

# **MONITORING AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 11, 2024  
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Subcommittee Chair: George Guillen, Environmental Institute of Houston-University of Houston Clear Lake (EIH-UHCL)

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Mike Lee, United States Geological Survey (USGS)

GBEP Representative: Jenelle Estrada

## **Call to Order, Introductions (Via Microsoft Teams)**

Attendees: Anna Armitage (TAMUG), Wren Bradley (ABNC), Moriah Brewer (Moriah Lynn Consulting), Jessica Casillas (H-GAC), Guilherme Corte (TAMUG), Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), George Guillen (EIH-UHCL), Vanessa Hulse (HARC), Jennifer Irving (HARC), Naima Khan (TAMUC), Erin Kinney (HARC), Bailey Lin (TAMUG), Hui Liu (TAMUG), Chris Marshall (TAMUG), Theresa Morris (TAMUG-GCSTR), Jenny Oakley (HGAC), Alyssa Quackenbush (GBF), Maggie Sager (TIRN), Linda Shead (SC), Michael Shields (TAMU), Chloe Stifler (ABNC), Casey Taylor (Citizen), Katie Wilson (GCHD), Matthew Abernathy (GBEP), Zoe Gapayao (GBEP), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Christian Rines (GBEP), Morgen Zander (GBEP).

**Approval of September 11, 2024 meeting minutes** – Motion to approve by George Guillen, and a second by Jim Dobberstine.

## **Presentations:**

### **Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update: Equity Strategy and Estuary Resiliency Action Plan**

Dr. Erin Kinney presented on the Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition update including the incorporation of the Estuary Resilience Action Plan (ERAP) and Equity Strategy.

Dr. Kinney walked members through an example of how to use the tables in the ERAP when designing a project. Moriah Brewer presented on the details of implementing the Equity Strategy. They both requested feedback by December 18<sup>th</sup> from subcommittee members on how they could use the Equity Strategy and ERAP with the Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition.

### **Monitoring Ecosystem Indicators for Science-Based Restoration and Enhancement of Pelagic Habitats of Galveston Bay**

Bailey Lin presented an update on the ongoing project. Ms. Lin presented on the environmental data and zooplankton community composition from 2022 to 2024 in Galveston Bay surveys. Changes in salinity is correlated to changes in zooplankton composition with the introduction of new dominant species at lower salinity. Future work is to continue sampling and processing samples into May 2025 with in-depth statistical work with the entire dataset.

\*Presentations available upon request.

### **M&R Subcommittee Bylaws Discussion**

Jenelle Estrada asked the subcommittee to evaluate potential changes to the M&R Bylaws 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 qualifications, and updates to the “Workgroup” section (specifically related to the formation of workgroups and documenting existing workgroups) of the M&R Bylaws.

Discussion by subcommittee members covered matters of voting, attendance, and the specific requirements for both. A major concern for the subcommittee is the definition of who is allowed to vote and how a voting organization is defined. The proposed changes define a voting entity as a “member organization” at the over-arching entity level. An example appendix was presented to showcase specific examples of what constitutes a “member organization” and a M&R subcommittee specific appendix will be distributed for review. The appendix will be a working document updated quarterly following subcommittee meetings to document attendance and any changes to membership.

Members reviewed an excel sheet with project rankings from the past five years calculated using the current and proposed methods to demonstrate the impacts of the proposed changes. It was agreed upon that virtual attendance, or a designated proxy counts as meeting attendance for voting purposes. The designation of a proxy should happen before the meeting by alerting the coordinator. Members with multiple associations will be connected to only one entity at a time. The original M&R Bylaws and the updated M&R Bylaws with a completed appendix will be distributed via email after the meeting to allow additional comments by members unable to attend.

### **Project Updates:** *\*done online due to time constraints*

- Regional Monitoring Database - HARC (Ryan Bare)
- Long Term Monitoring of Living Shorelines - Lee College (Jim Dobberstine)
- Monitoring Ecosystem Indicators for Science-Based Restoration and Enhancement - TAMUG (Hui Liu)
- The Distribution and Fate of Highly Toxic Tire Rubber-Derived Chemicals in Galveston Bay - TAMU (Michael Shields)
- Evaluating Galveston Bay’s Resilience to Ocean and Coastal Acidification - HARC (Stephanie Glenn)
- Establishment of an Oyster Sentinel Program for Tracking *Perkinsus marinus* (Dermo) in Oysters of Galveston Bay - UHCL (Mandi Gordon)
- Tracking *Perkinsus Marinus* (Dermo) Infection in Sun-Cured Oysters - UHCL (Mandi Gordon)
- Monitoring to Assess Long-term Restoration Success in Galveston Bay Wetlands - TAMUG (Anna Armitage)

**Announcements/Path Forward Items:**

- WSQ subcommittee meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.
- B&P meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- GBC meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2024, 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
- M&R 2025 Subcommittee Meetings
  - March 12, 2025 (9:30-11:30am)
  - June 11, 2025 (9:30-11:30am)
  - September 10, 2025 (9:30-11:30am)
  - December 10, 2025 (9:30-11:30am)

**Adjourn**