

Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds

Bastrop Bayou | Dickinson Bayou | Highland Bayou | Jarbo Bayou

Partnering for healthy watersheds.

agrilife.org/coalitionofwatersheds

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 | 1:30-2:30 PM

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM with call in option

Dredging/Erosion Control/Riparian Buffers

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Sean Skipworth, Nicole Plowman, Katie Wilson, Michael Shannon, Jean Wright, Barbara Bellows, Clay Forister, Jack Murphy, Charriss York, and Celina Gauthier Lowry

Projects and Priorities

A brief presentation included instructions for building on the pool of project ideas, including questions to guide the exercise:

- Is there an education or outreach opportunity?
- How can we benefit multiple watersheds or communities?
- Are we the group to implement the idea?

The Coalition will aim to complete six education/outreach efforts before Thanksgiving 2021.

Review project opportunities and refine project strategies and actions.

Project idea - **Policy decisions regarding dredging** – Outreach to policy makers on policy decisions regarding dredging

- What are the interactions between cities, drainage districts, and counties?
- Workshop of flood education targeted to city leaders/officials; post Harvey status/actions; jurisdictions-who does what?; Dickinson first, then other watersheds?
- Evenings might be better for elected-appointed officials
- Drone flight/other information on bayous for the presentation – can show multiple waterways this way
- Boat ride for local officials
- What development is allowable along the banks of the bayous? What permits are needed? How are these developments approved?
- Approach drainage districts for understanding of what they can do; maintenance approaches past and future; work with those who are willing

- Some areas are not maintained by drainage districts or another entity
- These agencies do not have a lot of funding; need to get everyone together in one room
- Neighborhoods and waterways are connected
- Dredging requires approval
- Dickinson Bayou Steering Committee is another group in the area

Project idea - **How bayous operate and tidal movement of sediment** – Public interest and misconceptions on how bayous operate, dredging versus drainage maintenance, and the tidal movement of sediment

- The width and adjacent properties along Dickinson Bayou have changed a lot over the years.
- Alternatives to dredging for flood control; room for more than dredging
- Topography in Brazoria County is conducive to flooding
- GCHD pollution control and HGAC have collected bathymetry and cross section data of Dickinson Bayou to see the physical structure

Project idea - **Riparian buffer, Low impact development, and Erosion Control** – Riparian buffers, various household-based LID practices, and other erosion control measures

- No additional discussion took place at this meeting

Project idea - **Outreach to boaters on shoreline erosion** – Outreach to boaters regarding boater responsibility and shoreline erosion

- No additional discussion took place at this meeting

Resources shared by Coalition members

- I-45 Now news - <https://twitter.com/i45now> and <https://www.facebook.com/i45now>

Next Steps and Future Meetings

The discussion at this meeting will help determine the six or so projects the Coalition will carry out in 2021. Several in attendance expressed being open to providing more information or discussing these ideas further. Celina will follow up project ideas with individual stakeholders. Before the next meeting, information from this meeting and individual stakeholder conversations will be pulled together and shared with the Coalition.