

Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds

Bastrop Bayou | Dickinson Bayou | Highland Bayou | Jarbo Bayou

Partnering for healthy watersheds.

<https://agrilife.org/coalitionofwatersheds/>

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 | 1:30-3:00 PM

Galveston County Extension Office (Carbide Park),

102-B Main Street (FM 519) La Marque, TX 77568

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Lindsey Lippert, Cora Selden, Andrea Tantillo, Julie Masters, Ivan Langford, Nicole Plowman, Meagan Thibodaux, Ariana Gonzalez, Georgia Argentine, Dennis Wagner, Robert Michetich, Rick Sailler, Matt Maggiolino, Chaise Cary, Katie Wilson, Brian Koch, Brandi Keller, Natasha Zarnstorff, Celina Gauthier Lowry

Welcome and Introductions

Individual introductions started with Celina Gauthier Lowry from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Texas Community Watershed Partners and Brandi Keller from Galveston County Extension. Hardcopies of the meeting agenda and *Priority Outreach Topics and Draft Implementation Actions* exercise [handout](#) were provided.

A brief history of the Coalition including the intent for forming the group – to form partnerships to implement existing watershed-based plans in Brazoria and Galveston counties, to share resources and funding to conduct similar implementation actions across all four watersheds - better utilizing and sharing resources. After a brief introduction to watersheds, watershed-based plans, non-point source pollution, funding to support Coalition meetings and implementation through summer 2026, and MS4 considerations, an overview of each Coalition watershed was shared.

Review and discuss priority topics determined at previous meetings

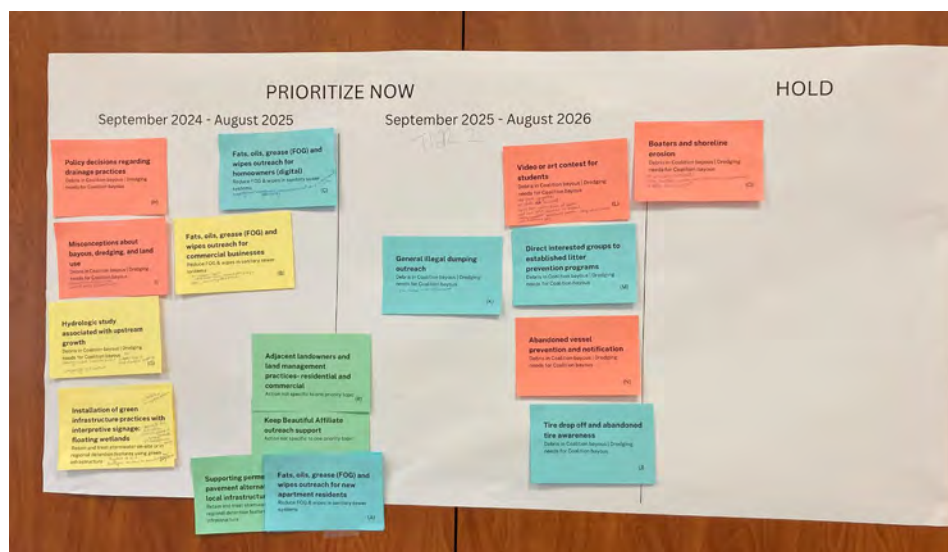
- *Reduce fats, oils, grease (FOG) and wipes in sanitary sewer systems*
- *Debris in Coalition bayous - Dredging needs for Coalition bayous*
- *Retain and treat stormwater on-site or in regional detention features using green infrastructure*

Sorting Exercise – prioritize implementation actions; add ideas to ongoing list

Draft Implementation Actions were sorted into three categories:

- *Prioritize Now* September 2024 – August 2025
- *Prioritize Now* September 2025 – August 2026
- *Hold*

Review and discussion of actions and project ideas during sorting exercise.



Color categories to communicate project origin/status for reference during exercise:

Blue	Implementation Started [2021 Strategic Action Plan]
Green	Additional Funding Secured [Start in 6-12 months]
Yellow	NEW [2024]
Orange	Held for Future [2021 Strategic Action Plan]

Complete list of implementation actions and group discussion from sorting exercise (next page).

Implementation Action	Group discussion items	ID and origin/status color code*
<u>Prioritize Now: September 2024 – August 2025</u>		
<i>PRIORTIY TOPIC: Reduce fats, oils, grease (FOG) and wipes in sanitary sewer systems</i>		
New apartment residents	Previous efforts discussed.	A – Blue
Commercial businesses	Businesses have turnover, some don't realize they have grease traps.	B – Yellow
Homeowners (digital)	Water quality outreach with Omega Bay's new management communication software: text, email, and web; Previous efforts under this action discussed.	C – Blue
Utility district residents	Previous efforts discussed.	D – Blue
Interactive booth at in-person event	Previous efforts discussed.	E – Blue
Collection point/receptacle awareness and additions	Previous efforts discussed.	F - Blue
<i>PRIORTIY TOPIC: Debris in Coalition bayous Dredging needs for Coalition bayous</i>		
Hydrologic study associated with upstream growth	G, H, and I were discussed first; Growth in the region; League City population and percentage built-out; DD1 adoption of Atlas 14.	G – Yellow
Policy decisions regarding drainage practices	Progress in the past toward events to bring together	H – Orange
Misconceptions about bayous, dredging, and land use	Residents need education; Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) project Dickinson Bayou	I – Orange
<i>PRIORITY TOPIC: Actions not specific to one priority topic</i>		
Adjacent landowners and land management practices – residential and commercial	Three-part direct mail outreach to bayou adjacent residential property owners; outreach to patrons of two bayou adjacent businesses. Water Quality topics to be determined. Support letters and cost share provided by Coalition partners.	R – Green
Keep beautiful Affiliate outreach support	Workshops and outreach support for Coalition area Keep Beautiful groups. Water quality topics to be determined.	S – Green

