

---

## NATURAL RESOURCE USES (NRU) SUBCOMMITTEE

---

### GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

---

04 December 2024

---

<b>SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR</b> Philip Smith, USFWS	<b>SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIR</b> Scott Alford, USDA-NRCS
<b>NRU COORDINATOR</b> Lindsey Lippert, GBEP	

---

---

#### Members/Participants Present

---

Christian Rines (GBEP), Erin Kinney, (HARC), Jenelle Estrada (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Matt Singer (GBF), Matthew Abernathy (GBEP), Morgan Zander (GBEP), Philip Smith (USFWS), Sandra Metoyer, Ph.D. (UHCL), Savannah Horton (TPWD), Scott Alford (USDA-NRCS), Suzanne Simpson (GBF), Zoe Gapayao (GBEP)

---

---

#### Members/Participants via TEAMS

---

Alexis Baldera (Audubon Texas), Anna Deichmann (ABC), Anna Weiss (Vision Galveston), Grant Moss (BPA), Jari McCoy (BPA), Jennifer Irving (HARC), Katie Wilson (GCHD), Karla Klay (Artist Boat), Kristin Brzeski (Michigan Technological University), Linda Shead (Texas Coastal Partners), Marissa Llosa (Houston Parks Board), Moriah Johnson (Moriah Lynn Consulting), Sally Clark (GBF), Vanessa Hulse (HARC)

---

---

#### Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update: ERAP and Equity Strategy

---

Erin Kinney and Moriah Brewer provided presentations on the [Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition](#)<sup>1</sup> update, and the incorporation of the [Estuary Resilience Action Plan](#)<sup>2</sup> and [Equity Strategy](#)<sup>3</sup>. HARC would like to hear NRU subcommittee members feedback on how they could use the Equity Strategy and Estuary Resilience Action Plan with *Galveston Bay Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Feedback on the presentations is due by December 18, 2024.

The presentations and Equity Strategy guidance document will be distributed via email after the meeting to allow additional comments by members unable to attend.

\* Stream recording and PDFs of the presentations are available upon request.

---

#### NRU Subcommittee Bylaws Discussion

---

Lindsey Lippert asked the subcommittee to evaluate potential changes to the NRU Bylaws based on changes to operating procedures since the past update. The original bylaws and proposed updates (via a track changed Microsoft Word document) were distributed via email before the meeting and hard copies were available at the meeting. General changes addressed were related to formatting to be consistent with Galveston Bay Council Bylaws, clarification on voting actions within the NRU subcommittee, and updates to the “Workgroup” section (specifically related to the formation of workgroups and documenting existing workgroups) of the NRU Bylaws.

Discussion within the subcommittee further refined language regarding matters of voting, attendance, and what constitutes a “member organization” were addressed via a working version of

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://gbep.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CCMP\\_2ndEdition\\_FINAL-TCEQ-Approved-DRAFT.pdf](https://gbep.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CCMP_2ndEdition_FINAL-TCEQ-Approved-DRAFT.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://gbep.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/AS-494-EstuaryResilienceActionPlanFinal.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://gbep.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Equity-Strategy\\_standalone\\_20231024.pdf](https://gbep.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Equity-Strategy_standalone_20231024.pdf)

the bylaws at the meeting. An appendix that further outlines member organizations and attendance records of the NRU Subcommittee will be added to the bylaws. The Appendix will be a working document updated quarterly following subcommittee meetings to document attendance and any changes to membership.

Of note, one issue brought to the subcommittee that could not be addressed was limiting the indirect rates of entities during the project planning process. Unfortunately, this is an issue that must be handled through TCEQ's Legal and Contracts departments, and cannot be addressed through subcommittee bylaws.

The original NRU Bylaws and the updated NRU Bylaws with Appendix will be distributed via email after the meeting to allow additional comments by members unable to attend.

\*Stream recording of the discussion is available upon request.

---

## **Updates from the Estuary Program**

---

### **Staff Updates**

Lindsey announced subcommittee dates for the other Subcommittees:

- PPE: December 4, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
- M&R: December 11, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
- WSQ: December 11, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

Matt Abernathy announce that the Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium will be held April 3, 2025 at the Houston Zoo. Registration and Call for Abstracts will open January 6, 2026.

Matt also announced that the Houston Public Library has a mobile classroom (Winnebago) that is available for partner use. Please contact [Matt](#)<sup>4</sup> for more information.

Lindsey also presented the tentative dates for the 2025 NRU Subcommittee meetings. All in attendance and virtual and in-person agreed to these dates (see Future Meetings). Lindsey will send out calendar appointments following the meeting.

### **NRU Project Updates – Deferred**

Erin Kinney announced that partners will be receiving requests in January for project information from BlackCat GIS for the Habitat Conservation and Restoration Portal (Habitat Conservation Blueprint Update).

Suzanne Simpson announced that the Salt Bayou Acquisition project will be closing in the next two weeks.

\*Spreadsheet available on request.

---

## **Other**

---

### **Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting - Deferred**

### **Roundtable**

---

<sup>4</sup> matthew.abernathy@tceq.texas.gov

Sandra Metoyer announced that the BIL project partnering with KPRC has kicked off and will be highlighting several ongoing and past NRU projects. Zoe Gapayao further clarified that the first project to be highlighted in January is the White Oak Bayou Riparian Restoration Project.

Linda Shead announced that this evening (December 4, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.) the Progressive Forum and Environment Texas are hosting a free screening of “[Plastic People: The Hidden Crisis of Microplastics](https://plasticpeopledoc.com/)<sup>5</sup>” at the Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston. After the screening there will be a panel discussion featuring Jenny Oakley, Ph.D., Senior Water Resources Scientist at Houston-Galveston Area Council; Diane Wilson, a Fourth-Generation Shrimper, Environmental Activist and 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize Winner, Houston City Council Member Letitia Plummer, Jen Hadayia, Executive Director of Air Alliance Houston, and Randall Morton, Founding Executive Director of The Progressive Forum.

---

## Adjourn

---

### Future Meetings

#### Quarterly NRU Meeting(s)

- March 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
- June 4, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
- September 3, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
- December 3, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting - Hiatus

Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting - Fall 2025

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://plasticpeopledoc.com/>