

NATURAL RESOURCE USES (NRU) SUBCOMMITTEE

GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

05 June 2024

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

Members/Participants Present

Meeting held virtually due to office closure.

Members/Participants via TEAMS

Alexis Baldera (Audubon Texas), Anna Armitage, Ph.D. (TAMUG), Bob Stokes (GBF), Bridgett M. vonHoldt, Ph.D. (Princeton University), Bryar Johnson (USFWS), Cassidy Kempf (HPARD), Catherine Bradley (ABNC), Charrish Stevens (NOAA-NMFS), Christian Rines (GBEP), Christine Smith (TCWP), David Sharp (Exploration Green), David Villareal (TDA), Derek Thompson (ABNC), Dianna Ramirez (GLO), Erin Kinney, Ph.D. (HARC), Grant Moss (BPA), Huy Vu (EPA), Jan Culbertson (USFWS), Jenelle Estrada (GBEP), Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), Karla Klay (Artist Boat), Kelli Ondracek (HPARD), Katie Wilson (GCHD), Kevin De Santiago (Texas Water Trade), Kristin E. Brzeski, Ph.D. (Michigan Technological University), Lalise Mason (SCENIC Galveston), Linda Shead (Shead Conservation Solutions), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Matt Singer (GBF), Matthew Abernathy (GBEP), Meagan Hayes (GBEP), Pete Deichmann (Houston Audubon), Philip Smith (GBF), Ricardo Cagigal (Houston Parks Board), Sally Clark (GBF), Sandra Metoyer, Ph.D. (UHCL), Savannah Horton (TPWD), Scott Williams (USFWS), Shane Simpson (SJRA), Suzanne Simpson (GBF), Todd Merendino, Ph.D. (Ducks Unlimited), Wendy Reistle (UHCL)

Gulf Coast Canine Project - Kristin E. Brzeski, Ph.D., Michigan Technological University; Bridgett M. vonHoldt, Ph.D., Princeton University

Kristin E. Brzeski and Bridgett M. vonHoldt provided a presentation on the history of Red wolves in the United States and the purpose and activities of the Gulf Coast Canine Project.

*Stream recording of the presentation is available upon request.

North Deer Island Updates - Alexis Baldera, Audubon Texas; Pete Deichmann, Houston Audubon

Alexis Baldera and Pete Deichmann provided a status and needs update on North Deer Island post-restoration efforts. A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

*Stream recording of the presentation is available upon request.

NRU Priority Recommendations for FY 25 Section 320 and State Funding

The subcommittee spent time discussing the priorities that we would like to see for the FY 2026 Section 320 and state funding and provided recommendations for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law priorities for the Budget and Priorities Subcommittee. The following priorities were selected:

FY 2025 Section 320 and State Funding:

- Habitat acquisition.
- Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts.
 - Special emphasis on adaptive management for previously completed projects.
- Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or nongame wildlife.
 - Special emphasis on projects addressing seagrasses, intertidal reef/shell hash, and benthic mapping.
 - Any species monitoring projects should be a collaboration/partnership between subcommittees.
- Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple goal benefits to the subcommittee.
- Takes into consideration the results of the [Estuary Resilience Action Plan](#).
- Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.

FFY 2025 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Recommendations:

- Habitat Protection and Enhancement
- Support for existing projects, such as: habitat mapping gaps and pre and/or post construction monitoring (including data acquisition after construction/preservation for the purpose of adaptive management over time)
- Must include Estuary Resilience Action Plan /Equity Strategy in proposal

*Stream recording of the discussion is available upon request.

Updates from the Estuary Program

Staff Updates

Lindsey Lippert introduced Meagan Hayes, GBEP's intern for this summer, who provided a quick background. Lisa Marshall added that if anyone had any field work in which Meagan could participate, please reach out.

Lisa Marshall announced that the State of the Bay Symposium was being held until January 2026 due to the legislative session and administrative delays. In addition, she implored subcommittee members to join GBEP's govdelivery list to receive future updates.

Matt Abernathy provided an update on Title XI implementation for future rounds of funding.

Lindsey Lippert relayed expected timeline for Section 320 and state funding:

- June 26: Request for proposals out
- August 5: Proposals due to GBEP
- August 19: Proposals sent to subcommittee members for review
- September 18: Proposals presented at NRU subcommittee meeting

Lindsey Lippert also relayed expected timeline for FFY 2025 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding:

- July 15: Request for proposals out
- August 26: Proposals due to GBEP

- October 2: Proposals presented at B&P subcommittee meeting

NRU Project Updates

*Spreadsheet available on request.

Other

Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting - Deferred

Roundtable

Ricardo Cagigal announced Houston Parks Board has a bayou shoreline planting volunteer event next week. Feel free to reach out if you're interested in joining.

Karla Klay introduced Adam Lawrence, Artist Boats new Habitat and Stewardship Program Manager.

Adjourn

Future Meetings

Quarterly NRU Meeting(s)

- September 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
- December 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting - TBD

Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting - TBD