

# Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds

Bastrop Bayou | Dickinson Bayou | Highland Bayou | Jarbo Bayou

*Partnering for healthy watersheds.*

[agrilife.org/coalitionofwatersheds](http://agrilife.org/coalitionofwatersheds)

Tuesday, March 24, 2021 | 1:30-2:30 PM

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM with call in option

## Debris in bayous and illegal dumping sites

### MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Kendall Guidroz, Sonia Phillips, Katie Wilson, Nicole Plowman, Charriss York, and Celina Gauthier Lowry

### Projects and Priorities

During the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Coalition meeting, there was no breakout room discussion for this topic area. A brief presentation included instructions to start a 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 – **Tire drop off/reporting** – Share locations/instructions on how to dispose of used tires or who to notify when you see them abandoned.

- Tires are an issue
- What do you do if you see tires on the roadway?
- Free locations to drop off in Galveston County – City of Dickinson drop off is reoccurring
- Education to let people know about drop off and reporting

### Project idea – **Video or art contest for students on trash/illegal dumping**

- Galveston County fair is in April; Brazoria County fair is in the fall
- Earth Day events; other days to plan for
- Potential to collaborate with 4H?

Project idea – **Work with other groups on trash/plastics in waterways**

- Plastics Pollution Prevention Partnership (P3)
- Partners in Litter Prevention - <https://www.donttrashagoodthing.org/>

Project idea – **Large items/Vessels pickup/drop off**

- How to reach boaters? Registration at TPWD? Signage at boat ramps? Private boat ramps?
- How much participation do drop off events get? Are there any coming up? Brazoria County had a recent event for vessel collection
- Vessels are abandoned after large storms, after accidents, not always planned
- Is GLO the one to call when you see abandoned vessels?
- GBF does a removal event
- Does either county have materials to share? Anything on illegal dumping?

Project idea – **Trash Bash** – Direct community groups to annual Trash Bash

- There are several Trash Bash sites in Coalition watersheds
- Additional sites can be added
- Happening March 2021

Project idea – **Trash Free Texas** – Direct community groups to Trash Free Texas.

- Looking for local governments to add new collection sites; opportunity for cities to partner without hosting their own site
- Increase awareness for more volunteers to see resource
- Gather list of interested organizations

Project idea – **General illegal dumping education**

- Delivery – movie theatres, bill boards, boat parade (Kemah July 4, League City Christmas, Dickinson)

Project idea – **Statewide waterway trash and marine debris database by HARC**

- Would Coalition communities be interested in submitting or using data?

Resources shared by Coalition members

- List of community events in Texas- <https://www.fairsandfestivals.net/events/search>
- Coastal Communities can share announcements or add links via website

### **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.