
NATURAL RESOURCE USES (NRU) SUBCOMMITTEE

GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

20 September 2023

| | |
|---|---|
| SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR Philip Smith, GBF | SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIR Scott Alford, USDA-NRCS |
| NRU COORDINATOR Lindsey Lippert, GBEP | |

GBEP Staff Present

Matthew Abernathy, Ellen Creecy, Kari Howard, Lindsey Lippert, Lisa Marshall, Christian Rines

Members/Participants Present

Taylor Abshier (DU), Scott Alford (NRCS), Catherine Bradley (ABNC), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), Kevin Hartke (DU), Savannah Horton (TPWD), Cassidy Kempf (HPARD), Karla Klay (Artist Boat), Grant Moss (BPA), Micheal Niebuhr (AgriLife-TCWP), Evelyn Merz (UH Coastal Center), Dianna Ramirez (GLO), Derek Sanford (ABNC), Linda Shead (Texas Coastal Partners), Matt Singer (GBF), Scott Williams (USFWS), Katie Wilson (GCHD)

Members/Participants via TEAMS

Anna Deichmann (ABC), Alexis Baldera (Audubon Texas), Sally Clark (GBF), Jan Culbertson (USFWS), Richard Gibbons (Audubon Texas), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Jennifer Irving (HARC), Erin Kinney (HARC), Adriana Leiva (USFWS), Charlotte Nash (TNC), Bill Rodney (TPWD), Suzanne Simpson (GBF), Charrish Stevens (NOAA-NMFS), Huy Vu (EPA)

Update to the *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition*

Dr. Erin Kinney (Houston Advanced Research Center) presented the goal and purpose of the update to the *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* which is to update the document rather than revise the entire document (an update is required not a revision). In this update we must ensure plan priorities are up to date, add issues, and integrate the equity strategy and Galveston Bay Estuary Resilience Action Plan into the *Galveston Bay Plan*. Dr. Kinney showed examples of what could be done based on other NEP updates that incorporated the Estuary Resilience Action Plan (ERAP) and Equity Strategy. Once the examples of layouts were described, Dr. Kinney led the subcommittee in several discussions. The presentation and recording are available upon request.

Updates from the Estuary Program

Staff Updates

Lindsey provided dates for the remaining December subcommittee meetings. Lisa mentioned the posting for the M&R Subcommittee Coordinator will be posted soon.

NRU Project Updates

*Spreadsheet available on request.

Other

Roundtable

Kevin Hartke (Ducks Unlimited) provided an update on a prior NRU project (Greens Lake Shoreline Protection). The project was funded by NFWF to build 2.6 miles of rock breakwater (completed). Additional funding is being pursued to protect some additional shoreline.

Richard Gibbons talked about North Deer Island (NDI) and a recent trip to look at NDI and some local sites for issues (mainly erosion). The north shoreline of NDI is having some erosion issues and the project team is compiling a list of work needed. In addition, the prescribed fire association wasn't funded through NRU, but support is there and still needs to happen. If anyone has any ideas for funding, please pass on. Derek Sanford (ABNC) said he is working with partners down the coast to pursue some options.

Savannah Horton (TPWD) presented on a future opportunity for input on the restoration of Giraffe Head (near TCPP), a partnership of TPWD, USFWS, and The Nature Conservancy. A kickoff meeting and work group is being planned. Lindsey will send to the NRU subcommittee.

Scott Williams announce the USFWS Texas Coastal Program is seeking project ideas for their FY 24 funding.

Huy Vu (EPA) announced the funding opportunity for the National Estuary Program Watershed Grant Program is open. The letters of intent are due January 26, 2024.

Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting

Subcommittee members were interested in a recent presentation for the Public Participation and Education (PPE) subcommittee on the GBEP Equity Strategy and requested for the next meeting (March 2024).

Another potential presentation is from Texas Water Trade and GBF on a pilot project in Chambers County for freshwater inflows for habitat enhancement and species utilization.

Selection Of Dates for 2024 NRU Meetings

The following meeting dates were proposed for calendar year 2024:

March 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

June 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

September 18, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

December 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn

Future Meetings

Quarterly NRU Meeting - December 6, 2023

Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting - TBD

Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting - December 7, 2023