

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

Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

Minutes

Attendees

Members attended: Scott Alford, Vance Darr, Albert Gonzales, Kendall Guidroz, George Guillen, Brian Koch, Mike Lee, Linda Shead, Bob Stokes, Lori Traweek, Cindy Wilems.

Guests attended: Stephanie Glenn, Jennifer Irving, Erin Kinney.

GBEP Staff attended: Matthew Abernathy, Ellen Creecy, Kari Howard, Lindsey Lippert, Lisa Marshall, Christian Rines.

Welcome

Lisa Marshall welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Action: The members reviewed the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes from October 4, 2023 was made by Brian Koch and a second was made by Bob Stokes. The minutes were approved.

CCMP Update Discussion

Stephanie Glenn presented on the progress of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Update.

Dr. Glenn presented explanations of how other estuary programs have updated their CCMPs. She spoke about the need to integrate the Estuary Resilience Action Plan's (ERAP) estuary stressors and the Equity Strategy into the CCMP. Dr. Glenn led a discussion around improving communication between subcommittees. There was a suggestion requiring members to go to other subcommittee meetings, however there was pushback on the idea of requiring a bigger time commitment for everyone. George Guillen proposed that GBEP staff give summaries about their meetings at the other subcommittee meetings since they attend them all. There was a consensus on the idea of sending out agendas and meeting minutes for each subcommittee to all members. Erin Kinney suggested mapping out who is already attending multiple meetings and tapping into it to update other subcommittees.

Common Issues

Dr. Guillen mentioned the current population growth in the watershed and how that will have an impact on the region.

Review plan priorities across the subcommittees

Lindsey Lippert pointed out species target numbers is in plan priority number one

“Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use” when it possibly should be in plan priority two “Protect and Sustain Living Resources”.

ERAP integration

Members wanted to keep in mind that user groups are stakeholders and partners not usually the general public. However, it will still be available to the public and needs to be understandable for all. One suggestion was to have hyperlinks within the tables.

Next Steps

The update presentations and feedback collection are finishing in January. The collection of feedback will be sent to GBEP, TCEQ and the EPA for review in June. Finally, the proposed updates will be presented to subcommittees and the council in September.

Planning for January GBC Meeting

- a. Presentations at the GBC Meeting - Ms. Marshall provided the titles of the presentations for the GBC meeting:
 - a. *CCMP Update Discussion* presentation which will be a version of the presentation at this meeting.
 - b. Vance Darr will be presenting on his work as a member spotlight.
 - c. *Texas Invasives: Research, Programs & Outreach* presented by Ashley Morgan-Olivera.
- b. Field Trip Discussion
 - a. Ms. Marshall suggested that it might be a good time for a field trip for the GBC members. Elizabeth Fazio Hale offered to help sponsor a council feed trip. The members discussed possible sites. The GBEP staff will discuss further and confirm availability of sites and send information out about a field trip to take place on April 17, 2024.

Announcements and Program Updates

No announcements were made.

Upcoming B&P Subcommittee meetings:

April 3, 2024

July 10, 2024

October 2, 2024

Meeting adjourned