

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

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October 18, 2022

Dear Galveston Bay Council Members:

The next quarterly meeting of the Galveston Bay Council is scheduled for:

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

9:30AM – 12:30 PM

Meeting location:

Harris-Galveston Subsidence District

1660 West Bay Area Blvd,

Friendswood, TX 77546-2640

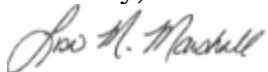
(281) 486-1105

Virtually – Microsoft Teams

Information for the **October 19, 2022** meeting is attached as noted below.

1. Galveston Bay Council Agenda for October 19, 2022
2. Draft July 20, 2022 Galveston Bay Council Meeting Minutes
3. Proposed FY 2024 Work Plan Budget
4. Proposed FY 2024 Project Proposal Summaries
5. Proposed FY 22 and 23 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Work Plan Budget
6. Proposed FY 22 and 23 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Proposal Summaries
7. Bylaws Acknowledgement Form

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Marshall

Program Manager

Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP)



A PROGRAM OF TCEQ

GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING

Location: Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, 1660 West Bay Area Blvd, Friendswood, TX 77546-2640, (281) 486-1105. Virtually - Microsoft Teams

AGENDA: Wednesday, October 19, 2022

9:30 A.M.: **Call to Order:** Introduction of Members and Delegates

Action Item: Approval of July 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Report of the Program (Lisa Marshall)

- Conflict of Interest
- Commissioners' Agenda

Report of the Chair (Glenn Clingenpeel)

- In-person GBC Meetings
- Introduce Julie Masters - vacancy for small cities with population less than 25,000

Action Item: Approval of small city representative

10:00 A.M.: **An Overview of Phase One: The Galveston Bay Regional Monitoring Database -**
Ryan Bare, Ph.D., Houston Advanced Research Center

10:40 A.M.: **Presentations & Discussion:** Fiscal Year 2024 GBEP Work Plan. A series of short presentations by GBEP staff covering the projects and programmatic costs being proposed

Action Item: Approval of each item in the proposed work plan

11:15 A.M. **Break**

11:30 A.M.: **Presentations & Discussion:** Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 BIL GBEP Work Plan. A series of short presentations by GBEP staff covering the projects and budget being proposed

Action Item: Approval of each item in the proposed BIL work plan

12:00 P.M.: **Council Member Roundtable:** News, Announcements and Discussion

12:15 P.M.: Public comments

12:30 P.M.: Adjourn

Upcoming Galveston Bay Council Meeting Dates: January 18, 2023, April 19, 2023, July 19, 2023, and October 18, 2023. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the quarter from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. If there are known conflicts, Council members are welcome to propose alternate dates to the Council.

GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM (GBEP)

DRAFT - Galveston Bay Council (GBC) Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2022

Attendees:

Galveston Bay Council Chair: Glenn Clingenpeel (Trinity River Authority)

Galveston Bay Council Vice-Chair: Albert Gonzales (Low Income Communities)

Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) Staff Lead: Lisa Marshall (GBEP)

Due to issues with COVID-19, the July 20, 2022 quarterly GBC meeting was held in a hybrid format with in-person at the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District and virtually on Microsoft Teams from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Scott Alford, Andrea Catanzaro, Glenn Clingenpeel (In-person), Winfred Colbert, Jeff DallaRosa, Vance Darr, Elizabeth Fazio Hale, Albert Gonzales, Lori Hamilton, Cruz Hinojosa, Jonathan Holley, Brian Koch, Audrey Kuklenz, Kristin Lambrect, Mike Lee, Garry McMahan, Helen Paige, Lisa Rickards, Todd Running, Caimee Schoenbaechler, Ronnie Schultz, Rusty Senac, Linda Shead, Charrish Stevens, Sue Theiss, Matthew Tilimon, Maria Valdez, Kirk Wiles, Tracey Woody

Members Not Present/Delegates: Nancy Parra, Anna Partin, Pamela Plotkin, Melissa Porter, Taylor Rieck, Hanadi Rifai, Shane Simpson, Sharron Stewart, Bob Stokes*, Scott Williams

(*=**Member designated a proxy**)

Proxies Present (GBC member absent/designated proxy): Bob Stokes/Mikayla Panariello; Melissa Porter/Christina Solis

Current Vacancies: Small Local Governments

Other Attendees: Shane Bonnot, Emma Clarkson, Jill Csekitz, Kelley Kowal, Quinn McColly, Tim Siegmund, David Villarreal

Additional GBEP Staff Present: Matthew Abernathy, Lindsey Lippert, Christian Rines

Call to Order: Introduction of Members and Delegates

Glenn Clingenpeel brought the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Clingenpeel reminded all attendees that there is a virtual option and that members are attending online and in-person. Mr. Clingenpeel also asked that for votes or motions, virtual attendees please turn on their cameras and when making a motion or second to state their name, to remain in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Action Item: Approval of November 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Clingenpeel opened the meeting with approval of the minutes. A previous vote was done at the April 2022 meeting, but there was not a quorum at that time. Lisa Marshall commented on amendments to the minutes that Mr. Clingenpeel attended in person and that Earl Lott is not a member of the GBC. Rusty Senac moved to approve the minutes as amended by Ms. Marshall and a second was made by Brian Koch. The motion was passed unanimously.

Action Item: Approval of April 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Clingenpeel then moved to the approval of the April 20, 2022 minutes. Ms. Marshall provided a clarification on the comments by Lori Hamilton in the minutes. The comments are to be changed to “surface water quality standards hearing is set for May 2. Proposed changes include revisions to clarify the prohibition of discharges of preproduction plastics, site specific changes, and revisions to toxic material.” The statement was added as a revision to Ms. Hamilton’s comment. Mr. Senac motioned for approval of the minutes and a second was made by Ronnie Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Program

Ms. Marshall started with the announcement of two vacancies on the GBC, from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD), have been filled by Todd Running and Jonathan Holley respectively. Brian Koch read the biography of Mr. Running to the GBC and Linda Shead read the biography of Mr. Holley.

Ms. Marshall announced that the next State of the Bay Symposium is tentatively planned for January 2024. It was also announced to the GBC that GBEP will be receiving funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and that planning and funding priorities will be established through a subcommittee meeting. The award amount is approximately \$909,800 per year over the next five years and that we have been told that for at least the first two years there will not be a match requirement.

Ms. Marshall announced that interviews are currently being conducted for the Information Specialist (PPE Coordinator) position. The job posting for the Monitoring and Research Coordinator has posted and the posting for the Technical and Quality Program Coordinator should be posted soon.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Clingenpeel addressed the GBC to discuss how meetings will be held moving forward; whether they would be in-person meetings or to maintain a hybrid format. Mr. Clingenpeel stated that he would prefer in-person meetings and that the in-person dynamic worked better in this situation and that the benefits of doing the meetings in-person outweigh the disadvantages of not offering a virtual program.

Mr. Senac stated that he feels the same way, that in-person meetings are preferred, but that if hybrid meetings need to be held, he understands that as well.

Mr. Koch shared the same sentiment and stated that he feels that there is a lot of conversation missed in a virtual platform and that the personal connection has large benefits to project planning and the personal aspect as well.

Albert Gonzales stated that he just returned from a convention with over 12,000 delegates and guests and that being in-person is preferred. It was also stated that those that wish to can still wear masks.

Ms. Shead agreed that there is no comparing the benefits of in-person meetings to virtual. Ms. Shead also addressed the importance of public safety as well as the flexibility that virtual meetings allow in situations where attending in-person is not feasible.

Caimee Schoenbaechler commented on her preference for the engagement that is established with in-person meetings. Ms. Schoenbaechler also stated she would have attended in-person, but was recently exposed to COVID, so she was appreciative of the virtual option. Ms. Schoenbaechler did acknowledge that proxies have been established for situations like hers and that had a virtual option not been available, a proxy would have been sent.

Mr. Running agreed that he preferred the benefits of in-person meetings but that the flexibility of virtual meetings is also beneficial. Mr. Running noted that due to other, last minute virtual meetings he was unable to attend the GBC meeting in person, but the virtual option allowed him to attend. Mr. Clingenpeel commented that in his suggestion for in-person meetings he also factored in that the GBC meetings only occur quarterly and that is a minimal demand on members' time.

Michael Lee stated that he was in the same situation as Ms. Schoenbaechler, having recently been exposed to COVID and the virtual option allowed him to attend. Mr. Lee also stated that had the virtual option not been available, he would have sent a proxy as that is the reason they were established.

No one else provided any comment and Mr. Clingenpeel stated that the default attendance for the October meeting will be in person but that if situations changed, virtual options would be evaluated.

Presentation: *Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)* – Jill Csekitz, Technical Specialist, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), GOMA Water Resources Team Co-chair

Ms. Csekitz presented the GBC with information on GOMA and her goal was to provide an overview and to engage the GBC members in potential ways to get involved. GOMA is a regional network of stakeholders initiated in 2004 by the governors of all five gulf states whose goal is to enhance the ecologic and economic health of the entire gulf coast.

Ms. Csekitz provided details on the structure of GOMA, its membership organization, and the programming that it undertakes. Ms. Csekitz noted that the new governor appointed chair-elect is Toby Baker, the Executive Director of TCEQ. Additionally, information was provided on the guiding document, the Governor's Action Plan, and how this serves as a blueprint for the work that GOMA does. It was also noted that the

work done by GOMA is intended to be a resource across the region, where work or data done in one state can be referenced and applicable in other parts of the region.

Lastly, Ms. Czekitz provided information on the Gulf Star program, which provides funding to projects and programs that are done and help achieve the work of GOMA.

*Caimee Schoenbaechler asked for more information on the events GOMA offers. Ms. Czekitz provided information on the GOMA All Hands Meeting, which will be in Texas in 2023. Each of the teams also has their own meetings and it was suggested to look at the GOMA website and look into joining a team and participating in their meetings. Lastly, Ms. Czekitz referenced the Gulf of Mexico Conference (GOMCON) which is a larger meeting that combines the GOMA All Hands meeting, Gulf Summit, and Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystems Science (GoMOSES) Conference event which happens again in 2024.

*Mr. Senac applauded the mention of tourism and economic health and asked if tourism was a direct action of the Governor's Action Plan. Ms. Czekitz stated that while tourism is not directly mentioned, there are several tourism members on the Business Advisory Council and there have been meetings and conversations to weigh how science is translated to the public and how that can impact tourism.

Presentation: *Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Habitat Incentive Programs for Private Landowners* - Tim Siegmund, Private Lands Program Leader, TPWD

Tim Siegmund's role is to work with private landowners to help support the management of private lands for the benefit of wildlife and ecosystems in Texas. Mr. Siegmund informed the GBC that TPWD has staff throughout the state who can provide information to landowners on how to better manage their land. For dedicated landowners, TPWD also has programs to help mitigate some of the costs involved with management projects. Two of these programs were presented to the GBC.

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is a competitive program where landowners can apply for reimbursement funds to manage their land for rare, threatened, and endangered species. Since 2005, roughly five million dollars in state and federal cost share assistance has been matched with about six million dollars of their own money to impact almost 250,000 acres of habitat enhancement throughout the state. The preproposal deadline is February 2023 for non-governmental organizations to apply for funding.

Mr. Siegmund described Pastures for Upland Birds as a program that works to kill non-native grasses and restoring the area with native grasses. This program helps to showcase the ecological principles and benefits of native grasslands and prairies to ecosystem services. For more information, Mr. Siegmund referenced a program video on YouTube for more information. [Grassland Restoration for Upland Birds](#)
Recipients of these awards are provided with the resources and technical guidance to facilitate the removal of the non-native grasses and restoration of the native species.

Mr. Siegmund also highlighted the South Texas Natives project in Kingsville that has expanded to all eco-regions of the state and now includes a Gulf Coast seed venture that contains a collection of locally collected native seeds for the appropriate regions.

*Mr. Koch asked if grazing management is addressed with landowners. Mr. Siegmund confirmed that he works with a variety of partners throughout the state to provide resources to ensure appropriate grazing management.

*Ms. Schoenbaechler inquired about the participation of landowners in the coastal zone. Mr. Siegmund responded that areas east of U.S. 59 there are not many participants, but areas west of Houston, especially in the western edges of the Katy Prairie there is much more interest due to new landowners interested in doing habitat improvements.

*Albert Gonzales asked about public access to these projects. Mr. Siegmund stated that while some landowners will allow access to the properties, it is not written into the program agreement to allow access.

*Mr. Senac asked about a range and average in the size of projects in the LIP program. The range varied from 15 acres to 4000 acres in the current funding period, but over a five-year period, 16,000 acres of brush treatment and nine stream miles of riparian restoration encompass the largest project. The funding for projects typically ranges from \$15,000-25,000.

*Mr. Clingenpeel asked about restoration related to freshwater mussels and freshwater inflows. Mr. Siegmund referenced several projects that specifically addressed the reduction of sediment load into water bodies to help improve habitat and water quality for these species.

Presentation: *The Connected Coast: Environmental Flows for Bay and Estuarine Health* – Quinn McColly, PhD, Conservation Finance Director, Texas Water Trade

Mr. McColly provided an update on Texas Water Trade and what they do. He provided information on how Texas Water Trade helps to secure water for agricultural, economic, and natural needs. Mr. McColly stated that while they cannot buy enough water to affect the salinity of the entire bay, they work to provide enough freshwater inflows to provide refugia for species to help the appropriate salinity rebound more quickly as needed.

Mr. McColly also highlighted projects specifically related to the Galveston Bay region. This included a unique program that combines game camera arrays and artificial intelligence to show the prevalence of wildlife use (avian) in areas and how it correlates with the amount of water in areas.

*Ms. Schoenbaechler asked about his perspective on the largest obstacles to scaling up voluntary strategies for water resources. Dr. McColly stated that the tools that are most adaptable are the ones that will help the most in this situation. Due to technical issues, some of the response was inaudible. Ms. Schoenbaechler stated she would follow up with him after the meeting.

Presentations will be uploaded and available on the GBEP [website](#).

Subcommittee Updates

Ms. Marshall provided the update that all subcommittees met in June to establish priorities for the 2024 fiscal year.

Water and Sediment Quality (WSQ)

Christian Rines, WSQ Coordinator provided the updates for both WSQ and Monitoring and Research Subcommittees.

Subcommittee Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024

- Supporting Management Measures and Watershed-Based Plans
- Soil Health and Green Infrastructure
- Targeted/Direct Monitoring

Monitoring and Research (M&R)

Subcommittee Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024

- Contaminants in Aquatic Organisms, Sediments, and Water
- Effects of Increased Frequency of Flood Tides and Erosion on Species Populations
- Effects of Tropicalization and Episodic Weather Events on Organisms and Ecosystems in Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico
- Impacts of Coastal Spine Structures on Species Movements

*Mr. Clingenpeel asked if the first priority would include per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances contaminants related to the Deer Park fires. Ms. Rines responded that at this time these are general priorities and projects have not been established. Mr. Clingenpeel then asked if any research had been done related to that issue and Ms. Marshall responded that some general research had been done to PFAS but not specifically related to the Deer Park incident.

Natural Resource Uses (NRU)

Lindsey Lippert, NRU Coordinator, provided the priorities update for the NRU Subcommittee.

Subcommittee Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024

- Habitat Acquisition
- Enhancement of Existing or Ongoing Restoration/Conservation Efforts
- Benefit to Native Fish and Wildlife
- Brings Funding, Work Leverage, Multiple Goal Benefit to the Subcommittee
- Project Urgency
- *Special Merit Project (Expansion of GBEP Implementation Tracking Viewer: Adding Spatial Components to Project Tracking (Alternative to the Habitat Conservation Blueprint))*

Public Participation and Education (PPE)

Matthew Abernathy, Education and Outreach Coordinator, provided the priority updates for the PPE Subcommittee.

Subcommittee Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024

- Lack of funding or difficulty for securing funding for existing programs. Look for established programs looking to expand an outreach component or revamp an existing portion of the program. Funding for programs to go into the classrooms to provide educational workshops.
- Career information on natural resources, environmental education, and outreach for community college programs. How to connect (Roadmap) to STEM careers and resources to support them.
- Collecting a list of stewardship and volunteer resources in the region (young adult, adult audiences, afterschool programs).
- Addresses diversity, equity, and inclusion.

For subcommittee meeting dates, times, and more information, visit the GBEP [website](#).

GBC Members Roundtable: News and Announcements

Jonathan Holley (HCFCD): HCFCD is about halfway through the 2018 bond program and all programs have been started.

Rusty Senac (Nature Tourism): Thanked Ms. Hale for her donation of transportation for the April GBC Meeting. He also asked if the Coastal Water Authority (CWA) Luce Bayou interbasin water transfer is operational. Mr. Clingenpeel said he was not aware of it moving water at this time. There was brief discussion about the water releases from basins to supplement Houston water.

Brian Koch (Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board): RFP for \$319 grant should be announced in August for implementing and developing watershed plans or coastal agriculture non-point source pollution. Encouraged the GBC to work on their own gardens as there might be limited agricultural resources due to drought this year.

Glenn Clingenpeel (Trinity River Authority): Endangered Species Listings for the Trinity River Basin could have a final decision as soon as August. Freshwater mussels including the Texas fawnsfoot, Louisiana pigtoe, and the Texas heelsplitter, along with the Alligator Snapping Turtle are all candidates for federal listing. In relation to PFAS, regulations are expected moving forward.

Lori Hamilton (TCEQ): On behalf of the Water Quality Planning Division.

Regarding the TMDL Program, the Middle Neches TMDL will be going to agenda for adoption in October. The Sandy and Wolf Creeks I-Plan and Caney Creek I-Plan will be going to agenda to be released for public comment in November.

Regarding the NPS Program, the 2022 Texas NPS Management Program was approved by the Commission on December 15, 2021. Final approval by the EPA is pending. On June 1, 2022, TCEQ posted its Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) for nonpoint source projects under the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant Program. The solicitation closed on July 15, 2022. Visit the Nonpoint Source Program Grants Web page for information on this grant program, applicants and activities eligible for funding, and other supporting information.

Regarding the Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality, EPA approved the Texas 2022 Section 303(d) list on July 7, 2022. The 2022 Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality, including the 2022 Texas 303(d) list, can be found on our website.

Regarding Water Quality Standards, the 2022 revision of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards is currently in progress and scheduled to go to agenda for adoption in September 2022. The project timeline including stakeholder's workgroup meetings, proposal agenda, public comment period, and public hearing are posted on the Surface Water Quality Standard Advisory Group webpage.

Regarding the Clean Rivers Program, the calendar of Steering Committee Meeting dates may be accessed from the statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule. Meetings occur throughout the year and help to establish monitoring priorities.

Elizabeth Fazio Hale (Gulf Coast Authority): The legislative session is in spring 2024 and as a legislative created group, the GBC is prevented from lobbying. If GBC members are going to be a resource or if they need items to be put to the legislature, prefilings need to be done early to ensure that information has enough lead time to end up on the calendar.

*Mr. Clingenpeel asked that potential legislative topics be added to the agenda for the October GBC Meeting.

*Mr. Senac asked if there was a particular date when you can start the prefilings and Ms. Fazio Hale stated that prefilings can begin in late November or early December, but that it is more important to get the draft in progress soon. She highlighted how much of a resource the GBC is and that the legislature may not be aware of all of the work that is being done by the GBC and the estuary program.

*Albert Gonzales expressed interest in assisting Ms. Fazio Hale with getting information about the GBC out to the legislators.

Ms. Fazio Hale also inquired about an update from the Gulf Coast Protection District to be provided to the GBC.

Linda Shead (Shead Conservation Solutions): Commented that virtual opportunities allow the public greater access to GBC meetings.

Reminded September 28 - 29 is the Bayou Preservation Association Symposium, with the subject being *The Cost of Doing Nothing*.

Scott Alford (Natural Resource Conservation Service): Thanked the presenters.

Caimee Schoenbaechler (Texas Water Development Board): August 23 the Natural Resource Committee hearing will consider the creation of the Gulf Coast Protection district and coastal protection structures.

TWDB is hiring a Coastal Modeler position.

Todd Running (H-GAC): Natural Resource Advisory Committee meeting on August 4 to approve the Water Quality Management Plan Update for 604(b).

August 23 is the Cotton Bayou Total Maximum Daily Load public meeting from 2 – 4 p.m.

There will be two Clean Waters Initiative workshops in the coming months. In September, the meeting will be on stormwater and the date is TBD. The October meeting will be a Clean Rivers Program monitoring demonstration.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Upcoming GBC Meeting Dates: October 19, 2022, January 18, 2023, April 19, 2023, and July 19, 2023. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the quarter from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. If there are known conflicts, GBC members are welcome to propose alternate dates to the GBC.

FY 2024 B&P Approved Project Budget						
Category	Grantee	Original Funding Request	FY 2024 Recommendation		FY 2025	NOTES:
			State Funding	Federal Funding		
Baseline Costs						
Salaries, Fringe, and Indirect	N/A	\$ 646,124.82	86369.28*	\$ 646,124.82	\$ -	OPERATING BUDGET AND STAFF SUPPORT _ NO CHANGES *State funding for salary is from a different department (index) outside of GBEP and is not calculated as part of the GBEP budget.
General Operational Costs	N/A	\$ 40,159.00	\$ 32,113.00	\$ 8,046.00	\$ -	
Programmatic Costs						
1. Annual Website Hosting & Maintenance (2 websites)	Wilkins Group	\$ 5,868.00		\$ 5,868.00	\$ -	
2. Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program	Workquest	\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	
3. State of the Bay Symposium	TBD	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	
4. Regional Monitoring Database (APPROVED IN FY23)	HARC/GTRI	\$ 80,278.00		\$ 80,278.00	\$ -	PRIOR APPROVAL FROM GBC _ NO CHANGES
5. FY 2024 CCMP Update	HARC/GTRI	\$ 120,000.00		\$ 86,356.30	\$ 33,643.70	
WSQ						
6. Digging Deeper: Addressing soil health to improve water quality	AgriLife	\$ 57,894.00		\$ 57,894.00	\$ -	
7. Strategic Implementation of Green Infrastructure Best Management Practices in the Double Bayou Watershed	HARC/GTRI	\$ 81,703.00	\$ 49,030.00		\$ -	Match for \$319 (32,673 needed for FY 25)-will go back to SC
8. Targeted Microplastics Monitoring in the Waters of Galveston Bay and its Tributaries	USGS	\$ 86,000.00		\$ 86,000.00	\$ -	Also selected as a priority project under M&R
9. Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Demonstration Site Development for Greenspace Education in the Galveston Bay Watershed	AgriLife	\$ 82,661.00		\$ 82,661.00	\$ -	
NRU						
10. GBEP Interactive Conservation and Restoration Project Portal	HARC-Black Cat GIS	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	
11. Clear Creek Riparian Restoration Project (II)	Harris County - BPA	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 36,000.00		\$ -	Match for CMP
12. White Oak Bayou Riparian Restoration Project	HPARD	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	
13. The 9th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 3rd Acquisition at Anchor Bay, Galveston Island, Texas	TPWD	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 115,000.00		\$ -	
PPE						
14. Bay to Schools	GBF	\$107,937.00		\$ 107,937.00	\$ -	
15. Drought and Water Conservation Outreach Campaign	COH - Public Works	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	
16. Regional Coordination of the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash®	H-GAC	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	
M&R						
17. Monitoring Ecosystem Indicators for Science-Based Restoration and Enhancement (APPROVED IN FY23)	TAMUG	\$ 130,663.00		\$ 42,066.88	\$ -	PRIOR APPROVAL FROM GBC _ NO CHANGES
18. The Distribution and Fate of Highly Toxic Tire Rubber-Derived Chemicals in Galveston Bay	TAMU	\$ 98,312.00		\$ 49,268.00	\$ 49,044.00	
Targeted Microplastics Monitoring in the Waters of Galveston Bay and its Tributaries (Duplicate Proposal in WSQ)	USGS	\$ 86,000.00			\$ -	Funding accounted for in WSQ, but also ranked #2 in M&R
FY 2024 Funding Requests		\$ 2,583,503.82	\$ 232,143.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 82,687.70	
FY 2024 Anticipated Funding Allocation (Federal and State)		\$ 1,732,143.00	\$ 232,143.00	\$ 1,500,000.00		
Difference		\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00		
Should additional funding become available, funding would be applied toward amounts authorized in FY 2025 (Project #5 and Project #18).						

GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM (GBEP) PROJECT PROPOSALS FISCAL YEAR 2024 WORK PLAN

<u>GBEP Programmatic Proposals</u>	
1.	GBEP Website Hosting and Maintenance
2.	Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program
3.	State of the Bay Symposium
4.	Regional Monitoring Database
5.	Fiscal Year 2024 CCMP Update
<u>Water/Sediment Quality (WSO) Subcommittee Proposals</u>	
6.	Digging Deeper: Addressing Soil Health to Improve Water Quality
7.	Strategic Implementation of Green Infrastructure Best Management Practices in the Double Bayou Watershed
8.	Targeted Microplastics Monitoring in the Waters of Galveston Bay and its Tributaries
9.	Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Demonstration Site Development for Greenspace Education in the Galveston Bay Watershed
<u>Natural Resources Uses (NRU) Subcommittee Proposals</u>	
10.	GBEP Interactive Conservation and Restoration Project Portal
11.	Clear Creek Riparian Restoration Project (II)
12.	White Oak Bayou Riparian Restoration Project
13.	The 9th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 3rd Acquisition at Anchor Bay, Galveston Island, Texas
<u>Public Participation and Education (PPE) Subcommittee Proposals</u>	
14.	Bay to Schools
15.	Drought and Water Conservation Outreach Campaign
16.	Regional Coordination of the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash®
<u>Monitoring and Research (M&R) Subcommittee Proposals</u>	
17.	Monitoring Ecosystem Indicators for Science-Based Restoration and Enhancement (Prior Approval)
18.	The Distribution and Fate of Highly Toxic Tire Rubber-Derived Chemicals in Galveston Bay

GBEP Programmatic Summaries

1. GBEP Website Hosting and Maintenance

Project Lead: Wilkins Group

Proposed Funding: \$5,868 (Federal)

Project Description: This project provides support for two websites maintained by GBEP:

- www.gbep.texas.gov: Tasks for the GBEP website include maintenance and updates as needed throughout the year, hosting, and domain name registration.
- www.backthebay.org: Tasks for the Back the Bay website include maintenance and updates as needed throughout the year, hosting, and domain name registration.

Notes: Annual Project

2. Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program

Project Lead: TBD; TCEQ selected staffing management firm.

Proposed Funding: \$7,500 (Federal)

Project Description: The GBEP Mickey Leland Intern for summer 2024 will intern for up to 12 weeks and work directly with the GBEP Program Manager to complete a project that implements the Galveston Bay Plan. The intern will learn about the Clean Water Act Section 320 National Estuary Program, and the local, stakeholder-based program designed to implement a comprehensive conservation and management plan and its' strategic action plan. The GBEP program areas, as identified in The Galveston Bay Plan are WSQ, M&R, PPE, and NRU. In addition to interacting with the entities and groups that represent the GBEP's stakeholders, the intern will have the opportunity to participate in summer field site visits, attend GBEP staff meetings, Galveston Bay Council meetings, and subcommittee meetings dependent upon timing of the internship. It is anticipated that 90% of the internship will be desk work, with approximately 10% field opportunities, such as boat tours or marsh planting. The project will result in a short white paper written by the summer intern and at least one power point presentation.

Notes: Annual Project; funding provides approximately 12 weeks of full-time funding for one university level junior, senior or graduate summer intern.

3. State of the Bay Symposium

Project Lead: TBD

Proposed Funding: \$25,000 (Federal)

Project Description: The State of the Bay Symposium is a two-day event held every 3-5 years during which program partners, subcommittee members, local universities, and the general Galveston Bay community are invited to share results of projects that have been completed within the Galveston Bay watershed.

Notes: New Project; Funding may provide facilities rental and support, printing of event materials such as the agenda, signage, and other communication materials, and/or poster session display boards.

4. Regional Monitoring Database

Project Lead: Houston Advanced Research Center

Proposed Funding: \$80,278 (Federal); \$130,001 (Federal) funded in fiscal year (FY) 2021 -- \$104,018 (Federal) funded in FY 2022 -- \$35,931 funded in FY 2023

Project Description: The Regional Monitoring Database will gather environmental datasets related to the lower Galveston Bay watershed in cooperation with federal, state, and local governments, as well as universities and research organizations to evaluate progress in reaching a sustainable Galveston Bay ecosystem and identify gaps in monitoring programs. The Regional Monitoring Database will consist of an interactive, web-based application with data download capabilities and will be developed with input from stakeholders.

Notes: Existing Project; FY 2024 funding was previously approved by the Budget & Priorities subcommittee and the Galveston Bay Council.

5. FY 2024 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Update

Project Lead: Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)

Proposed Funding: \$120,000 (Federal); \$86,356.30 (Federal) funded in FY 2024 -- \$33,643.70 (Federal) funded in FY 2025

Project Description: This project will update the CCMP, also known as the Galveston Bay Plan, as a supplemental document that updates the Action Plans within the revised second edition of the CCMP with the information in the Finance Plan Addendum and the Galveston Bay Estuary Resilience Assessment and Action Plan. HARC will lead a stakeholder process resulting in a companion document that will serve as a clear, concise update to the Action Plans within the CCMP for the GBEP and its stakeholders.

Notes: New Project; GBEP is seeking approval for both FY 2024 and FY 2025 funds.

WSQ Project Summaries

6. Digging Deeper: Addressing Soil Health to Improve Water Quality in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed

Project Lead: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Proposed Funding: \$ 57,894 (Federal)

Project Description: Healthy soil is a key component of functioning ecosystems and plays an important role in reducing nonpoint source pollution, but it is often overlooked when planning projects and mapping out solutions. We propose bringing resources to the urban/suburban residents of the Lower Galveston Bay watershed through workshops and field trips, to foster an understanding of these practices and start a dialogue with local practitioners on strategies to incorporate soil health practices into their organization's daily operations.

Notes: New Project

7. Strategic Implementation of Green Infrastructure Best Management Practices in the Double Bayou Watershed

Project Lead: HARC

Proposed Funding: \$49,030 (State)

Project Description: The objective of this project is to develop strategic Green Infrastructure (GI) Best Management Practice (BMP) recommendations in support of the Double Bayou Watershed Protection Plan by integrating bacteria source tracking (BST), watershed-based modeling, and stakeholder outreach. This project will undertake the following tasks: 1) a BST assessment, 2) Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT+) modeling, 3) GI BMP implementation strategy development, and 4) stakeholder outreach. This project leverages two additional funded projects, 1) Implementation of the Double Bayou Watershed Protection Plan: Monitoring, Coordination, and Stakeholder Outreach (Double Bayou Implementation 11/01/22-08/31/25) and 2) the Texas Bacterial Source Tracking Program (Bacteria Source Tracking 8/01/22-04/30/24).

