

MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
9:30AM - 11:30PM

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: Lisa Marshall

Call to Order, Introductions

Attendees: Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Christian Rines (GBEP), Ryan Bare (HARC), Michael Lee (USGS), Lene Petersen (TAMUG), David Hala (TAMUG), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Matthew Abernathy (GBEP), Zulimar Lucena (USGS), Chris Steffen (TPWD), Yina Liu (TAMU), Michael Shields (TAMU-GERG), Natasha Zarnstorff (GBF), Jean Wright (H-GAC), Anna Armitage (TAMUG), Hui Liu (TAMUG), Jill Csekitz (TCEO), Marc Hanke (UH), Morgan Huette (TIRN), Lisa Gonzalez (Audubon Texas), Brittani Flowers (BPA), David Wells (TAMUG), Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), Lisa Rickards (EPA).

Approval of June 8, 2022 meeting minutes - approved.

FY 23 project development

Each person with a proposal was given 10 minutes to present five slides followed by a brief Q&A. Once all of the presentations were completed, the subcommittee continued with a discussion of the proposals.

Lisa stated that she would send out the spreadsheet for ranking tomorrow, which will be due back on September 21. Each entity/lab has one set of rankings, with one being the topped ranked and four being the bottom ranked. Once the rankings are complete, the M&R recommended projects will be presented to the B&P subcommittee. Final project selections will be available in early November following the GBC meeting.

Lisa also mentioned that PPE had decided to not have entities rank their own projects this year. It was asked if M&R would like to consider this or continue with having entities being able to rank their own projects as in years past. The point was made that not allowing members to vote on their own projects would

make other projects more weighted, so the only solution would be to have those submitting projects to not vote at all. The decision was made to continue allowing entities to rank their own projects and revisit in a future subcommittee meeting. It was also suggested that past rankings be looked at to determine if entities voting for their own projects did actually pose a problem in terms of numbers.

Project Updates:

- Characterizing PCBs and Dioxins in the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay Post Harvey - UH: The project is complete, and the final report will be posted to the GBEP website soon.
- Effect of Microplastics on the Base of Marine Food Webs - TAMUG: TAMUG is completing the expanded analysis of microplastic abundance in museum specimens. The project will be complete by December 31.
- Regional Monitoring Database - HARC: HARC has completed Phase One of the project, which includes the data catalogue and data download sections. There are currently 28 datasets that can be acquired for the entire period of record for the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed. The portal can be found at galvbaydata.org.
- The Distribution, Fate, and Transport of Emerging Contaminants in Galveston Bay - TAMU: GERG is currently processing samples for PFAS and have extracted PPCPs. The next cruise has also been scheduled.
- The Fate of Emerging Per- and Polyfluoroalkylated Substances (PFAS) Pollutants in Shellfish and Fish of Galveston Bay - TAMUG: TAMUG has completed PFAS analysis for all samples and is summarizing the QA/QC data for the next quarterly report.
- Galveston Bay Oyster Microplastics: Baselines and Impacts - TAMUG: TAMUG completed the data submission to GBEP on time for the microplastics loading and oyster condition index data. They also completed the outreach and education curriculum with GBF. A total of six teachers have signed up with the potential to reach over 270 students within the first semester.
- Effects of Erosion Control Structures on Shoreline Marsh Species Populations - TAMUG: Sample collection is complete, and samples are currently being processed.

GBEP, Council, and subcommittee updates:

- WSQ subcommittee meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.
- NRU subcommittee meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 9:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

- B&P Subcommittee meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- GBC meeting: Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Announcements/Path Forward Items

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Adjourn