

**GALVESTON BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM (GBEP)
NATURAL RESOURCE USES (NRU) SUBCOMMITTEE**

**GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL (GBC)
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

05 March 2025

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR Philip Smith	SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIR Scott Alford
NRU COORDINATOR Lindsey Lippert	

GBEP Staff Present

Matthew Abernathy, Jenelle Estrada, Zoe Gapayao, Lindsey Lippert, Lisa Marshall, Christian Rines

Members/Participants Present

Scott Alford (U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service), Sally Clark [Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)], Jeffrey Fato (GBF), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), Karla Klay (The Artist Boat), Kelli Ondracek (Houston Parks and Recreation Department), Matt Singer (GBF), Chloe Stifler (Armand Bayou Nature Center), Dianna Ramirez (Texas General Land Office), Suzanne Simpson (GBF) Philip Smith (Private Citizen), Anna Weiss (Vision Galveston)

Members/Participants via TEAMS

Taylor Abshier [Ducks Unlimited (DU)], Anna Armitage [Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG)], Alexis Baldera (Audubon Texas), Jan Culbertson [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)], Pete Deichmann [Houston Audubon (HA)], Jim Dobberstine (Lee College), Brittani Flowers (Bayou Preservation Association), Kevin Hartke (DU), Vanessa Hulse [Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)], Bryar Johnson (USFWS), Moriah Johnson (Moriah Lynn Consulting), Erin Kinney (HARC), Marissa Llosa (Houston Parks Board), Christopher Marshall (TAMUG), Evelyn Merz (University of Houston Coastal Center), Theresa Morris (TAMUG), Mary Anne Piacentini (Coastal Prairie Conservancy), Bill Rodney [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)], Lindsey Savage (TPWD), Linda Shead (Citizens-at-Large: GBC Representative), Christine Smith (HA), Charrish Stevens (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries), Kathy Sweezey (The Nature Conservancy), David Villareal (Texas Department of Agriculture), Huy Vu (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Katie Wilson (Galveston County Health District)

Federal Fiscal 2026 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Priorities

Lindsey Lippert provided an overview of funding provided under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), along with projects funded in past cycles. The subcommittee spent time discussing the priorities that we would like to see for the Federal Fiscal 2026 IIJA funding to provide recommendations for the Budget and Priorities Subcommittee. The following priorities were selected:

1. Habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement that incorporates water quality protection and improvement.
2. Support for existing on the ground conservation projects (unfinished or expansion).
3. On the ground projects that benefit wildlife of the lower Galveston Bay watershed.

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

NRU Subcommittee Bylaws Discussion and Adoption

Following discussions and comments at the December 2024 meeting, Ms. Lippert presented the updated NRU Subcommittee Bylaws for finalization and adoption. The proposed updates (via a track

changed Microsoft Word document) were distributed via email before the meeting and hard copies were available at the meeting.

Ms. Lippert asked for any additional comments or suggestions. With none, Ms. Lippert asked for a motion to approve the NRU Bylaws as distributed. Dianna Ramirez made a motion for approval, with Amanda Hackney seconding the motion. There were no objections or abstentions.

*Stream recording of the discussion is available upon request.

NRU Subcommittee Updates

*Spreadsheet available on request.

Updates from the Estuary Program

Ms. Lippert did not have any updates to provide for the subcommittee.

Matt Abernathy announced that the Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium will take place April 3, 2025, at Houston Zoo. Registration is open and free to attend in-person and virtually.

Zoe Gapayao gave a brief update on the UHCL/KPRC community Outreach project, which is highlighting several NRU projects. The White Oak Bayou project segment is up; the next segment will highlight River, Lakes, Bays, and Bayous Trash Bash® on March 10, 2025.

Ms. Gapayao also announced that the State of the Bay Symposium will take place February 24-25, 2026 at Moody Gardens.

Other

Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting – Ms. Lippert announced that the primary focus of the June 2025 NRU meeting will be developing priorities for Fiscal 2026 Section 320 and State funding.

Roundtable

Sally Clark provided an update on the Jones Bay Oystercatcher Project. The project is going to bid for construction.

Karla Klay invited subcommittee members to attend the consecration event for the Coastal Heritage Preserve on April 5, 2025. In addition, registration for exhibitors/vendors soon for World Ocean Day June 8, 2025.

Amanda Hackney announced that the Wildlife Society Texas Chapter meeting will be held at Moody Gardens in February 2026. If there are field trip opportunities, please let her know.

Dianna Ramirez reminded the subcommittee that the Coastal Management Program (CMP) and Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) workshops will be held March 11, 2025, at the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center in League City, Texas. The deadline for CEPRA applications is May 1, 2025 and the deadline for CMP applications is June 4, 2025. In addition there are two upcoming meetings for the Technical Advisory Committee of the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan (May 13, 2025 and May 21, 2025). The revised plan will be released in late 2028.

Marissa Llosa announced there is an opening for a Program Specialist with the Houston Parks Board. The announcement is on the website.

Taylor Abshier gave information on DU's Private Lands Habitat Management Program to manage wetland habitat through cost-sharing on practices. If anyone has private landowners interested in participating, a flyer with information is attached (Appendix A).

Adjourn

Future Meetings

Quarterly NRU Meeting(s)

- 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

TEXAS COASTAL WETLANDS (FUTCH) PROGRAM

APPLICATION OPEN

**May 19, 2025
8 am**

**[CLICK HERE](#) TO FILL OUT A
PRELIMINARY SURVEY**



PURPOSE

Management of
vegetation within
established wetland
units on private lands

Cost Share

\$20/Managed Acre

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Discing
Roller Chopping
Herbicide Treatment

SPONSORS

Dr. Edward and Sally M.
Futch Charitable
Foundation

Ducks Unlimited

Texas Parks and Wildlife
Department

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2/1/2025

145 Contracts

13,742 acres

[Link to application](#)