Notes: New Project; State funds required as match for secured \$319 grant funding.

8. Targeted Microplastics Monitoring in the Waters of Galveston Bay and its Tributaries

Project Lead: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Proposed Funding: \$86,000 (Federal)

Project Description: The objective of this project is to continue advancing the understanding of the occurrence and abundance of microplastics in Galveston Bay and associated tributaries by targeting monitoring locations identified by GBEP subcommittees that were not funded in previous studies and/or areas of interest based on results from previous studies.

Notes: New Project; USGS will coordinate with the WSQ and M&R subcommittees when selecting sampling sites to leverage scientific efficacy. Site selection will also be influenced by previous sampling in tributaries and Galveston Bay under current and past GBEP funded projects.

9. Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Demonstration Site Development for Greenspace Education in the Galveston Bay Watershed

Project Lead: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Biological and Agricultural Engineering (BAEN)

Proposed Funding: \$82,661 (Federal)

Project Description: This project aims to construct GSI stormwater demonstration sites that can be used to educate Galveston Bay developers, green industry professionals, residents and homeowner associations (HOA) on greenspace best management practices. The goal is to provide the knowledge necessary for these groups to implement practices in their neighborhoods, public spaces, and occupations that will lead to a reduction of nutrient loads and sediment in stormwater runoff.

Notes: New Project

NRU Project Summaries:

10. GBEP Interactive Conservation and Restoration Project Portal

Project Lead: Black Cat GIS through HARC

Proposed Funding: \$100,000 (Federal)

Project Description: The objective of this project is to develop an interactive Spatial Resource Hub (SRH) to showcase spatial information and data collected from GBEP funded/supported projects including project locations, boundaries, and areas along with supplemental details. This information can be used to guide conservation and restoration related project planning, decision making, and to increase stakeholder access for proposal development.

This project will leverage the newly released ESRI Hub Portal platform in combination with an ArcGIS Dashboard to provide interactive and dynamic data visuals, maps, and other summarized information conservation variables. Black Cat GIS has partnered with HARC to integrate the SRH with the recently released Regional Monitoring Database website.

Notes: New Project; ESRI is currently rolling out new versions of the online mapping system and older versions will be retired soon without support. Current GBEP online mapping platforms would be obsolete if not addressed.

11. Clear Creek Riparian Restoration Project (II)

Project Lead: Bayou Preservation Association thru Harris County

Proposed Funding: \$36,000 (State)

Project Description: The goal of the Clear Creek Riparian Restoration project is to restore riparian forested areas at Challenger Seven Memorial Park, by removing invasive plants within the park's riparian zone. Funding will support the final phase of this project, which is targeting 15-25 acres of invasive plant removal adjacent to previous work.

An audio tour highlighting the restoration work to be accessed by park visitors will also be developed. Bayou Preservation Association will recruit and coordinate with local professionals to develop content, collateral, audio and visual presentation, and will incorporate education about riparian habitats into the audio tours.

Notes: New Project; State funds required for match for federal funding.

12. White Oak Bayou Riparian Restoration Project

Project Lead: HPARD

Proposed Funding: \$50,000 (Federal)

Project Description: The White Oak Bayou Riparian Restoration Project will restore 4.6 acres of riparian forest at TC Jester Park and enhance nine acres of riparian forest at

Little Thicket Park. HPARD is proposing to restore TC Jester Park by removing non-native tree species and creating a dense forest of native canopy, understory, and shrub species. This will create a riparian buffer approximately 1,700 linear feet along the east portion of White Oak Bayou. The enhancement at Little Thicket Park will include removal of invasive species and dense installation of native tree seedlings.

Notes: New Project; Leveraging through in-kind staff time.

13. The 9th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 3rd Acquisition at Anchor Bay, Galveston Island, Texas

Project Lead: Artist Boat, Inc. thru Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Proposed Funding: \$115,000 (State)

Project Description: The objective of this project is to purchase, in fee simple, and conserve in perpetuity approximately 147.8 acres of coastal habitats. The purchased tract would be added to and managed as part of the 898-acre Coastal Heritage Preserve in Galveston, Texas. This project will protect habitat types that are crucial to numerous commercial and recreational estuarine fishery species including habitats that are classified as essential fish habitat for species under federal fishery management plans. This project will also conserve breeding, nesting, foraging, roosting, and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species.

Notes: New Project; State funds required for match for federal funding.

PPE Project Summaries

14. Bays to Schools

Project Lead: Galveston Bay Foundation

Proposed Funding: \$107,937 (Federal)

Project Description: Bay to Schools increases the capacity of Galveston Bay Foundation's Classroom STEM Workshop program by employing Student Conservation Association interns to implement programs in underrepresented school districts, provides on-the-job training and mentorships for said interns, strengthens relationships with participating school districts, provides educator professional development, and amplifies opportunities for project promotion and publicity via literature and conference presentations by University of Houston-Clear Lake and project partners.

Notes: New Project

15. Drought and Water Conservation Outreach Campaign

Project Lead: City of Houston - Houston Public Works

Proposed Funding: \$50,000 (Federal)

Project Description: This project would fund a digital marketing and advertising agency to create a Drought and Water Conservation Outreach Campaign tailored to the Greater Houston Area. This funding would expand on the 50K budget which has been secured for FY 2023 to begin the strategy and development of the campaign.

Notes: New Project; Leveraging through in-kind staff time.

16. Regional Coordination of the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash®

Project Lead: Houston-Galveston Area Council

Proposed Funding: \$15,000 (Federal)

Project Description: The River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash® - the largest, single day volunteer-based waterway cleanup – is set to celebrate its 30th annual event in 2024. This proposal seeks support for coordination of the event to allow for continuation of its award-winning cleanup efforts in the lower Galveston Bay watershed and efforts to reach more audiences through the event and its educational materials.

Notes: New Project; GBEP has fiscally supported Trash Bash for over a decade.

