



WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 11, 2024 1:30PM – 3:30PM

Subcommittee Chair: Brian Koch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Ryan Bare, Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)

GBEP Representative: Christian N. Rines

Call to Order

Attendees: Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Ryan Bare (HARC), Christian Rines (GBEP), Michael LaMontagne (UHCL), Luke Travis (USGS), Jenny Oakley (H-GAC), Steven Johnston (H-GAC), Natasha Zarnstorff (GBF), Dini Adyasari (TAMUG), Sandra Metoyer (UHCL), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Grant Moss (BPA), Celina Lowry (TX A&M AgriLife), Kendall Guidroz (H-GAC), Rachel Windham (H-GAC), Cornell Evans (H-GAC), Zoe Gapayao (GBEP), Matthew Abernathy (GBEP), Jenelle Estrada (GBEP), Anna Weiss (Vision Galveston), Maggie Sager (TIRN), Morgen Zander (GBEP), Danna Small (Member of the Public), Brittany Flowers (BPA), Christie Taylor (TX A&M AgriLife), Hope Cole (TCEQ), Moriah Brewer (Moriah Lynn Equity Consulting), Sarah McCaffrey (TCEQ), Robert Snoza (HCFCD), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Huy Vu (EPA), Erin Kinney (HARC), Shane Simpson (SJRA), and Katie Wilson (GCHD).

Approval of the June 12, 2024 minutes - Ms. Rines opened the meeting with approval of the minutes. Mr. Koch motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. LaMontagne seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no changes.

A Conflict-of-Interest statement was emailed out prior to the meeting. Subcommittee members were asked to sign the statement and disclose any interest with a proposed project prior to or during the project nomination discussion. All possible conflicts of interest were captured in the meeting's recording and chat feature.

New Business

FY 26 Project Proposals and Discussion

Project proposals were sent out in advance of the meeting for review. Members were asked to keep the subcommittee priorities in mind while reviewing. Priorities selected by the WSQ Subcommittee for the FY26 funding cycle were as follows:

- Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans

- Monitoring and research that evaluates green infrastructure effectiveness
- Evaluation and development of indicators and metrics of water (surface and ground) and sediment quality

Each person presenting a proposal was given a total of 8 minutes to explain their project followed by a few minutes for Q&A. Guidelines for presenting proposals were as follows:

- Due to time constraints, presentations were limited to a few slides;
- Proposals were presented in the order of the distributed project proposal packet;
- If a connection to a proposal was not obvious, the relationship to the project was disclosed; and,
- If a vote was necessary, only one person from each entity could vote and represent their entity.

Once all proposals had been presented to the group, the subcommittee discussed which projects should take priority. After much discussion, the group was unable to come to a consensus-based decision, and so a vote was taken. Each entity presented their top pick, followed by their second, and votes were tallied. The top pick to recommend to the Budget and Priorities (B&P) Subcommittee for full funding in FY26 was the *Assessment of coastal groundwater quality and dynamics in San Jacinto River Waste Pit Superfund Site* TAMUG project. The second nomination was to support the first year of funding for the *Evaluation of Green Infrastructure to Reduce Microplastic Pollution in Galveston Bay* H-GAC project, with the recommendation to seek Council approval for the second year of funding in FY27. A third and fourth project were recommended as alternatives if any funding becomes available. Projects selected by the B&P Subcommittee would be presented to the GBC at the October Council meeting for approval. The following project proposals were recommended by WSQ subcommittee members:

Project Name	Grantee	Total Request	Year 1 (FY26)	Year 2 (FY27)	Final Recommendation
Assessment of coastal groundwater quality and dynamics in San Jacinto River Waste Pit Superfund Site	TAMUG	\$99,976.00	\$99,976.00	\$0	\$99,976.00
Evaluation of Green Infrastructure to Reduce Microplastic Pollution in Galveston Bay	H-GAC	\$221,928.00 Year 1: \$121,472.85 Year 2: \$100,455.15	\$121,472.85	\$100,455.15	Year 1: \$121,472.85 Year 2: \$100,455.15
<i>Assessing demonstration rain garden and stormwater wetland health through soil and vegetation monitoring</i>	<i>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service</i>	<i>\$235,176.00 Year 1: \$118,611.00 Year 2: \$116,565.00</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>Alternate 1</i>
<i>Targeted Bacteria Monitoring - Watershed Focus</i>	<i>H-GAC</i>	<i>\$60,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>Alternate 2</i>

WSQ Totals		\$617,080.00		\$221,448.85
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**All projects highlighted in green have been nominated to receive FY26 funding. If additional funding does become available, the recommendation is to put the remainder of that money towards funding the second year of the “Evaluation of Green Infrastructure to Reduce Microplastic Pollution in Galveston Bay” project. Additional funding beyond that would fund alternative projects.*

Old Business

Project Updates from WSQ Project Mangers:

**Time did not allow for project updates.*

Watershed Partnership Updates/Roundtable:

- Ms. Windham announced that H-GAC’s Parks and Natural Areas Awards nominations are open through September. More information can be found at [Parks and Natural Areas Awards | Houston-Galveston Area Council \(H-GAC\)](#).
- Mr. Koch announced that the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is requesting proposals for watershed assessment, planning, implementation, demonstration, and education projects under the 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program. Proposals must be received electronically by 5:00 p.m. CDT, September 20th.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Council, and Subcommittee updates:

- Ms. Rines announced that National Estuaries Week will be September 21-28, so be on lookout for information that GBEP will be putting out for the event.

Upcoming GBEP meetings:

- NRU Subcommittee Meeting - Wednesday, September 18, 2024 (10:00am -12:00pm)
- B&P Meeting - Wednesday, October 2, 2024 (1:00pm -4:00pm)
- GBC Meeting - Wednesday, October 16, 2024 (9:30am -12:30pm)
- Next WSQ Subcommittee Meeting - Wednesday, December 11, 2024 (1:30-3:30pm)

Adjourn