	Support letters and cost share provided by Coalition partners.	
Supporting permeable pavement alternatives for local infrastructure projects	Interviews with practitioners on willingness and experience with installation; cost estimates obtained for Coalition chosen example installation; white paper with project results.	Q - Green
<i>PRIORTIY TOPIC: Retain and treat stormwater on-site or in regional detention features using green infrastructure</i>		
Installation of green infrastructure practices with interpretive signage	Alternatives for development, City predevelopment meetings; Education for developers and engineers; HOAs not keeping up detention (turnover); Not a lot of people know about the practices in place, better advertising; Developers respond to incentives (Mont Belvieu example).	P - Yellow
Installation of green infrastructure practices with interpretive signage – floating wetlands	UTMB League City portion of detention	P - Yellow

<u>Prioritize Now: September 2025 – August 2026 [Tier II]</u>		
<i>PRIORTIY TOPIC: Debris in Coalition bayous Dredging needs for Coalition bayous</i>		
Tire drop off and abandoned tire awareness		J - Blue
General illegal dumping outreach	Combine this topic with other ones efforts?	K - Blue
Video or art contest for students	Getting youth involved; Artist Boat marine debris contest; Challenges getting teachers interested outside of rodeo art; EPA grant competition.	L - Orange
Direct interested groups to established litter prevention programs		M - Blue
Abandoned vessel prevention and notification		N - Orange

<u>HOLD / Tier II</u>		
<i>PRIORTIY TOPIC: Debris in Coalition bayous Dredging needs for Coalition bayous</i>		
Boaters and shoreline erosion	Not as widely applicable; Living shorelines permitting cost prohibitive for landowners; No wake zone buoys.	O – Orange

* See project categories by color image above for more information on origin or status of each implementation action.

Additional discussion items:

- Water quality sampling for Omega Bay and areas next to the Motco superfund site. Monitoring resources: Clean Rivers Program-Houston-Galveston Area Council, Texas Stream Team-Galveston Bay Foundation, Galveston County Health District monitoring. The Coalition has a State of Water Quality for Coalition Watersheds initial report from 2021 (focused on bacteria) with updates coming. Galveston Bay Estuary Program has monitoring data for emerging contaminants. They will pass along a more readable form and the website to those interested.
- Need from municipalities for generators for lift stations and to establish associated electrical connections. Prevent pollutants entering our bayous during storm events like Hurricane Beryl. Resources: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Texas A&M AgriLife's Disaster Assessment and Recovery Unit (DAR), and Houston-Galveston Area Council.
- Need from municipalities for infrastructure improvements to prevent sanitary sewer overflows. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)'s State Revolving Fund was suggested as one source.

Announcements

[Social Science for Coastal Managers, NOAA full day program](#)

Thurs, September 26, 2024. 9am-4pm. Program designed to equip attendees with a better understanding of the human element to coastal management. Although the title says coastal managers, it is for anyone that deals with coastal issues and the public. 4102-B Main Street (in Carbide Park), La Marque, Tx 77568. Contact Brandi Keller at brandi.keller@ag.tamu.edu.

[Green Infrastructure in Landscaping](#)

Thurs, September 26, 2024. 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Do you want to learn more about landscaping practices that manage rainwater on-site? Join us and find out more about how landscaping can clean and conserve rainwater for people and wildlife. These approaches work in public spaces, private businesses, and your

yard! Local elected officials, board and commission members, business owners, and residents will benefit from attending. Hitchcock City Hall, 8102 Highway 6, Hitchcock, TX 77563; [Flyer](#). Contact Celina Gauthier Lowry at celina.lowry@ag.tamu.edu.

[TSSWCB Requests Proposals](#) for FY2025 Nonpoint Source Grant Program

Deadline Fri, September 20, 2024. Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is requesting proposals for watershed assessment, planning, implementation, demonstration and education projects. *Proposed projects should focus on agricultural and/or silvicultural nonpoint source pollution prevention and abatement activities within the boundaries of impaired or threatened watersheds.* Contact Jana Lloyd at (254) 773-2250 ext. 224 or (254) 231-2491 for more information.

[Dig Deeper into Soil Health](#), a workshop focused on Urban and Suburban Landscapes

Tues., October 29, 2024. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Healthy, functioning soils reduce sedimentation and runoff, improve water storage while protecting water quality, are resilient to drought, temperature extremes, fire and flood, reduce disease and pest problems, and much more. *Local practitioners at parks departments, ISDs, hospital campuses, counties, and municipalities will benefit from attending with homeowners, urban gardeners and farmers, and small landowners welcome.* Multi-speaker agenda. Hands on demonstrations. Location TBA. Southeast Harris County. [Save the Date](#). Contact Celina Gauthier Lowry at celina.lowry@ag.tamu.edu.

Next Steps and Future Meetings

Attendees were asked their preference in attending topic-specific meetings virtually and attending the next whole-group meeting in-person, if held at the Galveston County Extension Office at Carbide Park in La Marque. The answer was yes. A survey for availability will be emailed before the next meetings are scheduled. Topic specific meetings will be held virtually before the next whole-group meeting to further develop projects and make to determine which we will move forward as a group.

Next whole group meeting date: Early November, Carbide Park, La Marque