

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

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

05 June 2025

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

GBEP Staff Present

Matthew Abernathy, Hope Cole, 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)], Jan Culbertson (Citizen), Jeffrey Fato (GBF), Savannah Horton [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)], Karla Klay (The Artist Boat), Sandra Metoyer (University of Houston-Clear Lake), Evelyn Merz (University of Houston Coastal Center), Grant Moss [Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD)], Kelli Ondracek (HPARD), Tim Pylate [Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC)], Dianna Ramirez (Texas General Land Office), Chloe Stifler (ABNC), Suzanne Simpson (GBF), Philip Smith (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Lyndsey Ware (The Artist Boat), Anna Weiss (Vision Galveston)

Members/Participants via TEAMS

Anna Armitage [Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG)], Kaylei Chau (UHCL), Anna Deichmann (American Bird Conservancy), Alexis Baldera (Audubon Texas), Kevin De Santiago (Texas Water Trade), Pete Deichmann [Houston Audubon (HA)], Mandi Gordon (UHCL), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), Chelsey Hill (UHCL), Vanessa Hulse [Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)], Bryar Johnson (USFWS), Brandi Keller (Texas Seagrass), Erin Kinney (HARC), Marissa Llosa (Houston Parks Board), Christopher Marshall (TAMUG), Sherah McDaniel (UHCL), Theresa Morris (TAMUG), Bill Rodney (TPWD), Linda Shead (Citizens-at-Large: GBC Representative), Charrish Stevens (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries), Kathy Sweezey (The Nature Conservancy), Huy Vu (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Fiscal 2027 Section 320/State Funding Priorities

Lindsey Lippert provided an overview of the status of implementing the *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition*, along with history of projects funded through NRU. The subcommittee spent time discussing the priorities that we would like to see for the Fiscal 2027 Section 320/State funding. The following priorities were selected:

- Habitat Acquisition.
- Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts with special emphasis on:
 - Adaptive management for previously completed projects;
 - Projects that have lost funding from other federal sources; and
 - Nonnative species management.
- Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including [federal and state listed species](#), [Species of Greatest Conservation Need](#), or [nongame wildlife](#).
- Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple Priority Area/Subcommittee benefits to the program.
- Project urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost.

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

NRU Project Ideas for Consideration

Ms. Lippert opened the floor to members to present project ideas for vetting before the Fiscal 2027 funding cycle. Projects presented include:

- ABNC – Armand Bayou Nature Center: Baywood Golf Club Expansion (110 acres)
- TPWD/UH Coastal Center – Dana Cove Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island State Park and Oyster Shell Excavation and Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center

Additionally, Amanda Hackney mentioned the issue of nesting Diamondback terrapin in breakwaters. Ms. Lippert will work with Mandi Gordon (UHCL) to get a presentation on nesting/usage for NRU.

*Presentations and stream recording of the discussion are available upon request.

NRU Subcommittee Updates

Updates were presented on the following projects:

Project Name	PP	End
1. Sylvan Rodriguez Park Restoration Phase III	HPARD	05/31/25
2. Baytown Nature Center Oyster Reef Restoration and Shoreline Protection	GBF	05/31/25
3. Blackhawk Park Restoration	HPARD	08/31/25
4. Middle Armand Bayou Protection Project (IIJA)	ABNC	05/31/26
5. Salt Bayou Acquisition and Restoration Project (IIJA)	GBF	05/31/26
6. Coastal Savannah and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project (IIJA)	HPARD	05/31/26
7. GBEP Interactive Conservation and Restoration Project Portal	HARC	05/31/26
8. Clear Creek Riparian Restoration Project (II)	HCP2	05/31/26
9. White Oak Bayou Riparian Restoration Project	HPARD	05/31/26
10. The 9th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve	TPWD	05/31/26
11. The Impact of Cold-Stunning Events as Physical Stressors on Sea Turtle Movement and Behavior in Galveston Bay	TAMUG	11/30/25
12. Conservation Assistance Program (Fiscal 2025-30)	GBF	08/31/26
13. Wetland Planting Assistance in Galveston Bay	GBF	08/31/26
14. Bay Harbor Island Stabilization (Adaptive Management & Enhancement)	GBF	08/31/26
15. Monitoring and Managing the Threatened Eastern Black Rails in the Galveston Bay Area	TAMU	05/31/27
16. Herman Brown Park Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement Project- Phase I (IIJA)	HPARD	05/31/27
17. <i>From Scat to Conservation - Community-based Engagement for Galveston Bay's Ghost Wolves</i>	MTU	11/30/26
18. <i>The 10/11th Additions to the Coastal Heritage Preserve</i>	TPWD	08/31/27
19. <i>North Deer Island Erosion Control Phase One</i>	NAS	08/31/27
20. <i>Bayou Greenways Conservation Plan (IIJA)</i>	HPB	08/31/28

*Detailed spreadsheet and stream recording of the discussion are available upon request.

Updates from the Estuary Program

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

Ms. Gapayao also announced that the State of the Bay Symposium will take place February 24-25, 2026 at Moody Gardens. The call for abstracts will close June 20, 2025.

Ms. Marshall announced that all agendas for subcommittee meetings will now be posted on the GBEP website before meetings.

Other

Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting – Ms. Lippert announced that the primary focus of the September 2025 NRU meeting will be project proposals and recommendations for Fiscal 2027 Section 320 and State funding. Ms. Lippert will also communicate with Mandi Gordon for a presentation on Diamondback terrapin in Galveston Bay for either September or December 2025.

Roundtable

Savannah Horton (TPWD) gave a brief update on the status of the Giraffe Head restoration project. The next meeting will be announced soon to get feedback on preliminary design.

Karla Klay (The Artist Boat) announced that she will be interviewing Sandra Metoyer (UHCL) for World Ocean Day.

Adjourn

Future Meetings

Quarterly NRU Meeting(s)

- 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