

Budget and Priorities (B&P) Subcommittee of the Galveston Bay Council (GBC)

Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), Virtual Teams

Minutes

Attendees

Members attended: Glenn Clingenpeel, George Guillen, Albert Gonzales, Brian Koch, Mike Lee, Nancy Parra, Lisa Rickards, Linda Shead, Lori Traweek, Cindy Willems

GBEP Staff attended: Matthew Abernathy, Lindsey Lippert, Lisa Marshall, Christian Rines.

Welcome

Lisa Marshall welcomed the members to the meeting.

Action: The members reviewed the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes from October 11, 2022 was made by Brian Koch and a second was made by Lori Traweek. The minutes were approved.

Galveston Bay Council Vacancy Discussion

- Nancy Parra is stepping down. Grace Martinez will represent the League of Women Voters.
- Cruz Hinojosa (Underrepresented Communities) is stepping down. Juan Flores, the Community Air Monitoring Project Manager for Air Alliance, has been nominated and will be interviewed by Lori Traweek. Nomination will be announced at GBC meeting.
- TPWD is fully staffed and in the process of choosing a GBC member.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Year 3 Planning

- A special workgroup of the B&P subcommittee will be held February 15, 2023, to define a process for determining priorities and selecting projects for the BIL funds. The B&P subcommittee includes representatives from each subcommittee as well as GBEP staff and was decided to be the best option to coordinate plans for the funds.

Planning for the January GBC meeting:

- Agenda will include presentations, *Planning for Healthy Soils* by Brian Koch, *Texas Legislative Overview* by Amy Stetler, and *Ship Channel Expansion and Port Houston Updates*, speaker to be determined.

Announcements and Program Updates

- Many vacancies in TCEQ's Office of Water.
- Lisa Rickards is leaving for a position with the Department of the Interior in Denver, Colorado.
- Ellen Creecy started as GBEP's Technical and Quality Program Coordinator

Upcoming meetings:

- Galveston Bay Council Meeting: January 18, 2023
- Special B&P Subcommittee Meeting: February 15, 2023

Meeting adjourned

Special Meeting of the Budget and Priorities (B&P) Subcommittee of the Galveston Bay Council (GBC)

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), Virtual Teams

Minutes

Members attended: George Guillen, Doug Jacobson, Brian Koch, Mike Lee, Linda Shead, Phillip Smith, Sharron Stewart, Cindy Willems

GBEP Staff attended: Matthew Abernathy, Ellen Creecy, Kari Howard, Lindsey Lippert, Lisa Marshall, Christian Rines, Casey Taylor

Welcome

Lisa Marshall welcomed the members to the meeting.

The discussion of this meeting focused on determining the priorities for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds.

- To avoid conflicts of interest the subcommittees will be taken out of the selection process. If ranking of the projects is required, the representative subcommittee member will not be able to rank their own.
- The funds will be directed towards big collaborative projects that GBEP cannot normally fund; benefit GBEP and the watershed. Projects will ultimately be

decided upon by the B&P subcommittee and presented to the GBC.

- Projects should be a minimum of \$150,000 with a length of three years or less.
- Projects that address multiple priorities of the Galveston Bay Plan should be considered more highly.
- Projects that focus on EPA areas of special interest should be prioritized.
- Projects with a sense of urgency should be prioritized.

The B&P subcommittee members decided to have the PPE, M&R, WSQ, and M&R subcommittees each decide on a list of priorities that are important to them. The B&P subcommittee will then review each list and choose priorities.

Upcoming meetings:

Next B&P Subcommittee Meeting: April 12, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Galveston Bay Council Meeting: April 19, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned