

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

Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

Minutes

Attendees

Members attended: Scott Alford, Shaylyn Bauerschlicher, Glenn Clingenpeel, Kendall Guidroz, George Guillen, Albert Gonzales, Brian Koch, Mike Lee, Nancy Parra, Linda Shead

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 April 12, 2023 was made by Brian Koch with one change and a second was made by Glenn Clingenpeel. The minutes were approved.

Planning for July GBC Meeting

Chair and Vice Chair Positions

Ms. Marshall reminded the members that Glenn Clingenpeel's and Albert Gonzales's terms as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, will expire in November. Traditionally, the Vice Chair is nominated to take the Chair position and a nomination is made for the new Vice Chair. However, Mr. Gonzales notified the subcommittee that he would prefer to waive his term as Chair and advocate for GBEP as a member of the GBC. The members suggested that his replacement should come from the same category of membership as Mr. Gonzales which is *Environmental/Citizen's Group*. After discussions about length of service and experience on the GBC, the members thought Bob Stokes, from Galveston Bay Foundation, would be the best candidate at this time. Mr. Clingenpeel will contact Mr. Stokes to provide details of the position and inquire about his interest in becoming the Chair of the GBC.

Ms. Marshall then provided information about which category of membership was next in line for the Vice Chair position and who represents those organizations. The next Vice Chair nominee should come from the *Private Sector* category. Members in that category are:

- Ana Partin, East Harris County Manufacturer's Association
- Tracy Woody, Commercial Fisheries
- Rusty Senac, Nature Tourism
- Jeff DallaRosa, Utilities
- Maria Valdez, Greater Houston Partnership (DOW)
- Vance Darr, Industry (Kuraray America)

There was a discussion about the members and their experience. Lindsey Lippert commented that Jeff DellaRosa is extremely busy and it is unlikely that he would have the time to serve as

Vice Chair. Members asked to have the names and their length of service sent to them so that they could have a more informed discussion about the members and their ability to serve.

Introduction of Deputy and Assistant Deputy Director of the Water Quality Planning Division

Ms. Marshall announced that a Kelly Mills and Gene Muller have been hired as the new Deputy and Assistant Deputy Director of the Water Quality Planning Division. Ms. Marshall volunteered to welcome them and read their bios at the GBC meeting.

Fiscal 2025 Subcommittee Priorities

The Subcommittee Coordinators will present the priorities that were decided on from each subcommittee for the Fiscal 2025 Section 320 funding cycle. The priorities are:

WSQ

- Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans
- Monitoring and research that evaluates GI effectiveness in water quality and soil health
- Targeted/Direct Monitoring

NRU

- Habitat Acquisition
- Enhancement of Existing or Ongoing Restoration/Conservation Efforts
 - Special emphasis on projects addressing geotubes failing across West Bay through design and/or construction
- Benefit to Native Fish and Wildlife, including Federal and State Listed Species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or Nongame Wildlife
 - Special emphasis on projects addressing seagrasses, intertidal reef/shell hash, and benthics
- Brings Funding, Work Leverage, or Multiple Goal Benefits to the Subcommittee
- Project Urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost

PPE

- Place based and immersive programming (k-12)
- Conservation and environmental workforce training
- Continuation or expansion of established education, outreach, or engagement programs
- Adult engagement in science literacy focused on the Galveston Bay estuary and watershed

M&R

- Meaningful and effective monitoring of existing and new projects (NRU/WSQ/PPE support)
- Exposure and response to emerging contaminants across trophic levels
- Reestablishing dermo monitoring programs (Ex. Oyster Sentinel)
- *Project Component: Results translated to plain language/practical knowledge*

Presentations at the GBC Meeting

Ms. Marshall provided the titles of the three presentations for the GBC meeting:

- *State of Gulf Coast Protection District – Nicole Sunstrum, Gulf Coast Protection District*
- *Effect of Microplastics on the Base of Marine Food Webs – Christopher Marshall, Ph.D., and Bryan Gahn, Texas A&M University*
- *Total Maximum Daily Loads and Escherichia coli Trends in Texas Freshwater Streams – Michael Schramm, Texas Water Resource Institute*

Ms. Marshall has also arranged to have Huy Vu give a brief presentation on the Program Evaluation results. It can be part of the Report of the Program.

Announcements and Program Updates

- Linda Shead asked about the field trip with the Program Evaluation committee. Ms. Marshall provided a brief description of the site visits. Shaylyn Bauschlicher mentioned that EPA submitted a report with pictures from the site visits to their regional newsletter.

Upcoming meetings:

- Galveston Bay Council Meeting: July 19, 2023

Meeting adjourned