M&R Project Summaries

17. Monitoring Ecosystem Indicators for Science-Based Restoration and Enhancement of Pelagic Habitats of Galveston Bay

Project Lead: Texas A&M University at Galveston

Proposed Funding: \$42,066.68 (Federal)

Project Description: Zooplankton are ecosystem health indicators of water quality and provide the principal conduits for energy transfer from phytoplankton to higher trophic levels. To date, only a few studies to examine interactions between zooplankton and environmental factors and fisheries have been conducted. This project will conduct monthly sampling of zooplankton in Galveston Bay over two years to determine spatial and temporal variations in the abundance and distribution of eastern oyster larvae. The data generated will be used to estimate larval dispersal and recruitment success and will be used to validate a population model for Galveston Bay. The project data will fill an information gap needed for science-based ecosystem assessments of Galveston Bay.

Notes: Existing Project; FY 2024 funding was previously approved by the Budget & Priorities subcommittee and the Galveston Bay Council.

18. The Distribution and Fate of Highly Toxic Tire Rubber-Derived Chemicals in Galveston Bay

Project Lead: Texas A&M University

Proposed Funding: \$98,312 (Federal); \$49,268 (Federal) in FY 2024 -- \$49,044 (Federal) in FY 2025

Project Description: This project seeks to determine the distributions and fate of 6-PPD and 6PPD-Quinone (6PPD-Q) in Galveston Bay by utilizing two years' worth of samples from quarterly field expeditions currently funded by GBEP (Contract No. 582-20-10104). Archived water and sediment samples from this unique time-series have been stored frozen in case the need arose for further measurement.

Collected data will build upon existing time-series data for Galveston Bay. The same samples to be measured for 6PPD and 6PPD-Q are currently being analyzed for per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) and pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCPs). In addition to these emerging contaminants, a variety of chemical data such as dissolved organic carbon, volatile organic compounds (VOC), and a series of water quality data have been collected (through in-kind resources from the Department of Oceanography).

Notes: New Project; GBEP is seeking approval for both FY 2024 and FY 2025 funds.

Federal FY 2022-2023 BIL -- B&P Approved Project Budget			
Category	Grantee	Original Funding Request	BIL Funding
Baseline Costs			
Salaries, Fringe, and Indirect	N/A	\$ -	\$ -
General Operational Costs	N/A	\$ -	\$ -
BIL Projects			
1. Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy*	TBD	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
2. Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) for Homeowners in Disadvantaged Communities with Vulnerable Populations	H-GAC	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 365,000.00
3. Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project	ABNC	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 390,000.00
4. Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project	GBF	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 390,000.00
5. Coastal Savannah and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	HPARD	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 140,000.00
6. Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond and KPRC-TV Community Outreach**	ABC/KPRC	\$ 520,301.00	\$ 484,600.00
FY 2022-2023 Funding Requests			\$ 1,819,600.00
FY 2022-2023 Anticipated Funding Allocation (BIL)			\$ 1,819,600.00
Difference			\$ -
*The funding amount of the Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy is subject to change pending release of EPA guidance documents.			
**Due to ongoing revisions in TCEQ contract development and entity applicability, Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond and KPRC-TV Community Outreach may be split into two initiatives.			

**GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM (GBEP) PROJECT PROPOSALS
BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL)
FISCAL YEAR 2022 and 2023 WORK PLAN**

BIL PROJECTS		Option 1 (Top Ten)	Option 2 (Balanced)
1.	Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy	\$50,000	\$50,000
2.	Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project	\$500,000	\$390,000
3.	Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project	\$500,000	\$390,000
4.	Coastal Savannah and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	\$180,000	\$140,000
5.	Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) for Homeowners in Disadvantaged Communities with Vulnerable Populations	\$450,000	\$365,000
	KPRC-TV Community Outreach	\$150,000	\$484,600
6.	Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond	--	
Totals		\$1,830,000	\$1,819,600

1. Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy

Project Lead: To be determined (TBD)

Proposed Funding: TBD

Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition (GBP, 2nd Edition) Actions Implemented: All

Justice 40 Parameters Implemented: N/A

EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJ Screen) Parameters Implemented: N/A

Project Description: Through this project, the grantee will partner with GBEP and stakeholders to develop the Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy to inform implementation for future rounds of BIL funding and the GBP, 2nd Edition.

Notes: New project; The Galveston Bay Long-term Plan and Equity Strategy is a programmatic requirement for BIL funding.

2. Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project

Project Lead: Armand Bayou Nature Center

Proposed Funding: \$390,000

GBP, 2nd Edition Actions Implemented: HC-1, SC-1

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

Justice 40 Parameters Implemented: (Census tracts: 48201340203-48201341400) None

EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJ Screen) Parameters Implemented: >80% Unemployed

Project Description: The Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project is focused on preserving 1,065 acres of coastal habitat through fee-simple acquisition in Harris County, Texas. The targeted tract contains habitats that are representative of the Texas Gulf Coast: wetland forest, coastal tall grass prairie, and the non-channelized estuarine Armand Bayou and its surrounding wetlands. The survival of these vulnerable ecosystems is vital for the 370 species of wildlife that depend upon them, for people seeking the wonder and comforts of nature, and for the range of ecosystem services they provide, including storm water retention, flood abatement and water quality improvement.

Notes: Project proposed originally for \$500,000. Project leverages over \$17,000,000 from multiple public and private sources.

3. Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project

Project Lead: Galveston Bay Foundation

Proposed Funding: \$390,000

GBP, 2nd Edition Actions Implemented: HC-1, HC-2, HC-3, SC-1, SC-2

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

Justice 40 Parameters Implemented: (Census tract: 48167721800) Climate Change, Health Burdens, Workforce Development

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: >80% Linguistically Isolated, >80% Low Life Expectancy

Project Description: The Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project is focused on preserving approximately 25 acres of coastal habitat through fee-simple acquisition in Galveston County, Texas. Galveston Bay Foundation is partnering with Galveston County and San Leon Municipal Utility District to acquire, restore, and enhance approximately 25 acres of coastal prairie in the underserved community of San Leon, Texas. The goals of this proposal are 1) acquire 25 acres of coastal prairie; 2) conduct treatment of invasive plant species; and 3) create public access opportunities which may include a natural-surface walking path and/or interpretive signage. The acquisition will kickstart the project, which is a multi-faceted initiative utilizing land conservation, public access, and green infrastructure to create a natural preserve to provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Notes: Project proposed originally for \$500,000. Allocated funding would cover acquisition costs and year one of restoration.

