



WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 8, 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 Rines

Call to Order

Attendees: Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Ryan Bare (HARC), Christian Rines (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Matthew Abernathy (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Vanessa Zemke (GBEP), Michael LaMontagne (UHCL), Rachel Windham (H-GAC), Kendall Guidroz (H-GAC), Celina Lowry (TX A&M AgriLife), Steven Johnston (H-GAC), Ram Ray (PVAMU), Pat Bohannon (TCEQ), Cassidy Kempf (HPARD), Morgan Huette (TIRN), Kirsten Vernin (HARC), Jill Csekitz (TCEQ), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Lisa Rickards (EPA), Kelli Ondracek (HPARD), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Laura Ryckman (TCEQ), Charlotte Cisneros (GBF), Michael Lee (USGS), Rose Esteves (HPARD).

Approval of the March 30, 2022 minutes - The minutes were approved with no changes.

New Business

Partner presentation: *Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Water Quality Management Plan Program - Brian Koch, Regional Watershed Coordinator, TSSWCB (*Presentation, notes, and Q&A available upon request).*

Planning and Priorities for FY 2024 Funding:

- FY24 project proposal submission will begin June 24, 2022 and close on July 22, 2022. A link to the proposal form and additional information will be sent out by subcommittee coordinators in the official call for proposals on June 24. A separate proposal link will be sent out for the CCMP update. If you plan on submitting a proposal for the CCMP, please contact Lisa Marshall to discuss. Submitted proposals will then be sent back out to subcommittee members on August 8, 2022, for review prior to the September meeting.
- Actions and Outputs of the Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition - Ms. Rines provided a spreadsheet that listed the three Actions Plans of Priority One of the Galveston

Bay Plan, 2nd Edition, Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use. Subcommittee members will be asked to indicate which actions and outputs of the Plan their project implements when submitting proposals.

- Past and current WSQ projects and narrowing of priorities for FY24 project development - A listing of WSQ projects completed or ongoing since 2012 was provided to subcommittee members. The spreadsheet also identified actions of the Plan implemented by each of these projects. These priorities previously identified by the subcommittee in the last quarterly meeting were revisited in order to narrow down the list to three priorities. These three priorities will then be used to help the subcommittee decide which projects to fund in the fall. Those needs and gaps not identified as a priority for this project planning cycle will remain on the list and will be revisited by the subcommittee the following year. The following three priorities were identified:
 - Supporting measurement measures and watershed-based plans
 - Soil health and green infrastructure
 - Targeted/Direct monitoring

Old Business

Project Updates from WSQ Project Mangers:

- Occurrence of Microplastics in Tributaries to Galveston Bay (USGS) – Ms. Lucena announced that the project is nearing completion. All samples have been collected at ten stations in nine different watersheds. Those samples are being processed by the lab and only initial data has been received. Once all results are received from the lab, the data will be prepared, and a final report drafted.
- Baseline Assessment of Microplastics in Galveston Bay (USGS) – Ms. Lucena announced that sampling continues in the bay and the team is hoping to sample four sites tomorrow. The project has experienced delays due to weather and equipment issues, but they are hoping for some weather event sampling soon.
- Targeted Bacteria Monitoring (BPA thru H-GAC) – Ms. Guidroz announced that the team is waiting for the contract amendment to come through that will add funds to the project and extend the contract through August 2024. Once the contract amendment is signed, the team will work on getting the next phase of interns for the project.
- Outreach Implementation for Galveston Bay Water Quality Projects (H-GAC) – Ms. Guidroz announced that the work group for the CBSM portion of the project has developed targeted messaging for fats, oils, and grease targeted outreach geared toward rental properties, and are working with cities and apartment complexes to implement these resources. Additional outreach materials are also being added to the Coastal Communities online toolbox.
- Supporting the Use of Green Infrastructure (GI) in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed (H-GAC) – Mr. Johnston announced that the draft QAPP has been submitted to the TCEQ for review before any data mining begins. A project committee will be formed sometime around July and are looking for those with GI data or know of those with this sort of data. No data will be collected for this project, only acquired from other sources. This committee will help to gather these datasets to create performance criteria for best management practices (BMPs) across the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed. This performance criteria will

then be used to create a preferred BMP list for decision makers in the region to encourage the use of GI.

- 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. The request for quotes will soon go out to contractors for bidding.
- Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, and Clear Creek WPPs (H-GAC) – Cypress Creek: Ms. Windham announced that the Cypress Creek WPP was approved last year, and they are now moving forward with implementation in that watershed. Spring Creek: The WPP has been written and is still pending TCEQ approval. Clear Creek: The project is just starting up and has had its first two public meetings, both very introductory level. The next meeting will be held sometime in July and will be more data focused. 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, in addition to the East 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: Ms. Windham announced that they just had a stakeholder meeting last month. They are a pre-engaged stakeholder group in a very small watershed. The City of Mont Belvieu is the biggest participator within the group and the team is waiting on approval of the technical support document before moving forward. Basin 11: Mr. Johnston announced that the QAPP is currently being updated. Chocolate Bay covers the waterbodies that go into the bay, including Chocolate Bayou, Halls Bayou, and Mustang Bayou, and are currently working with stakeholders to develop an Implementation Plan. They hope to have a draft plan by next year. BIG I-Plan: The group is reevaluating the Implementation Plan and will be meeting to come to a more complete version on the Plan.
- Dickinson Bayou/Highland Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) (TCWP) – Ms. Taylor announced that the Coalition of Watersheds group recently wrapped up some implementation efforts this past spring. The Coalition continues to send any pertinent information and announcements and continues to work with stakeholders to facilitate implementation.

Roundtable/ Partner Announcements and Updates:

Mr. Johnston announced that the Caney Creek stakeholder meeting will be held in Sargent tomorrow night at 5:30 pm.

GBEP, Council, and Subcommittee Updates

Ms. Marshall announced that GBEP's Public Information Specialist position has been posted and will close on June 10. She also encouraged members to attend September subcommittee meetings in person to foster a better conversation.

Upcoming GBEP meetings:

- PPE Subcommittee Meeting – June 15, 2022 (10:00am – 12:00pm)

- NRU Subcommittee Meeting - June 22, 2022 (9:30am -11:30am)
- B&P Subcommittee Meeting - July 12, 2022 (9:00am -11:00am)
- GBC Meeting - July 20, 2022 (9:30am -12:30pm)
- Next WSQ Subcommittee Meeting - September 14, 2022 (1:30pm - 3:30pm)

Adjourn