

GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM (GBEP)

DRAFT - Galveston Bay Council (GBC) Meeting Minutes - April 17, 2024

Attendees:

Galveston Bay Council Chair: Bob Stokes (Galveston Bay Foundation)

Galveston Bay Council Vice-Chair: Vance Darr (Industry - Kuraray America, Inc.)

Estuary Program Staff Lead: Lisa Marshall (GBEP)

Members Present: Scott Alford, Vance Darr, Albert Gonzales, Elizabeth Fazio Hale, Jonathan Holley, Brian Koch, Michael Lee, Julie Masters, Kelly Mills, Ana Partin, Dianna Ramirez, Todd Running, Caimee Schoenbaechler, Rusty Senac, Linda Shead, Charrish Stevens, Bob Stokes, Matt Tilimon, Huy Vu, Scott Williams, Katie Wilson

Members Not Present/Delegates: Shane Bonnot, Andrea Catanzaro, Glenn Clingenpeel, Winfred Colbert, Jeff Dallarosa, Juan Flores, Audrey Kuklenz, Kristin Lambrecht, Garry McMahan, Grace Martinez, Julie Masters, Helen Paige, Hanadi Rafai, Lindsey Savage*, Shane Simpson*, Sharron Stewart, Sue Theiss, Maria Valdez, Kirk Wiles, Tracy Woody

(*=Member designated a proxy)

Proxies Present (GBC member absent/designated proxy): Lindsey Savage/Savannah Horton, Shane Simpson/Jack Newton

Current Vacancies: Texas A&M Sea Grant (Research/Academia)

Other Attendees: Zachary Edwards, Gene Muller, Nancy Parra, Cindy Wilems

Additional GBEP Staff Present: Matthew Abernathy, Ellen Creecy, Kari Howard, Lindsey Lippert, Christian Rines, Alejandra Trevino

Call to Order and Confirm Quorum

Bob Stokes brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Action Item: Approval of the January 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes

A quorum was met for this meeting and Mr. Stokes opened the meeting with the approval of the January 2024 GBC meeting minutes. Albert Gonzales motioned for the approval of the January 17, 2024 minutes and Brian Koch seconded the motion for approval.

Report of the Program

Report of the Chair

Field Trip

The April 17, 2024 meeting of the GBC was a field trip to several GBEP project sites on the south side of Houston. The 24 members of the GBC and its subcommittees, along with eight GBEP staff, met at Sylvan Rodriguez Park, and then proceeded to the Lawther Deer Park Prairie. GBEP currently supports prairie education efforts by the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) and the University of Houston-Clear Lake's Environmental Institute of Houston at this site. NPAT's Education Director, Della Barbato, provided information and a tour of the site to the attendees.

The second site was Houston Botanic Garden, where Dany Millikin, Director of Education, provided a tour of the gardens. Additional information was provided by Christian Rines regarding the stormwater detention ponds at the site that were funded by GBEP.

The bus then returned to Sylvan Rodriguez Park, where Kelli Ondracek and Cassidy Kempf of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department provided information on the restoration work supported by GBEP along with a tour of the site.

A complete itinerary of the field trip along with information on the sites visited is available upon request.

Public Comment: None

Other Business: N/A

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Galveston Bay Council Meeting Dates: July 17, 2024, October 16, 2024, January 15, 2025, and April 16, 2025. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the quarter from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. If there are known conflicts, Council members are welcome to propose alternate dates to the Council.