



WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:30PM – 3:30PM

Subcommittee Chair: Brian Koch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Ryan Bare, Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)

GBEP Representative: Christian N. Rines

Call to Order

Attendees: Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Ryan Bare (HARC), Christian Rines (GBEP), Stephanie DeVilleneuve (TWRI), Ed Rhodes (TWRI), Michael Schramm (TWRI), Michael Allen (UNTHSC), Christie Taylor (TX A&M AgriLife), Huy Vu (EPA), Kendall Guidroz (H-GAC), Celina Gauthier Lowry (Texas A&M AgriLife), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Matthew Abernathy (GBEP), Kari Howard (GBEP), Ellen Creecy (GBEP), Michael Lee (USGS), Dini Adyasari (TAMUG), Rachel Windham (H-GAC), Grant Moss (BPA), Natasha Zarnstorff (GBF), Steven Johnston (H-GAC), Grant Moss (BPA), Morgan Huette (TIRN), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Michael LaMontagne (UHCL).

Approval of the June 14, 2023 minutes – Ms. Rines opened the meeting with approval of the minutes. Ms. Glenn motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Johnston seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no changes.

A Conflict-of-Interest statement was emailed out prior to the meeting. Subcommittee members were asked to sign the statement and disclose any interest with a proposed project prior to or during the project nomination discussion. All possible conflicts of interest were captured in the meeting's recording and chat feature.

New Business

FY 25 Project Proposals and Discussion

Project proposals were sent out in advance of the meeting for review. Members were asked to keep the subcommittee priorities in mind while reviewing.

The priorities selected by the WSQ Subcommittee for the FY23 finding cycle were:

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

Each person presenting a proposal was given a total of 5-7 minutes to explain their project followed by a few minutes for Q&A. Guidelines for presenting proposals were as follows:

- Due to time constraints, presentations were limited to a few slides;
- Proposals were presented in the order of the distributed project proposal packet;
- If a connection to a proposal was not obvious, the relationship to the project was disclosed; and,
- If a vote was necessary, only one person from each entity could vote and represent their entity.

Once all proposals had been presented to the group, the subcommittee discussed which projects should take priority. A consensus-based decision was made to recommend three projects for FY25 funding to the Budget and Priorities (B&P) Subcommittee. A third and fourth project were recommended as alternatives if any funding becomes available, with priority given to the first alternate. Projects selected by the B&P Subcommittee would be presented to the GBC at the October council meeting for approval. The following project proposals were recommended by WSQ subcommittee members:

Project Name	Grantee	Total Request	Year 1 (FY24)	Year 2 (FY25)	Final Recommendation
Supporting Permeable Alternatives to Conventional Pavement in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed	AgriLife	\$63,847	\$63,847	\$0	\$63,847
Enhancing Clear Creek Watershed Protection and Galveston Bay Plan through Community Engagement and Monitoring	BPA	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Application of Rapid Methods of Microbial Source Tracking to Assess the Source of Fecal Contamination to Western Galveston Bay	UHCL	\$104,859	\$104,859	\$0	\$104,859
Watershed Protection Plan Development for Greens Bayou	H-GAC	\$30,000	N/A	N/A	Alternate 1
Distribution of key emergent pollutants in the aquatic biota (oysters and fish), sediments and surface waters of Galveston Bay	TAMUG	\$203,660	N/A	N/A	Alternate 2
<i>Groundwater as a potential nonpoint source pollution to Galveston Bay</i>	<i>TAMUG</i>	<i>\$119,468</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Alternate 3 *Recommended to reapply next year</i>

					to establish necessary project partnerships.
WSQ Totals		\$551,834			\$198,706

**All projects highlighted in green have been nominated to receive FY25 funding. If additional funding does become available, the recommendation is to put the remainder of that money towards supporting the first alternate project, “Watershed Protection Plan Development for Greens Bayou,” highlighted in red. Any additional funding beyond \$30,000 could help support the second alternate project, “Distribution of key emergent pollutants in the aquatic biota (oysters and fish), sediments and surface waters of Galveston Bay.”*

Old Business

Project Updates from WSQ Project Mangers:

**Time did not allow for project updates.*

Watershed Partnership Updates/Roundtable:

- Mr. LaMontagne announced that they have received their MALDI-TOF MS machine and are ready to start processing samples. Please contact him at lamontagne@uhcl.edu if you need anything processed.
- Mr. Koch announced that the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is requesting proposals for watershed assessment, planning, implementation, demonstration, and education projects under the FY2024 Nonpoint Source Grant Program. Proposals must be received electronically by 5:00 p.m. CDT, September 14th.
- Ms. Taylor announced that a Regional Stormwater Wetland Manual, a non-technical guide for communities, is available on the web at www.agrilife.org/gift/gift-resources. Hardcopies are available by request at christina.taylor@ag.tamu.edu.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program, council, and subcommittee updates:

**No internal announcements were made.*

Upcoming GBEP meetings:

- NRU Subcommittee Meeting – Tuesday, September 20, 2023 (10:00am 12:00pm)
- B&P Meeting – Tuesday, October 4, 2023 (1:00pm -4:00pm)
- GBC Meeting – Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (9:30am -12:30pm)
- Next WSQ Subcommittee Meeting – Wednesday, December 13, 2023 (1:30-3:30pm)

Adjourn