

# Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds

## MEETING NOTES

December 11, 2017

1:30-3:30 PM

### Galveston County Health District

Attendees: Celina Lowry, Jack Murphy, Alex Noel, Lisa Marshall, Bryan Eastham, Martin Entringer, Lori FitzSimmons-Evans, Brian Koch, Linda Broach, Charriss York

- Brief Discussion of Post-Harvey workshops

Charriss discussed the plan for the Post-Harvey workshops and asked for any new ideas. The group discussed the Community Ratings System (CRS), a program available to eligible communities, by taking certain actions and public education steps a community can earn a rating that will reduce the overall cost of flood insurance for homeowners in that community by a certain percentage. The group felt that informing community members about CRS could be beneficial and the CRS communities might be able to count participating in the Open House toward their CRS activities.

An important *misconception* to keep in mind and possibly address at the Open House is that preventing flooding is in opposition to improving water quality. In reality, a number of practices exist that can both reduce flood risk and improve water quality.

At the January meeting, AgriLife Staff from Charriss' office will provide a demonstration of their CHARM GIS mapping tool and the group can decide if this is an appropriate way to present a case study at the Open House.

- Coalition sustainability and long term funding options

The group reviewed the Dickinson Bayou Options summary created in 2014 (see attached) by the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership. The summary is an overview of how various watershed groups around the county have funded long-term implementation efforts. Based on this work, the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership decided to reach out to stakeholders from other watersheds. In general the Coalition members present felt that the best path forward for now is for AgriLife to continue seeking grant funds for Coalition building and projects and to reach out to members for grant matching funds as appropriate. Long-term, a different funding mechanism could be explored. Some examples of *potential* matching funds are listed below.

- Galveston County Health District: Existing ambient water quality monitoring may be possible, water testing services for Galveston County and cities within the County – these would depend on the project area and the current monitoring plan of GCHD
- Houston-Galveston Area Council: Routine monitoring of Dickinson Bayou and other waterbodies within the Coalition - these would depend on the project area and the activities and needs of HGAC

- League City: none know of to date, but are willing to discuss opportunities as they arise
- Dickinson Bayou Watershed Steering Committee: should meet with this group to see what projects they have on the horizon, these are regional projects done with local funding, and have the potential to be a source of matching funds

Charriss will reach out to other entities for one-on-one discussions about funding and potential matching funds.

- 2018 Programing and Projects

No additional programming or projects were discussed.