

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 4, 2024
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: Zoe Gapayao

Attendees: Cindy Wilems, Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF); Kendall Guidroz, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC); Kiara Carrasco, American Bird Conservancy (ABC); Chloe Dannenfelser, (ABC); Brenda Weiser, Harris County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Harris County SWCD); Maggie Sager, Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN); Kelli Ondracek, Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD); Wendy Reistle, University of Houston Clear Lake (UHCL); Morton Sager, Bayou Preservation Association (BPA); Melissa Wong, Houston Zoo; Rowena McDermid, (UHCL); Sandra Metoyer (UHCL); Christie Taylor, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension; Mandi Gordon (UHCL); David Sharp, Exploration Green Conservancy; Treasa Antony, Nature Heritage Society (NHS); Sheena Abernathy, College of the Mainland; Erin Kinney, Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC); Jaden Kelly, Texas A&M Forest Service; Jin Ye, Houston Public Works; Kristin Brzeski, Michigan Technological University; Moriah Brewer, Moriah Lynn Consulting; Karastin Katusin, Bayou Land Conservancy (BLC); Bridgett von Holdt, Princeton University; Elizabeth Schneider, Galveston Park Board; Joanie Steinhaus, (TIRN); Katherine Wilson, Galveston County Health District; Brandi Keller, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension; Lisa Scobel, (GBF); Nathalie Barry, citizen; Liz Virgl, (ABC); Tiffany Ritter, Houston Arboretum and Nature Center; Brittani Flower, (BPA); Chris Hall, College of the Mainland; Ryan Bare, (HARC); Lisa Marshall (GBEP); Matthew Abernathy (GBEP); Moren Zander (GBEP); Christian Rines (GBEP); Lindsey Lippert (GBEP); Jenelle Estrada (GBEP)

FY 2026 Funding PPE Project Presentations

Presenters had four minutes to present their projects followed by questions and a short discussion.

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Texas Community Watershed Partners: K-12 Rain Barrels to Schools Program: Pilot District
- Bayou Preservation Association: Reclaim the Drain Day
- Exploration Green Conservancy: Public Engagement through Native Tree Planting and STEM Education
- Houston Advanced Research Center: New voices for the next decade: updating the Galveston Bay Report Card for new and under-represented communities
- Houston-Galveston Area Council: Regional Coordination of River, Lakes, Bays ‘N Bayous Trash Bash

- Houston Parks and Recreation Department: City of Houston Nature Trails Master Plan
- Michigan Technological University: From Scat to Conservation: Community-based research of Galveston Bay's ghost wolves
- Turtle Island Restoration Network: Watershed Awareness and Teaching for Environmental Responsibility (W.A.T.E.R.)
- University of Houston - Clear Lake: Texas Envirothon
- University of Houston - Clear Lake: Contaminant Accumulation in a Sentinel Species: Are Terrapin What They Eat?

Ranking Guidelines and Timeline for FY 2026 Project Selections

Zoe Gapayao informed the PPE subcommittee that they will receive the project ranking form after the meeting. Ranking forms are due by close of business on Wednesday, September 11. Projects are to be ranked with 1 as the highest, most favored rank. Comments and feedback to presenters will remain anonymous. Each organization/entity will only submit one ranking form and any organization/entity that would receive money from a project cannot rank that project. Ms. Gapayao emphasized using the PPE priorities, the Estuary Resilience Action Plan and the Equity Strategy during the ranking process. Moriah Brewer, GBEP's equity consultant, shared guidance for incorporating equity throughout the ranking process.

Top ranked projects will be presented to the Budget & Priorities (B&P) subcommittee for approval at the B&P meeting on October 2nd. Selected projects will be presented to the Galveston Bay Council for final approval at the Council meeting on October 16th.

Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) Presentations

The subcommittee listened to presentations by HARC on programmatic projects that GBEP is required to fund. Dr. Erin Kinney presented an update on State of the Bay, a regional characterization of the Galveston Bay Ecosystem. Dr. Ryan Bare presented an update on the Galveston Bay Regional Monitoring Database.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4 at 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned