

## Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds

Bastrop Bayou | Dickinson Bayou | Highland Bayou | Jarbo Bayou

*Partnering for healthy watersheds.*

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

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 | 10:00-11:30 AM

Galveston County Extension Office (Carbide Park),

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

### MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Stacey Baker, Arnold Cross, Meagan Thibodaux, Andrea Tantillo, Rechara Loftis, Katie Wilson, Nicole Plowman, Georgia Argentine, Brian Koch, Celina Gauthier Lowry

#### Welcome and Introductions

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

A brief introduction to the Coalition, watershed-based plans, non-point source pollution and funding for Coalition meetings and implementation through summer 2026 provided.

#### Priority Topic Updates

Individual efforts from *Priority Outreach Topics and Draft Implementation Actions* handout reviewed and updates presented. As actions moved forward needs of individual organization are assessed through the group.

#### Debris in Coalition bayous - Dredging needs for Coalition bayous

- Availability pending for guest presentation on the River Basin Flood Study (RBFS) by GLO. Originally anticipated for future Debris-Dredging virtual meeting, the presentation is now being considered for an upcoming quarterly meeting.
- The group expressed interest in having speakers present at quarterly meetings with an openness to various topics including flood initiatives in our region.
- The date for the next quarterly H-GAC Regional Flood Management Committee meeting in a future Coalition announcement email July date is confirmed.
- Bridge construction anticipated in Hitchcock over Highland Bayou at 2004. Restoration of banks after construction brought up as concern. Can a presenter be identified to share experience on restoration of this kind at a future meeting?

- Maintenance of contributing drainage areas adjacent to Jarbo Bayou. Shared experiences brought up by the group.

#### Retain and treat stormwater on-site or in regional detention features using green infrastructure

- Three site-scale green infrastructure practices were installed in Hitchcock city parks at the beginning of April. Interpretive signs in progress.
- UTMB League City floating wetland anticipated in June. Water quality monitoring ongoing. Fact sheet on floating wetlands in progress through AgriLife. Once complete, available for distribution across Coalition watersheds.
- Funding is available for trees. Texas Forest Service Community Forestry Grant 2025 is closed, join their [newsletter](#) for grant updates and tips for submitting proposals.
- Introduction to Green Infrastructure [online course](#) available through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, developed by Green Infrastructure for Texas (GIFT). The self-paced course is free and takes about an hour to introduce the basic concepts of green infrastructure and their application. Starting point for building a shared understanding of the importance of green infrastructure across departments and agencies.
- Funding for implementation – TCEQ [Clean Water Act Section 319](#) covers installation. [TSSWCB 319](#) funding solicitation opens next.
- Permeable alternatives to conventional pavement effort through Coalition under separate funding will include interviews with practitioners on willingness and experience with installation, cost estimates for Coalition chosen example installation, and white paper with project results.

#### Reduce fats, oils, grease (FOG) and wipes in sanitary sewer systems

- Coalition organizations and Coordinator are working to select materials based on delivery approach. Guidance on allowable printing and the inclusion of sponsor logo/funding statement on existing materials received. Coalition organizations are encouraged to reach out as actions move forward.
- Adjacent landowner and land use management practices – through Coalition, separate funding. May include FOG and wipes as an outreach topics in the direct mail campaign. Several water providers brought up as a potential source for estimated costs for Coalition area water providers.

#### Actions not specific to one priority topic:

- Keep beautiful affiliate outreach support – through Coalition, separate funding. [Water Initiatives Round Up](#) for Keep Beautiful and community organizations in

scheduled for May 20 in Dickinson. 2-hour networking event with H-GAC, Galveston County Health District, Galveston Foundation, and Keep Dickinson Beautiful to raise community awareness and inspire collective action to restore and protect local waterways.

Additional information on priority topics can be found in previous meeting notes.

## Partner Announcements

*\*Announcements tab added to [Virtual Binder](#) Access Key: Coalition\**

- May 31, 2025. **Pond Management and Aquatic Ecology** (hybrid) - 9:00am-noon at the Brazoria County AgriLife Extension office in Angleton or virtually via Teams. Learn best practices for pond stocking and farm pond management. For residents as well as county, and city personnel involved in land and water stewardship. Whether you're managing a private pond or public body of water, this training will provide essential knowledge for maintain healthy aquatic systems. [\\$20 In-person registration](#) (Angleton); [\\$10 Virtual registration](#). Contact [John O'Connell](#). [Flyer](#).
- June 3, 2025. **Bacteria Implementation Group Spring Meeting** (hybrid). 2:00-4:00pm Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) meetings are held twice a year with a Fall meeting typically in October and a Spring Meeting usually in May. [BIG Watershed Map](#). In Person and Virtual Attendance Options. H-GAC - Conference Rooms B&C, 3555 Timmons Ln, Houston, TX. [Registration](#). Contact [Steven Johnston](#).
- June 4, 2025. **Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) Grant**. The Texas General Land Office is [soliciting applications](#) for projects that address environmental concerns and promote economic development within the Texas coastal zone. Cycle 31 involves a competitive application process for applicants applying for either NOAA-funded or Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) funded projects. CMP Projects of Special Merit (PSM) are entirely funded with GOAESA funds. Applications will be due on June 4, 2025. Pre-proposals for NOAA-funded projects are not required. If you have questions about the CMP application process, please contact [Jessica Chappell](#) or [Meghan Martinez](#).
- June 15, 2025. **Rain Barrel Workshop from 1:00-3:00pm in Kemah** by the Galveston Bay Foundation. [Pre-registration](#) is required to reserve a barrel, but the event itself is free and open to all, so please bring family and friends. Hands-on presentation, supply pickup, and Q&A session with Galveston Bay Foundation staff on site. The presentation will discuss water conservation tools like Water My Yard, the environmental benefits of reducing freshwater usage and collecting rainwater, as well as proper rain barrel preparation, installation instructions and tips.

- June 20, 2025. **State of the Bay Symposium Call for Abstracts.** The call for abstracts for the 12th State of the Bay Symposium is now open through June 20, 2025. Details on presentation topics and abstract submissions are available on the [State of the Bay abstract information page](#). The symposium will be held February 24-25, 2026, at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center. For additional information, please contact [Zoe Gapayao](#) at (281) 486-1245 and [Lisa Marshall](#) at (281) 486-1244. You can also contact the GBEP office at (281) 218-6461 or via [email](#).
- June 27, 2025. **TCEQ FY2026 Clean Water Action Section 319 (h) Grant.** Priority is given to developing and implementing Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) to restore and protect water quality in specific Texas waterways. Half of this grant program's funding must be spent to implement federally accepted WPPs. More information about plans: [Watershed Protection Plan webpage](#), and the [NPS Web viewer](#), an interactive mapping application for Texas WPPs and projects that are protecting and restoring specific rivers, lakes, and bays. Other eligible activities include: Education and outreach to motivate changes in behavior that reduce nonpoint source pollution; Implementation of management measures to address nonpoint source pollution - for example, low impact development installations, riparian or shoreline restoration, and repair or replacement of failing septic systems. The proposal due date is June 27, 2025, at 3:00 PM (Central Time). Visit the [Nonpoint Source Grant Program Webpage](#) for information.
- 2026 **Local Parks Grants Applications due August 1, 2025** - Now [accepting applications](#) to assist local communities with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. Provides 50% match on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All fund-assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained, and open to the public. Contact the [Local Park Grants team](#). Urban Outdoor Recreation - pop 500,000 - \$1.5 million max; Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation - pop <500,000 - \$750,000 max; Small Community Recreation - pop <20,000 - \$150,000 max.

## Next Steps and Future Meetings

### Quarterly Meetings

<b>Aug 12, 2025</b>	<i>Second Tuesday of the month (quarterly)</i>
<b>Oct 14, 2025</b>	<i>10:00 - 11:30 am</i>
	Galveston County Extension Office
	Carbide Park, La Marque
	<i>Updates shared in advance.</i>