

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

**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

### ***Minutes***

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#### **Attendees**

**Members attended:** Scott Alford, Glenn Clingenpeel, Kendall Guidroz, George Guillen, Albert Gonzales, Moriah Johnson, Brian Koch, Mike Lee, Linda Shead, Philip Smith, Lori Traweek, Huy Vu, 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.

**Action:** The members reviewed the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes from January 4, 2023 was made by Brian Koch and a second was made by Lori Traweek. The minutes were approved.

#### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Year 3 Planning**

- a) Each of the subcommittee coordinators presented their priorities for BIL funds and answered questions from the members.
- b) Moriah Johnson outlined important parts of the Equity Strategy that should be considered when discussing the priorities.
- c) The members had an extensive discussion about the priorities from the subcommittees. Eventually, the priorities selected were a modified version of the priorities presented. They thought it was important to have some broad issue area priorities along with some supporting priorities targeting underserved communities and monitoring and research. The final priorities selected are:

For BIL funds, the minimum proposal amount should be **\$150,000** with an average project length of **3 years**. The priorities are as follows:

#### **Overarching Requirements**

Projects should be fulfilled through collaboration when possible.

*This will be addressed through a specific question in the application where applicants will be required to define partners and their roles in the project.*

#### **Action Priorities**

***Proposals must address one or more of the following actions:***

- Projects that support commercial and recreational finfish and shellfish monitoring for public health risks and or sustainability.
- Projects in support of management measures and watershed-based plans, such as
  - Green infrastructure
  - Watershed health; and
  - Water reuse and conservation
- Habitat protection and enhancement
- Support for existing projects, such as:
  - Follow up or expansion of habitat and water quality projects; and
  - Continued maintenance or repair of habitat and water quality projects.
- Project assessments, such as:
  - Habitat and water quality mapping gaps; and
  - pre and/or post – construction monitoring including habitat and species assessment/use/benefit, events, and general function.

### Support Priorities

***Proposals must address at least one supporting action developed by the subcommittees, but preference will be given to projects that are able to incorporate multiple supporting actions.***

- Collaborating with underrepresented and/or under-resourced communities via having physical presence or connection to the targeted communities.
- Engages K-12 students and/or adults in hands-on, place-based environmental education.
- Diversifying strategic partners with environmental and non-environmental community organizations working within targeted communities.
- Monitoring and Research that:
  - captures a meaningful, quantifiable measure of a response action taken;
  - produces data applicable and transferable to multiple programs; or
  - produce meaningful data that can be used for future implementation and management decisions.

### Special Considerations:

- EPA Areas of Special Interest

- Reduction in nutrient pollution
- Water reuse and conservation
- Marine litter reduction
- Green infrastructure and resiliency

Justice 40 Initiative

Equity and Environmental Justice

GBEP Equity Strategy (June 2023)

### **Planning for the April GBC meeting:**

- Ms. Marshall announced that the agenda will include three presentations:
  - *Galveston Bay Estuary Resilience Action Plan: Overview* - Stephanie Glenn, Ph.D. and Erin Kinney, Ph.D., Houston Advanced Research Center
  - *The Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project* - David Miller, Coastal Water Authority
  - *Occurrence of Microplastics in Tributaries of Galveston Bay* - Zulimar Lucena, United States Geological Survey
- The BIL Priorities will be presented.
- Approval of Juan Flores as the new Underrepresented Communities representative.

### **Announcements and Program Updates**

- Ms. Marshall reminded the members that the Program Evaluation committee will be in town June 13 and 14 and GBEP staff would be taking them on a field trip. They would like the B&P subcommittee members to attend also. An email with the agenda would be sent out soon.
- GOMESA has \$19 million of funding for projects.

### **Upcoming meetings:**

- Galveston Bay Council Meeting: April 19, 2023

Meeting adjourned