

# Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds

## MEETING NOTES

April 10, 2017

1:30-3:30 PM

### Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office

Charriss York started the meeting, welcomed those in attendance and explained the purpose of the Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds. She explained that stakeholders in attendance represent four watersheds: Bastrop Bayou, Dickinson Bayou, Highland Bayou, and Jarbo Bayou. Attendees then introduced themselves and as part of their introduction they stated what they felt was the biggest water quality issue in their watershed. Those comments are compiled in the list below (if an item appears more than once, each listing represents one time it was stated).

- Growth
- Development & sprawl
- Drinking water & drinking water supply
- Saltwater backup and change to the freshwater inflows
- Growth & expansion
- Education
- Bayou is small and divided, physical problems
- Legacy OSSFs
- Growth for the future
- Drainage & growth
- Pump stations
- Runoff from plants
- TCEQ permeants for new discharges
- Septic systems & determining if they really are a problem
- Illegal dumping
- Construction issues
- Bacteria and illegal dumping
- People making changes/educating the public
- Development and impervious cover
- Leaching from bulk heads
- Development
- Implementation of plans
- Funding
- Fresh water supply
- Desalination in the future
- Development
- Educating the correct people
- Funding

- Battling misinformation
- Educating developers – incentive programs
- People
- Lack of knowledge & putting the issue on people’s radar
- Getting people to take issue

After the introductions, Charriss discussed the reasons for forming the Coalition which are to form partnerships to implement existing Watershed Based Plans in Galveston and Brazoria Counties, especially in the four partner watersheds mentioned above. The plan is to share resources and funding to implement similar implementation measures across all four watersheds, better utilizing and sharing resources. She then reviewed all four watersheds so everyone in attendance would have a basic knowledge them.

Attendees then were asked to work in a group to brainstorm words or phrases that could be part of a vision statement for the Coalition. These are compiled below, bold words were noted the group discussion as occurring across multiple groups.

- **Clean water** for people and environment
- Education
- Quality
- **Working together**
- Ideas
- Communication
- Flowing water
- Pressure for wild and develop lands
- Improve
- Protect
- Life
- Ecosystem
- Watersheds
- **Water quality**
- Sustainable
- Promote education and awareness
- Healthy
- **Partnership**
- Funding/investment
- **Coordinated effort**
- Coastal protect
- Water does not go uphill
- **Clean water** for all our habitat/people
- Area of **cooperation**...water source and **drainage**
- Flooding
- Free flowing environmentally friendly watershed
- Clear, unimpeded, healthy
- Economic health, sustainable resiliency
- Empower, next level, achieve cooperative goals
- Leaving our **water cleaner** than we found it for a **healthy** future
- Working together to make our water cleaner for a healthy future.

- Providing a safe stormwater environment through cooperation.  
(Submitted via email)

The Coalition will begin meeting on a monthly basis for the time being to establish a vision, goals, project ideas, and continue working toward implementing watershed based plans.

Finally, a homework assignment was given for each stakeholder to think of a water quality related project they would like to see implemented and what barriers currently are standing in the way of that project.