

Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds

MEETING NOTES

August 14, 2017

1:30-3:30 PM

Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office

Attendees: Charriss York, Brian Koch, Bryan Eastham, Lisa Marshall, Steven Johnston, Katie Wilson, Jack Murphy, Lori FitzSimmons-Evans, Sarah Gossett

- Welcome & add projects ideas to ongoing list and discuss as appropriate

Steven Johnston gave an update on the San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin meeting. He provided the following updates:

- Chocolate Bayou – the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Technical Support Document is completed, the stakeholders will determine if a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) or Implementation Plan (I-Plan) is the best option for the watershed
- Oyster Creek – HGAC will complete the TMDL Technical Support Document next fiscal year
- San Bernard River – HGAC implementing the WPP, tidal portion is in Brazoria County

Charriss and Lisa Marshall updated the group on the plan for completing the Highland Bayou WPP. In fiscal year 2018, TIAER at Tarleton State University will determine a method for adding flow to the loading calculations (exact method is not yet known but we expect a surrogate will be used somehow). Once TCEQ approves this approach, TCEQ will fund TIAER to complete the methodology in fiscal year 2019. The Texas Coastal Watershed Program (who wrote the draft WPP) is applying for Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) funding to complete the WPP in FY2018, this will include additional stakeholder meetings as well as updating the document to include the work done by TIAER.

As follow up to the July meeting discussion. Charriss reported the following updates to Project development & Potential grant applications:

- TCEQ 319(h) – ~~yes~~, was not submitted
- TSSWCB 319(h) – maybe, due 9/15/2017
- Coastal Management Program – maybe
- Galveston Bay Estuary Program – yes, submitted

Meeting attendees discussed the draft Coalition vision statement from the July meeting. After considering a few alterations, the group decided to adopt the draft vision statement. **Partnering for healthy watersheds.**

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing Coalition goals. Charriss provided a list of potential goals and after an initial discussion the group decided to create several broad goals, each of which is supported by several specific action items. See page two of the notes for the list of goals and action items.

Coalition funding and long term needs will be the main topic for the September 2017 Coalition meeting.

Goals and Action Items

Goal: Promote widespread community awareness and engagement in the protection and improvement of Coalition watersheds.

Action Items:

- Work to establish a household hazardous waste facility for Galveston County.
- Identify new methods to reach citizens and make real change
- Find appropriate advocates to engage local governments/officials
- Coordinate with Coalition partners for education implementation measures

Goal: Work as a team to implement management measures from plans in Coalition watersheds.

Action Items:

- Work with partners to remove debris from Coalition bayous
- Determine and pursue dredging needs for Coalition bayous
- Support bacteria source tracking projects that benefit Coalition watersheds
- Support wastewater infrastructure improvements for public and private entities in Coalition watersheds
- Work with partners to reduce FOG & wipes in sanitary sewer systems
- Support communities in Coalition watersheds in their efforts to manage development
- Promote the use of natural riparian buffers

Goal: Ensure the long term funding of the Coalition.

Action Items:

- Obtain funding for a Coalition Coordinator
- Apply for 3 grants per year to support Coalition efforts
- Establish a secure local funding mechanism to support Coalition efforts