

Highland Bayou Workgroup Meeting Notes DRAFT

August 23rd • 12:00-2:30 p.m.

Galveston County Extension Office – Classroom 2, Carbide Park
4102-B Main Street (FM 519), La Marque, Texas 77568-4666

Steve Mikulencak (TX Coastal Watershed Program (TCWP)), Celina Lowry (TCWP), Amanda Solitro (TCWP), Valeria Rodriguez (TCWP), Charriss York (TCWP), Race Hodges (TCWP), Mario Beddingfield (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)), Coraggio Maglio (USACE), Sarah Gossett (Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)), Nancy Baher (Galveston County Engineering), Julie Diaz (Galveston County Parks), Robert Simoneau (Galveston County Parks), Lee Crowder (Galveston County Road and Bridge), Michael Shannon (Galveston County Engineering), Martin Entringer (Galveston County Health District (GCHD)), Taylor Sanford (GCHD), Charlene Warren (City of La Marque), Robert Michetich (City of La Marque), Les Rumburg (City of La Marque), Michelle Krause (Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP)), Lindsey Lippert (GBEP), Bill Alcorn (Municipal Utility District (MUD) 12), Bob Bassett (MUD 12), Steve Pennings (University of Houston), Steven Mitchell (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), Tim O'Connell (Resident Stakeholder), Herb Roper (Resident Stakeholder).

Introductions

Steven Mikulencak and Celina Lowry introduced themselves and asked attendees to share their name and affiliation. Steven Mikulencak gave a quick update on the status of the Watershed Protection Plan for the Highland Bayou Watershed.

Race Hodges from TCWP announced the Galveston County Resiliency Workshop occurring in September and invited attendees. The resiliency workshops fall under a separate project from the Highland Bayou Watershed Protection plan but may be of interest to Highland Bayou workgroup attendees. TCWP will be hosting two workshops on September 15th and 16th for Upper Galveston County communities and Lower Galveston County communities, respectfully. The workshops will discuss how to manage development and growth over the next 30 years to minimize disaster risk to people and property. For more information or to RSVP for this free, catered event, e-mail race.hodges@tamu.edu or call Race at 281-210-6067.

Steven Mikulencak introduced Mario Beddingfield and Coraggio Maglio from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Galveston District. Eddie Irigoyen from USACE was unable to attend.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Galveston District Presentation and Discussion

Mario Beddingfield and Coraggio Maglio introduced partnership and funding opportunities through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers including the Planning Assistance to States (PAS), the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) and the Flood Plain Management Services Program (FPMS). Studies under the PAS or CAP programs are cost shared with the option of work-in-kind. FPMS was introduced as another avenue to request technical services to better understand an existing problem. Technical services through the FPMS might consist of modeling or data collection to recommend potential solutions. Information from the FPMS could contribute to a CAP study or regional plan management. Attendees asked questions regarding various projects, funding opportunities, maintenance provided by USACE once a project is completed, and other issues in the watershed.

Recommendation for Highland Bayou workgroup: a non-federal public agency sponsor should submit a letter to request a study through the USACE Galveston District Floodplain Management Services. They would direct us to the correct program from there. Michael Shannon asked what specific information

needs to be included in the request to ensure the best communication. Attendees were asked if they would be willing to join a smaller workgroup to request a study through the USACE and a sign-up sheet was placed by the door.

Community Health and Resources Management (CHARM) Mapping Demonstration

Race Hodges passed out flyers for the Galveston County Resiliency Workshop occurring on September 15th and 16th. Race introduced the Community Health and Resources Management mapping (CHARM) application and invited attendees to map out scenarios at the CHARM Demo table set-up in the back of the meeting room. CHARM allows communities to see the impact that different development scenarios, of their choosing, would have on increasing disaster risk. It is one of the few predictive land use mapping tools in existence, and will be the focal point of the resiliency workshops on September 15th and 16th. This is a free software program provided by A&M's Texas Coastal Watershed Program.