

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

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**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 6, 2023  
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 (GBF)

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Kendall Guidroz, Senior Planner, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

GBEP Representative: Kari Howard

Attendees: Cindy Wilems, Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF); Kendall Guidroz, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC); Adriana Williams, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension; Erin Kinney, Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC); Lisa Scobel, (GBF); Marsha Towns, Student Conservation Association (SCA); Morgan Huette, Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN); Jennifer Irving, (HARC); Brittani Flowers, Bayou Preservation Association (BPA); Morton Sager, (BPA); Sarah Frantz, Artist Boat (AB); Cassidy Kempf, Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD); Jenny Oakley, University of Houston Clear Lake (UHCL); Wendy Reistle, (UHCL); Karla Klay, (AB); Amy Neblett, (AB); Karastin Katusin, Bayou Land Conservancy (BLC); Elizabeth Schneider, Galveston Park Board of Trustees (GPBT); Moriah Johnson, Moriah Lynn Consulting, LLC; Alicia Fontenot, Texas Children in Nature (TCiN); Marya Fowler, National Wildlife Federation (NWF); Dominique Bertrand, (NWF); Christopher Hall, College of the Mainland (COM); Jeff Sargent, Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT); Diane Olmos-Guzman, Promoters of Education, Awareness, Community Engagement (PEACE); Lindsey Lippert, Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP); Lisa Marshall, (GBEP); Matthew Abernathy, (GBEP); Christian Rines, (GBEP); Ellen Creecy, (GBEP); Huy Vu, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

***Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Project Presentations***

Kari Howard stated the parameters for presenters as they promote the project proposals. Ms. Howard reminded the group of subcommittee priorities. Presenters were organized by alphabetical order by organization name.

- Artist Boat- Watersheds Connections Continued- Engaging K- 8th grade students in sustained watersmart nativescaping, habitat restoration, and experiential learning developed in Pasadena, Galveston, and Bolivar.
- Bayou Preservation Association- Engaging Diverse Communities in Conservation.
- Galveston Bay Foundation- Wetlands Connections
- Houston-Galveston Area Council- Regional Coordination of the Rivers, Lakes, Bays, 'N Bayous Trash Bash
- National Wildlife Federation- Resilience in Schools and Communities
- Promoters of Education, Awareness, Community Engagement- Sustainable Ecological Ambassadors for Stewardship and STEM Careers

- University of Houston Clear Lake- Mobilizing the Environmental Education Community through Prairie Education

Texas Agrilife- Green Infrastructure HS Intern Program Expansion and Learn Now Green Infrastructure Courses proposal was submitted but did not provide a presentation. A short summary from the proposal was read to the group.

***Procedures and timeline for Fiscal 2025 Projects Selections***

Ms. Howard and GBEP staff revealed the timeline of 320 funding proposals.

- September 6 - Proposals presented at Public Participation and Education (PPE) subcommittee meeting
- September 14 - Ranking projects from PPE subcommittee attendees are due
- October 4 - Top rated projects will be presented to B&P subcommittee for approval
- October 18 - Selected projects will be presented to the Galveston Bay Council for approval

***PPE subcommittee discussion about proposals***

Ms. Howard invited all of the presenters to discuss how they would scale back on the project if they were not awarded the full amount.

Erin Kinney brought up a topic related to the importance of partnering with groups that do not normally come to the PPE subcommittee and whether this needs to be a priority for this subcommittee. Brittani Flowers responded in agreement as she described how BPA is working with groups that already have great programs and utilizing what already exists. Moriah Johnson commented on how that approach reduces the burden on the communities and leverages strengths of past/current work being done.

Wendy Reistle asked about whether GBEP funds could cover federal work study certifications (such as Texas Master Naturalist).

Amy Neblett was requesting clarification about the “Adult literacy” priority in regards to whether teachers observing a student workshop counts as adult literacy, however several members spoke to the intent which was this meant adults would be the primary audience for the instruction, not a by-product of listening in on student lessons.

***Current Project Updates***

- Kendall Guidroz (H-GAC), Trash Bash, 19-90216: The 30<sup>th</sup> Trash Bash for 2024 is currently being coordinated. Existing plans for all sites are underway including Cypress Creek as they look for a coordinator for that site. They are developing educational materials.
- Morgan Huette (TIRN), Microplastics in the Galveston Bay Watershed: The Big Impacts of Tiny Pollution, 21-10096: TIRN has completed sample collection through round three and is in the last stages of processing and enumerating samples. All teacher workshops were completed last semester, however there were complications with the student activities so they are hosting more teacher workshops in hopes to repeat the process. Beach clean ups continue as well as outreach programs. The UHCL audit was completed this summer which was a great experience. All sampling has wrapped up for the project.
- Matthew Abernathy (GBEP); Audubon Texas Estuarine Resource Network (TERN) Citizen Science in Schools: Students as Field Researchers 21-10097 (HCDE) - Audubon Texas project wrapped up on May 31<sup>st</sup> and the publication is being prepared and finished for the website.
- Wendy Reistle (UHCL); Mobilizing the Environmental Education Community through Prairie Education, 22-30208 - Field trip recently with MaryAnne Weber was really great!

They are also hosting workshops. Della Barbato has been planning and implementing 27 activities with 2,400 participants! Native Prairie Association of Texas (NPAT) has begun to renovate the house for a learning center. Renovations and fundraising are underway in hopes to complete by the summer of 2024. EcoRise products is nearly complete, in review stages. It will be a great resource!.

- Brittani Flowers (BPA); Engaging Diverse Communities in Conservation, 23-40077 (HCDE); Partners all have their recruits and Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) training is scheduled for October. Many of the newly trained guides will begin to plan their own activities. Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) is sending their Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns to the CIG training sessions as well.
- Kendall Guidroz (HGAC); Water Quality Outreach Implementation for Vulnerable Rural Populations, 23-40239 (H-GAC); Ms. Guidroz stated that the team hosted its first stakeholder meeting with Brazoria County staff representatives and went over their first analysis. Brazoria County has identified some areas of concern and so HGAC is preparing material for workshops coming up this fall.
- Erin Kinney (HARC); GBRC Vietnamese Outreach, 23-40249 (HARC); Ms. Kinney announced the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is approved! Ms. Scobel announced there were several stakeholder meetings and a recent workshop with the Vietnamese crabbing community. More to come as they work to engage the shrimping community.

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

- Ms. Howard announced emails will be sent with proposal packets and ranking forms within the week which will be due back one week from the sent date.

#### ***Next Meeting***

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

#### ***Meeting Adjourned***