

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

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

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03 September 2025

<b>SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR</b> Philip Smith	<b>SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIR</b> Scott Alford
<b>NRU COORDINATOR</b> Lindsey Lippert	

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**GBEP Staff Present**

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

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**Members/Participants Present**

Scott Alford (U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service), Sarah Belles (American Bird Conservancy), Sally Clark [Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)], Jenny Claycombe [Coastal Prairie Conservancy (CPC)], Jan Culbertson (Citizen), Danielle DeCheelis [University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL)], Jeffrey Fato (GBF), Mandi Gordon (UHCL), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), Kevin Hartke [Ducks Unlimited (DU)], Bryar Johnson [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)], Brandi Keller (Texas Sea Grant), Sandra Metoyer (UHCL), Evelyn Merz [(University of Houston Coastal Center (UHCC)], Kelli Ondracek [Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD)], Dianna Ramirez (Texas General Land Office), Michael Roberts (The Coastal Trust), Matt Singer (GBF), Philip Smith (USFWS), Lyndsey Ware (The Artist Boat)

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**Members/Participants via TEAMS**

Taylor Abshier (DU), Anna Armitage [Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG)], Alexis Balderra (Audubon Texas), Kevin De Santiago (Texas Water Trade), Pete Deichmann [Houston Audubon (HA)], Jack Fitch (RES), Bethany Foshee (CPC), Richard Gibbons, Jaime Gonzalez (UHCC), Nicole Hall (TCEQ), Savannah Horton [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)], Karastin Katusin [Houston Parks Board (HPB)], Erin Kinney (Houston Advanced Research Center), Karla Klay (The Artist Boat), Marissa Llosa (HPB), Jari McCoy (Bayou Preservation Association), Theresa Morris (TAMUG), Mary Anne Piacentini (CPC), Tiernan Pytlak (UHCL), Victoria Salgado (AECOM), Lindsey Savage (TPWD), Suzanne Simpson (GBF), Charrish Stevens (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries), Chloe Stifler (ABNC), Bill Stransky (Texas RICE), Kathy Sweezey (The Nature Conservancy), David Villareal (Texas Department of Agriculture), Huy Vu (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Anna Weiss (Vision Galveston), Katie Wilson (Galveston County Health District)

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**Fiscal 2027 NRU Proposal Presentations**

12 projects were presented to the NRU Subcommittee for the Fiscal 2027 Section 320/State funding cycle. Projects presented include:

#	Project Name	Grantee	Total Request
1	Upper Armand Bayou Protection Project: Baywood Golf Course Acquisition	ABNC	\$500,000
2	Galveston Bay Water Quality Protection, Watershed Conservation, and Public Access Expansion	Coastal Trust	\$285,821
3	Coastal Prairie Restoration and Habitat Enhancement	CPC	\$225,000
4	Salt Lake Native Marsh Shoreline Protection Project	FOBWR	\$48,000
5	GBF Bird Nesting Platform	GBF	\$48,875
6	FY 2027-2028 Conservation Assistance Program	GBF	\$250,000

7	Building Coastal Resilience on Bolivar Peninsula	HAS	\$250,000
8	Tidwell Park Riparian Restoration Project	HPARD	\$120,000
9	Jocelyn Nungaray NWR Tall Grass Prairie and Freshwater Wetlands Restoration	Texas RICE	\$50,000
10	The 11th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a 5th Acquisition at Middle Tract	TPWD	\$100,000
11	Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P. & Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center	TPWD	\$250,000
12	Pre- and Post-Restoration Terrapin Nesting Habitat Surveys at Galveston Island State Park	UHCL	\$103,613
<b>NRU Totals</b>			<b>\$2,231,309</b>

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

#### **Fiscal 2027 NRU Funding Recommendation**

The subcommittee spent time discussing the project recommendations for the Fiscal 2027 Section 320/State funding recommendations. While some projects were selected by consensus, the final funding recommendation was by priority ranking from eligible member organizations. The following projects were selected for recommendation. Projects in gray and italicized were not selected in the final projects approved by the Galveston Bay Council (GBC). Projects in red indicate modifications from the Galveston Bay Council:

#	Project Name	Grantee	Funding
1	Fiscal 2027-2028 Conservation Assistance Program [ <i>Note: Funding for Fiscal 2027-2028 authorized by GBC (\$125,000 per fiscal year)</i> ]	GBF	\$250,000
2	Building Coastal Resilience on Bolivar Peninsula (Bolivar Flats Acquisition)	HA	\$250,000
3	<b>The 11<sup>th</sup> Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve (Note: includes additional funding for habitat management post-acquisition)</b>	TPWD-AB	<b>\$117,308</b>
4	<b>Upper Armand Bayou Protection Project: Baywood Golf Course Acquisition</b> ( <i>Note: Funding secured from outside sources</i> )	ABNC	<b>\$0</b>
5	Jocelyn Nungaray NWR Tall Grass Prairie and Freshwater Wetlands Restoration	Texas RICE	\$50,000
6	<b>Shoreline Restoration at Galveston Island S.P. &amp; Prairie Restoration/Wetland Creation at UH Coastal Center</b> ( <i>Note: funding from No. 2 moved to fully fund project</i> )	TPWD-UH	<b>\$250,000</b>
7	Tidwell Park Riparian Restoration Project	HPARD	\$120,000
8	<i>Coastal Prairie Restoration and Habitat Enhancement</i>	CPC	\$0.00
9	<i>Salt Lake Native Marsh Shoreline Protection Project</i>	FOBWR	\$0.00
10	<i>GBF Bird Nesting Platform</i>	GBF	\$0.00
11	<i>Pre- and Post-Restoration Terrapin Nesting Habitat Surveys at Galveston Island State Park</i>	UHCL	\$0.00
12	<i>Galveston Bay Water Quality Protection, Watershed Conservation, and Public Access Expansion</i>	TCT	\$0.00
<b>NRU Totals</b>			<b>\$1,037,308</b>

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

#### **Other**

**Updates from the Estuary Program**  
Deferred due to timing constraints.

**Roundtable and Member Updates**  
Deferred due to timing constraints.

**Announcements**  
Deferred due to timing constraints.

**Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting** – Mandi Gordon will be presenting on Diamondback terrapin in Galveston Bay for December 2025.

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**Adjourn**

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**Future Meetings**

Quarterly NRU Meeting(s)

- December 3, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting – Hiatus

Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting – TBD