- Erin Kinney (20-10175): The survey information from University of Houston Clear Lake (UHCL) is being evaluated and follow-up contacts are being done with communities around Galveston Bay. Anticipated update at the June 2022 meeting for the PPE Presentation.
- Christian Rines (21-10096): Turtle Island Rescue Network (TIRN) is working to train volunteers and UHCL is just getting underway with the scientific portion of the plan.
- Lindsey Lippert (21-10097): Reevaluating the plan to make teaching kits for students to use in class to alleviate pressure on teachers.
- Della Barbato (NPAT), Lindsey Lippert (22-30208): Teacher training to start soon and will lead to field trips. Working with GBEP to develop a timeline. Lindsey working with EcoRise on the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

### ***Roundtable Announcements***

- Ms. Marshall provided some events and dates of interest:
  - Bay Day, May 14
  - National Estuary Program Coastal Wetlands Request for Proposals Webinars on 3/24 & 3/30
  - TX Plastic Pollution Symposium, 3/31
  - Restore America's Estuaries in New Orleans, Dec. 4 - 8. Call for abstracts
  - Trash Summit, May 11
- Mr. Gonzalez suggested that there be the creation of a regional recognition award in the field of education & communication in Cynthia's honor.
- Linda Shead noted that BPA will have its car in the Art Car Parade on 4/9.
- GBF noted that there will be 3-5 schools hosting booths at Bay Day to highlight what they have learned over the past year.
- Marsha Townes announced that SCA Houston received almost \$100,000 to have a crew of young adults live at the Big Thicket National Preserve this summer to receive training and practice in restoration techniques. Most students have participated in the SCA high school program locally.
- Mr. Gonzalez updated on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act which could potentially bring \$65-70M in nongame funding to Texas with 10-15% going to education.
- Ms. Marshall asked the subcommittee to consider moving the meetings to Wednesdays to align with staff schedules.
- Ms. Marshall noted that the Water and Sediment Quality and Monitoring and Research subcommittee meetings are on 3/30
- The June meeting will include discussing priorities for fiscal year 24 and subcommittee members should be thinking about what subjects or projects are important to prioritize.

### ***Meeting Adjourned***

**FIGURE 1**

<b>PPE Current Projects</b>														
<b>FY</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Initiation</b>	<b>Expiration</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>FY19</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>Total Encumbrance</b>	<b>Amendment in progress</b>	<b>QAPP</b>	<b>QAPP Expiration, if applicable</b>
19	90216	H-GAC	Trash Bash	8/17/2018	8/31/2022	Federal	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 35,000.00		No	N/A
20	10175	HARC	Public Perception Assessment and Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) Campaigns to Enhance Conservation and Educational Outreach Programs	8/23/2019	5/31/2022	Federal		\$ 86,000.00			\$ 86,000.00		No	N/A
21	10096	UHCL/TIRN	Microplastics in the Galveston Bay Watershed: The Big Impacts of Tiny Pollution	1/22/2021	5/31/2024	Federal			\$ 64,458.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 114,458.00	Amendment No. 1 in progress to increase funds and extend expiration date	Yes	TIRN: 8/11/2024; UHCL: 1/28/2025
21	10097	HCDE	Audubon TERN Citizen Science in Schools: Students as Field Researchers	11/13/2020	5/31/2023	Federal			\$ 49,323.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 89,323.00	Amendment No. 1 in progress to increase funds and extend expiration date	No	N/A
22	30208	UHCL	Mobilizing the Environmental Education Community through Prairie Education	11/12/2021	5/31/2024	Federal				\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	Amendment No. 1 in progress to increase funds	Yes	Not approved yet; under review