

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EDUCATION (PPE)
SUBCOMMITTEE
GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2026
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Hybrid Meeting (Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams and In-Person at 1002 Gemini St, Suite 214, Houston, TX 77058)

Subcommittee Chair: Cindy Wilems, Education Director, Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)

Subcommittee Vice Chair: Kendall Guidroz, Senior Planner, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) Representative: Zoe Gapayao

Attendees: Cindy Wilems, Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF); Kendall Guidroz, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC); Sarah Stannard, Texas A&M AgriLife/Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI); Kate Unger, National Wildlife Federation (NWF); Rowena McDermid, University of Houston Clear Lake (UHCL); Sydney Fanning, Friends of Flower Garden Banks (FoFGB); Liz Virgl, American Bird Conservancy (ABC); Brandi Keller, Texas A&M AgriLife/Texas Sea Grant; Stephanie Gray, Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELf); Christie Taylor, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension; David Sharp, Exploration Green Conservancy; Morton Sager, ABC; Marissa Llosa, Houston Parks Board (HPB); Amy Neblett, Artist Boat; Mary Curtis, UHCL; Brittani Flowers, Bayou Preservation Association (BPA); Katie Wilson, Galveston County Health District (GCHD); Alenka Cardenas, Bayou City Waterkeeper (BCWK); Andrea Barrera, BPA; Austin Perez, Willow Waterhole; Bethany Foshee, Coastal Prairie Conservancy (CPC); Paige Breon, Texas A&M University Galveston (TAMUG); Debbie Bush, UHCL; Elizabeth Schneider Walla, Galveston Park Board; Eowyn Johnson, Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council (GINTC); Erin Kinney, Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC); Jennifer Irving, HARC; Jaden Kelly, Texas A&M Forest Service; Kristen Schlemmer, BCWK; Coral Lozada, Houston Methodist; Marya Fowler, NWF; Theresa Morris, TAMUG; Pam Smolen, Birds Houston; Cecilia Pham, Houston Public Library (HPL); Nicole Plowman, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD); Carolyn Pope, TAMUG; Huy Vu, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Jari McCoy, BPA; Natasha Zarnstorff, GBF; Melissa Wong, Houston Zoo; Rachel Weaver, Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT); Ivett Gomez, former GBEP intern; Lisa Marshall (GBEP); Celina Gauthier Lowry (GBEP); Christian Rines (GBEP); Lindsey Lippert (GBEP); Jenelle Estrada (GBEP); Hope Cole (GBEP);

FY 2028 Funding PPE Project Presentations

Presenters had five minutes to present their projects followed by questions.

- Connecting Galveston Bay Communities to Conservation Through Birds and Stewardship
- Exploring Environmental Health with STYLE (Sustained Training for Youth Leadership)
- Roadside Swale Capacity Building Initiative
- Ingraham Gully Community Watershed Stewardship Project
- Bay Ambassadors' Toolkit: Communications Capacity Building
- Connecting Watersheds to Well-Being: A One Health Education Initiative for Galveston Bay
- Bayou Greenways Conservation Academy
- Resilient Schools and Communities: Stewardship of the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed
- Watershed Galveston Bay: Educator Professional Development for Watershed Stewardship
- Nature-based Stormwater Infrastructure Capacity Building Workshops for Lower Galveston Bay Region
- Coordination of the River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash
- Community Outreach on KPRC Take 2
- Galveston Bay Social Studies Teachers Empowering Wetland Awareness and Responsible Decisions and Solutions (Galveston Bay STEWARDS)
- Texas Envirothon Teacher Capacity Building Project

Ranking Guidelines and Timeline for FY 2028 Project Selections

Zoe Gapayao informed the PPE subcommittee that they will receive the project ranking form after the meeting. Ranking forms are due by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026. Projects are to be ranked with 1 as the highest, most favored rank. Comments and feedback to presenters will remain anonymous. Ms. Gapayao reminded the subcommittee of the current PPE subcommittee bylaws, which state, "To be eligible in matters requiring ranking, a member organization must have a member or designated proxy present (in-person and virtual) for the project presentation meeting and at least 2 of the 4 previous Subcommittee meetings." Each member organization will only submit one ranking form and any member organization that would receive money from a project cannot rank that project.

Top ranked projects will be presented to the Budget & Priorities (B&P) subcommittee for approval at the B&P meeting on September 30. Selected projects will be presented to the Galveston Bay Council for final approval at the Council meeting on October 14th.

Ms. Gapayao reminded virtual attendees to send in a Conflict of Interest form with their ranking if they had not sent a signed copy back already.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 2 at 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned