

Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds

MEETING NOTES

July 10, 2017

1:30-3:30 PM

Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office

Attendees: Charriss York, Ed Linck, Justin Bower, Celina Lowry, Bryan Eastham, Lisa Marshall, Jack Murphy, Nate Johnson

Attendees were given the opportunity to add new project ideas to the on-going list but no new ideas were proposed at this time.

Announcements

July 11th – Watershed Stewards workshop, 1-5 PM at Brazoria County Fairgrounds EEA Building, 901 S. Downing Road, Angleton.

July 21st – OSSF workshop for residents, 9AM -12 PM Texas AgriLife, Brazoria County, 21017 County Rd. 171, Angleton, TX 77515

August 1st – Brazos – Colorado Coastal Basin Public Meeting, West Columbia Civic Center, 3-5 PM.

August 10th – San Jacinto – Brazos Coastal Basin Public Meeting (includes discussion of Chocolate Bayou) – Brazoria County Public Library-Alvin Branch 3-5 PM.

Ed Linck spoke about several Jarbo Bayou specific concerns:

- Pipelines in the watershed that restrict tunneling and impede the water way, they also impact moving water across the roads (e.g. Hwy 146)
- The bayou does not flush well and looking for ways to improve that
- The proposed Grand Parkway could have a major impact if constructed, feels there is a need to increase awareness of public meetings

Project Development

Public Education

- Should not just talk about water quality but should talk about topics of interest to people and how they relate to water quality
- We need to meet people where they are – when our interests and theirs overlap
- We cannot make folks care about water quality
- We need to find out what people need information about.
- Workshop topics:
 - o OSSFs
 - o Riparian streams banks & living shorelines
 - o Green infrastructure
 - o Conservation easements
 - o Conservation assistance programs for landowners

The following question was asked “In the future, is the Coalition going to be a source of funding for other group?”

- What is the funding source for this? Who would the Coalition serve? (Schools? Cities? Small not for profit groups?) Is this a way to funnel money and direct work within partner watersheds?
- Look into the National Academy of Science Capacity Building Grants that are offered every 2-3 years, and will probably be open for applications in 2018.

Possible source of match from HGAC Clean Rivers Program, for water quality data collection they do on Dickinson and Highland Bayous.

Potential grant applications:

- TCEQ 319(h) – yes
- TSSWCB 319(h) – maybe
- Coastal Management Program – maybe
- Galveston Bay Estuary Program – yes

League City & WCID #12 can potentially provide support letters for grant applications with about 4 weeks of lead time.

Coalition vision statement

Working DRAFT Vision statement: Partnering for healthy watersheds.

The vision will be re-visited at the August meeting as well as a discussion of goals.