

# CITY OF ROCKPORT

## MEETING MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES

9:30 a.m., Thursday, August 21, 2014

Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street

On this the 21st day of August 2014, the Environmental Committee For Water Issues of the City of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas convened at 9:30 a.m. at the regular meeting place in City Hall, and notice of meeting giving time, place, date and subject having been posted as described in V.T.C.A., Government Code § 551.041.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Tom Callan  
Committee Member Larry Hellums  
Committee Member Virginia Hallinan  
Committee Member Shawn Johnston

#### STAFF MEMBER(S) PRESENT

#### COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Committee Member Ron Helmke

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Council Member Patrick Rios  
Council Member Barbara Gurtner  
County Commissioner Betty Stiles

### Opening Agenda

#### 1. Call to order.

With a quorum of the Committee Members present, the Regular Meeting of the Environmental Committee for Water Issues was called to order by Tom Callan at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 21, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street, Rockport, Texas.

#### 2. Citizens to be Heard.

At this time, comments will be taken from the audience on any subject matter that is not on the agenda. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Environmental Committee For Water Issues may not discuss or take action on any item which has not been posted on the agenda.

There were no citizens to be heard.

#### 3. Deliberate and act on the July 17, 2014, meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Committee Member Virginia Hallinan moved to approve the July 17, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Committee Member Larry Hellums seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. Hear and deliberate on a report regarding ongoing activities of the Texas Water Development Board Region N.**

Commissioner Betty Stiles reported that at the last Texas Water Development Board Meeting, the rules for obtaining funding through SWIFT for projects to address drought related issues were discussed. Water conservation strategies, some of which are currently in place, were also outlined. According to Commissioner Stiles, a team of people representing 12 state agencies is in place with Mario Chappa, as the DPS crisis management liaison, for communities needing assistance. Tom Callan suggested that it might be informative to hold a workshop sponsored by the Chamber leadership to disseminate information related to the state of the drought in Texas and potential means to mitigate its impact.

**5. Hear and deliberate on a report regarding ongoing activities of the Mission Aransas NERR.**

Committee member Ron Helmke, liaison to the MANERR, was not present to share any updates. Tom Callan reported that the Little Bay Report Card was not available but he had been assured by Carolyn Rose, Interim Director of MANERR, that the report was being worked on. A number of leadership positions at MANERR are currently in transition with positions expected to be filled shortly.

**6. Hear and deliberate on a report regarding ongoing activities of the Aransas County Navigation District**

Committee Member Larry Hellums reported that the Nav District has a very busy agenda for the fall and winter seasons. The shoreline stabilization project is scheduled to begin in October, a complete beach front restoration with sand is planned for the winter months, and work is also planned on the boat ramps at the beach park. In addition, it was reported that some of the Nav District precincts would be electing new members this fall. Tom Callan raised the issue of erosion along Bay Shore Drive.

**7. Hear and deliberate on a report regarding public outreach through publication of articles obtained from the “Guidance for Sustainable development on the Texas Coast**

The Committee received permission to reprint excerpts from the Guidelines and submit them for publication in the Rockport Pilot as long as they are attributed to the authors of the Guidelines.

**MOTION:** Committee member Larry Hellums made a motion that we submit excerpts from the Guidelines to the Rockport Pilot with the appropriate credits. Committee member Shawn Johnston seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

**8. Deliberate on improving references to registered lawn care providers listed on the City of Rockport's website.**

By report, some of the registered lawn care providers are listed as individuals instead of as companies. Ginger Easton-Smith said that she could link the names with the companies and Kendra Baird will correct the entries on the website.

Tom Callan will coordinate with Ginger Easton-Smith regarding timing of next Best Practices for Lawn Care Management class and discuss how best to disseminate the notice for the upcoming session.

**9. Deliberate and act on a recommendation to continue the Little Bay Report Card by Mission-Aransas NERR.**

The Little Bay Report Card has been delayed and the NERR team is in transition. This item was deferred.

**10. Review the latest Little Bay Report Card.**

The Report Card was unavailable for review.

**11. Review monitoring reports for the City of Rockport Wastewater Treatment Plant.**

Levels were acceptable, but a rising trend was noted and will be followed.

**12.) Deliberate on possible agenda items for next meeting.**

Items for consideration included additional discussion on "skip the plastics", yard care and watering.

**13. Adjournment.**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:00a.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
FOR WATER ISSUES**

  
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Tom Callan, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
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Kendra Baird, Environmental Specialist  
Public Works Department