

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

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

03 December 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 via TEAMS

Scott Alford (U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service), Anna Armitage [Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG)], Alexis Baldera (Audubon Texas), Jan Culbertson (Citizen), Kevin De Santiago (Texas Water Trade), Danielle DeChellis [University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL)], Anna Deichmann (American Bird Conservancy), Pete Deichmann (Houston Audubon), Stephen Deiss (Coastal Prairie Conservancy), Jeffrey Fato [Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)], Mandi Gordon (UHCL), Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS), Kevin Hartke [Ducks Unlimited (DU)], Savannah Horton [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)], Bryar Johnson [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)], Karastin Katusin [Houston Parks Board (HPB)], Brandi Keller (Texas Sea Grant), Erin Kinney [Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)], Chris Marshall (TAMUG), Lalise Mason (Scenic Galveston), Todd Merendino (DU), Sandra Metoyer (UHCL), Evelyn Merz [(University of Houston Coastal Center, Jari McCoy (Bayou Preservation Association), Theresa Morris (TAMUG), Grant Moss [Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD)], Kelli Ondracek HPARD), Joshua Oyer [Texas General Land Office (GLO)], Dianna Ramirez (GLO), Bill Rodney (TPWD), Linda Shead (Citizen), Suzanne Simpson (GBF), Matt Singer (GBF), Philip Smith (USFWS), Charrish Stevens (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries), Chloe Stifler (Armand Bayou Nature Center), Kathy Swezey (The Nature Conservancy), Shea Venkatramani (Texas A&M University), David Villareal (Texas Department of Agriculture), Huy Vu (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Lyndsey Ware (The Artist Boat), Anna Weiss (Vision Galveston), Katie Wilson (Galveston County Health District)

Update on the GIS Portal

Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS) and Erin Kinney (HARC) presented an update to the GBEP Interactive Conservation and Restoration Project Portal, including status, functionality, and future information requests.

*PDF of the presentation is available upon request.

Coastal Diamonds: A History of Diamondback Terrapin in Texas

Mandi Gordon, senior biologist for the Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) at UHCL, presented on the history of the Diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) in the Galveston Bay watershed, and data/results from several studies conducted by UHCL and partners.

* PDF of the presentation is available upon request.

NRU Ongoing Project Updates

Project partners provided updates for ongoing NRU projects.

*Stream recording of the updates is available upon request.

Other

Updates from the Estuary Program

GBEP staff are currently in the process of moving offices; the March 2026 subcommittee meetings will be in the new location. Several larger projects are ongoing including the *Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* update and State of the Bay Symposium (February 24-25, 2026).

Zoe Gapayao announced there were a few openings left for outreach booths at the State of the Bay Symposium. Please email zoe.gapayao@tceq.texas.gov. Early registration for the symposium ends in early January 2026.

Roundtable and Member Updates

Alexis Baldera announced the draft Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE) [2026 Funded Priorities List](#)¹ has been published and is out for public comment, ending January 2, 2026.

Philip Smith announced that Woody Woodrow (USFWS), former NRU Chair and important contributor to GBEP and many of our partners, will be retiring at the end of the year. Please reach out and wish him the best!

Announcements

None.

Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting - TBD.

Adjourn

Future Meetings

Quarterly NRU Meeting(s)

- March 4, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
- June 3, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
- September 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
- December 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting - Hiatus

Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting - TBD

¹ <https://www.restorethegulf.gov/our-work/fpl/2026fpl/>