4. Coastal Savannah and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

Project Lead: Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Proposed Funding: \$140,000

GBP, 2nd Edition Actions Implemented: NPS-3, HC-3, SC-1, SC-2, SPO-1

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

Justice 40 Parameters Implemented: (Census tracts: 48201334100-48201334100-48201330800-48201330900) Climate Change, Legacy Pollution

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: >80% Unemployed, >80% Low Life Expectancy

Project Description: The Coastal Savannah and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project will restore 24.5 acres of coastal prairie, wetland, and savannah habitat in E.R. and Ann Taylor Park and 21 acres of riparian forest in Furman Greenspace in Harris County, Texas. Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Natural Resources Management Program will restore four kinds of key habitats that have been lost throughout the Houston Region: riparian forest, savannah, prairie, and wetland ecosystems. The restoration projects will provide ecosystem and community resilience by restoring and enhancing vital ecosystems, increasing rainwater capture through infiltration, and trapping and filtering nonpoint source pollutants as runoff from adjacent urban development. Community and volunteer planting projects will allow citizens to be involved in the creation of these critically endangered ecosystems.

Notes: Project proposed originally for \$180,000. Project will leverage \$67,400 in-kind from Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

5. Repair and Replacement of Failing On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) for Homeowners in Disadvantaged Communities with Vulnerable Populations

Project Lead: Houston-Galveston Area Council

Proposed Funding: \$365,000

GBP, 2nd Edition Actions Implemented: NPS-1, NPS-2, NPS-3, NPS-4, PS-2, PHA-2, PHA-3, SPO-2, SPO-4, PEA-1, PEA-2

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, Water Reuse and Conservation

Justice 40 Parameters Implemented: Regionwide; targets not yet established so Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool currently not applicable
EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: Regionwide; targets not yet established/formally secured so EJ screen currently not applicable

Project Description: The project would fund the replacement and repair of OSSFs, as well as provide maintenance contracts for those with functioning systems. Houston-Galveston Area Council will evaluate water quality issues and socioeconomic factors to identify disadvantaged communities to target for assistance. By concentrating on a single community, a larger impact can be made in reducing sources of bacteria and nutrients and improving water quality, public health, and quality of life.

Failing OSSFs have been identified as a likely contributor to the elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria found in local waterways. This project would fund the repair or replacement of failing OSSFs for vulnerable populations in the Lower Galveston Bay watershed who are dealing with insufficient wastewater treatment. Addressing these malfunctioning or non-functioning decentralized wastewater treatment systems will improve public health and quality of life for the region's residents, as well as eliminate sources of nonpoint source pollution that contributes to bacteria and nutrient contamination of surface water and groundwater resources. Homeowner OSSF Operation and Maintenance Education courses will teach homeowners about the components of their systems, how to maintain their OSSF, water quality impacts of OSSF failure, and best practices to maintain their OSSF's proper and continued operation.

Notes: Project proposed originally for \$450,000.

6. Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines (SPLASh) in Houston's Bayous and Beyond with KPRC-TV Community Outreach

Project Lead: American Bird Conservancy and KPRC-TV*

Proposed Funding: \$484,600

GBP, 2nd Edition Actions Implemented: NPS-2, HC-2, SPO-1, SPO-2, SPO-3, PEA-1, PEA-2, PEA-3, RES-3, ACS-2 (KPRC-TV: SPO-1, SPO-2, SPO-3, SPO-4)

EPA Areas of Special Interest Implemented: Marine Litter Reduction

Justice 40 Parameters Implemented: (Census Tracts: multiple) Climate Change,

Workforce Development, Health Burdens, Sustainable Housing

EJ Screen Parameters Implemented: >80% Linguistically Isolated, >80% Less than High School Education, >80% Low Life Expectancy

Project Description: The SPLASh program will target Region 4 students, City of Houston communities, and the greater Houston-Galveston region in order to mitigate the trash and plastic pollution problems that threaten the health of humans and wildlife in the greater Galveston Bay Watershed. Through community outreach, educational programming, and trash clean-up events focused in the City of Houston, the project's goal is to foster a sense of stewardship and community pride in City of Houston residents and decrease the amount of trash and plastic pollution in Houston waterways which in turn will decrease the amount of pollution in the Greater Galveston Bay watershed.

In conjunction with GBEP, American Bird Conservancy and partners will use the reach of KPRC-TV's broadcast signal to communicate Back the Bay and other project messaging on a grand scale to the Houston Designated Market Area and simultaneously communicate targeted messaging on behalf of stakeholders within underserved/underrepresented communities.

Notes: Projects originally proposed separately (KPRC-TV: \$150,000 and American Bird Conservancy: \$370,301).

**Due to ongoing revisions in TCEQ contract development and entity applicability, the project may be split into two initiatives.*

GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL BYLAWS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

ARTICLE IX. CONDUCT AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Council members may not use or allow the use of, for other than official council purposes, information obtained through or in connection with their council affiliation that has not been made available to the general public.

In no case shall a Council member represent individual opinions as those of the Council, the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

In order to make GBEP business transparent, any Council member or proxy that has an interest (financial, personal or business interest including a contract, subcontract, or grant) in any matter before the Council or a subcommittee or working group shall identify such interest prior to discussion and voting on such matter. No Council member or proxy shall cast a vote or seek to influence any decision on any matter that would provide a direct financial benefit to that member or proxy, or otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of interest under State, Federal, or local law. The Council member shall recuse themselves after identifying any conflict of interest and refrain from any deliberations on that matter.

All Council members are expected to conduct themselves in a civil manner, showing courtesy and respect to other Council members, GBEP staff, and any other individuals present at the meeting.

ARTICLE XI. ANNUAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BYLAWS

Each Council member will sign a form each year that acknowledges these Bylaws. That form shall include a reprint of Article IX, Conduct and Conflicts of Interest. Failure to sign this acknowledgement will prevent that member or proxy from voting at Council or subcommittee meetings.

Signature of Council member or Proxy

Printed Name of Council member or Proxy

Date Bylaws Acknowledged