

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

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**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 7, 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); Lisa Scobel (GBF); Marsha Towns, Student Conservation Association (SCA); Becky Bowling, Texas A&M Agrilife, Soil and Crop Sciences (TAMU-AL,SCS); Brenda Weiser, Harris County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD); Erin Kinney, Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC); T’Noya Thompson, National American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Kendall Guidroz, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC); Liz Virgl, American Bird Conservancy (ABC); Joanie Steinhaus, Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN); Morgan Huette, (TIRN); Sarah Frantz, Artist Boat (AB); Rose Esteves, Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD); Ryan Francisco, Bayou Preservation Association (BPA); Chloe Dannenfeler, (ABC); Della Barbato, Native Prairie Association of Texas (NPAT); Elizabeth Schneider, Galveston Park Board of Trustees (GPBT); Jenny Oakley, University of Houston - Clear Lake (UHCL); Wendy Reistle, (UHCL); Lisa Rickards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Gail Kaufman, City of Houston Public Works (COHPW); Lacie Ulrich, (COHPW); Lindsey Lippert, Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP); Lisa Marshall, (GBEP); Matthew Abernathy, (GBEP); Christian Rines, (GBEP);

***Presentations***

The September presentations consisted of presentations of the five funding proposals the PPE Subcommittee received for fiscal year 2024.

1. Drought and Water Conservation Outreach Campaign - COHPW
2. Residential Irrigation Audit Pilot Program - COHPW
3. Regional Coordination of the Rivers, Lakes, Bays, and Bayous Trash Bash - H-GAC
4. Educating Communities and Green Industry Professionals on Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) for Greenspaces in the Galveston Bay - TAMU-AL, SCS
5. Bays to Schools - GBF

The presentations were followed by information on how the project ranking process is to be conducted.

***Current Project Updates***

Ms. Marshall provided attendees with current projects and the following updates were provided. (Figure 1: Current Project Spreadsheet is below)

- Kendall Guidroz (H-GAC); Trash Bash, 19-90216- 28<sup>th</sup> Trash Bash was held on March 26, 2022 as the first in-person clean-up since 2019. There were just under 2,600 volunteers at 14 sites, both of which were down from previous years, but almost 75 tons of litter was collected, which was an increase from previous years. GBEP funding also allowed for translation of additional educational material into Spanish and Vietnamese, providing four complete sets in Spanish and two in Vietnamese.
- Erin Kinney (HARC); Public Perception Assessment and Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) Campaigns to Enhance Conservation and Educational Outreach Programs, 20-10175 - The main takeaways from the project are: 1) People are overwhelmingly engaged in an environmental activity, but they want something close to home. 2) The importance in collaborating with organizations established within communities. Moving forward, the emphasis will be how to be a resource for communities.
- Jenny Oakley (UHCL), Morgan Huette (TIRN); Microplastics in the Galveston Bay Watershed: The Big Impacts of Tiny Pollution, 21-10096 - UHCL conducted the first round of microplastic samples in 2020 and 61 of the 70 samples have been analyzed. The second set of sampling has begun and 50% have been collected. TIRN is still collecting samples and the second round of sampling is almost complete. Public outreach has continued and engaged almost 600 people over the summer. Teacher kits will be distributed once the school year gets underway.
- Matthew Abernathy (GBEP); Audubon Texas Estuarine Resource Network (TERN) Citizen Science in Schools: Students as Field Researchers 21-10097 (HCDE) - The second amendment is still in process. Due to COVID complications, the TERN program is being redirected to implement the TERN program in the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment (CASE) afterschool program.
- Wendy Reistle (UHCL-EIH), Della Barbato (NPAT); Mobilizing the Environmental Education Community through Prairie Education, 22-30208 (UHCL) - EcoRise submitted the final QAPP, and CEC is working with EcoRise to develop maps of the target areas in the fall of 2022. This will focus additional outreach efforts in these areas. There was also a girl's summer camp held at the Deer Park Prairie for 12 high school age girls that focused on the natural history of the region.

### ***Subcommittee Roundtable and Announcements***

- Ms. Guidroz announced that Texas Stream Team training will be starting again and should continue quarterly.
- Rebecca Bowling (Texas A&M Agrilife) announced that they are partnering with Harris County to host a landscaper training class on October 7.
- Ms. Marshall announced that the Monitoring and Research Coordinator position will reopen.

### ***Next Meeting***

Due to the RAE conference the first week of December, the next PPE subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 30 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at GBEP and via Microsoft Teams.

*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