

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EDUCATION  
(PPE)SUBCOMMITTEE  
GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL**

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**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 29, 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 (TALE); Christie Taylor, (TALE); Erin Kinney, Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC); Stephanie Glenn (HARC); ; Marsha Towns, Student Conservation Association (SCA); Morgan Huette, Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN); Jennifer Irving, (HARC); Bethany Foshee, Coastal Prairie Conservancy (CPC); Morton Sager,, Bayou Preservation Association (BPA); Sarah Frantz, Artist Boat (AB); Wendy Reistle, University of Houston Clear Lake/Environmental Institute of Houston (UHCL/EIH);; Amy Neblett, (AB); Karastin Katusin, Bayou Land Conservancy (BLC);) Elizabeth Schneider, Galveston Park Board of Trustees (GPBT); Moriah Johnson, Moriah Lynn Consulting, LLC; Chloe Dannenfelser, American Bird Conservancy (ABC); Anna Deichmann, (ABC); Alicia Fontenot, Texas Children in Nature (TCiN); Sabraya Knight, National Wildlife Federation (NWF); Joey Shoppe, College of the Mainland (COM); Jeff Sargent, Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT); Anna Weiss, Vision Galveston; Lindsey Lippert, Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP); Lisa Marshall, (GBEP); Matthew Abernathy, (GBEP); Christian Rines, (GBEP); Ellen Creecy, (GBEP);

***Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) Update and Feedback Results***

Erin Kinney presented the goal and purpose of the CCMP which is to update the document rather than revise the entire document. Ms. 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, Ms. Kinney led the subcommittee in several discussions which included:

- In one to three words, what is the biggest challenge facing Galveston Bay in the next 10 years that this stakeholder group should address? Do you think there needs to be greater integration of action plans/action items across plan priorities (subcommittees)? What would that look like?
- What issues should be highlighted or pulled across multiple priorities? (ex. Air pollution, freshwater inflows, seafood safety, species monitoring, other issues...)
- Should there be constituents added specifically to emerging contaminants? (ex. Plastic pollution, microplastics, PFAs, other contaminants)

- How do you think stressors should be integrated into the CCMP and what table versions of the Galveston Bay Estuary Resilience Action Plan (ERAP) would be most useful? (Several table examples were shown and discussed)
- How do you think the Equity Strategy should be integrated into the CCMP and how would this information be displayed? (examples of tracking tables and figures were shown)

Is there anything else you think should be considered for the Plan update? Ms. Kinney thanked everyone for their feedback and let the subcommittee know they would be attending each GBEP subcommittee meeting to gain feedback and encouraged everyone to provide additional comments up to January 26, 2024. Ms. Howard reminded the subcommittee that email reminders will go out leading up to the due date.

***Partner Highlight: Anna Deichmann, Gulf Coast Program Director of the American Bird Conservancy (ABC)***

Ms. Howard gave a short introduction before asking Ms. Deichmann to speak. Ms. Deichmann shared about her previous roles and experience working in Galveston Bay with many different PPE subcommittee partners. She shared about her new role with ABC and explained some of the types of projects she would be working on. She reiterated ABC’s role with SPLASh and expressed enthusiasm in joining the PPE subcommittee and working with GBEP stakeholders.

***GBEP Equity Strategy Presentation by Moriah Johnson, Moriah Lynn Consulting, LLC***

Ms. Howard then introduced Ms. Johnson to begin a presentation on concepts of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and the Equity Strategy. Ms. Johnson started by defining the terms of DEI, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), Diversity Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA), and Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) which range from a theory of how to address inclusion to systems that focus on policies and laws. She provided details about the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and EPA standards and how those apply the GBEP strategy. The goals highlighted in the Equity Strategy focus on meaningful partnerships, leveraging new partnership from our existing partnerships, and engaging underserved communities throughout the project activities. Among the concepts, Ms. Johnson explained the value of incorporating Black, Indigenous, and People of Color BIPOC community groups and outlined the type of expertise they offer in the form of lived, learned, and experiential knowledge.

***2024 PPE Subcommittee Meeting Dates***

- March 6, 2024
- June 5, 2024
- September 4, 2024
- November 20, 2024

***Current Project Updates***

- Kendall Guidroz (H-GAC), Trash Bash, 19-90216: The 30<sup>th</sup> Trash Bash for 2024 is currently scheduled for March 23, 2024. . There are 14 sites planned for this event. They are currently in the process of preparing trainings on the four education exhibits for site coordinators and volunteers that will take place in late January- early February. Ms. Guidroz announced that if anyone was interested in the training to contact her for more details.
- 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 all water and sediment samples have been processed and enumerated. They are now working on analysing the data collected and reporting. Ms. Huette shared that all teacher workshops are complete and TIRN has worked with the teachers in 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes. The teachers are now properly trained to utilize the kits in the spring on their own with their classes. Ms. Huette said that TIRN will focus on new schools for the next semester.

- Wendy Reistle (UHCL/EIH); Mobilizing the Environmental Education Community through Prairie Education, 22-30208 – Ms. Reistle shared about a teacher workshop that took place in October at Deer Park Prairie that covered coastal geology and hydrology, birding and insects. There were three student field trips, including Sam Rayburn high school. They also participated in a service project at Deer Park Prairie. EcoRise has completed their products and is planning to present those resources in January.
- Morton Sager (BPA); Engaging Diverse Communities in Conservation, 23-40077 (HCDE); Mr. Sager announced that their candidates successfully completed the Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) training held at the Downtown Aquarium. Each partner in the cooperative agreement sent a staff member to take the training along with their candidate. The next step is to distribute some of the funds from the grant to the trainee as their stipend. A portion will be given now that the training is complete and the remaining funds will be distributed after the trainees have lead environmental and nature tours.
- Kendall Guidroz (HGAC); Water Quality Outreach Implementation for Vulnerable Rural Populations, 23-40239 (H-GAC); Ms. Guidroz stated that Liverpool will be the prime candidate for the outreach focus as the Mayor of that town has been very receptive. They also connected with a great community partner called Actions, Inc of Brazoria County who has introduced the team to the Chocolate Bayou plant that will help get the word out in the community. The community members most at risk are lower income and elderly population so they will assist with advertising for home owner workshops in March. Ms. Guidroz also expressed that they are leveraging more funds from Wells Fargo so that the most at risk participants may get a no-cost septic system pump outs.
- Erin Kinney (HARC); GBRC Vietnamese Outreach, 23-40249 (HARC); Ms. Kinney announced the Galveston Bay Report Card (GBRC) was released later than normal. They are working on making the accommodations to creating the Vietnamese translations for the community in paper form based on the feedback from workshops, however some of the students at RICE are interested in digital translations through the website. The summer had great outreach success with the intern that was hired. Ms. Kinney recently presented about the GBRC at the SURF conference and was pleased to see that most Report Cards were moving towards engaging diverse communities and offering translations of the material.

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

- Ms. Wilems announced that GBF will be hosting environmental education school workshops and to get in touch with her about any interests.
- Ms. Howard announced she would send reminder emails about the CCMP updated with the opportunity to provide feedback.

### ***Next Meeting***

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

### ***Meeting Adjourned***

