

# CITY OF ROCKPORT

## MEETING MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES

9:30 a.m., Thursday, October 23, 2014

Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street

On this the 23rd day of October 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 Ron Helmke

#### COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Committee Member Shawn Johnston

#### STAFF MEMBER(S) PRESENT

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Council Member Patrick Rios

### 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, October 23, 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.

Adelaide Marlott invited all present to assist in the Rockport Rotary Pearl Street Pick-up to be held on November 1<sup>st</sup>. She then asked if the Environmental Committee was involved in the process for the TCEQ Permit for loading oil at 1603 Hwy 35 North. Ginger Easton-Smith invited all present to a 4H organized cleanup meeting at the Extension Office on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Brae (sp?), 1004 S. Verne, expressed concern with the quality of work performed in the phase 1 storm water project occurring near his property. He reported that phase 2 of the project was to involve the area adjacent to his property line and he had been refused permission to review the plans for that project. As this was not an issue that the Env Committee could address, it was recommended that he contact the Director of Public Works or his Councilman for assistance.

**3. Deliberate and act on the August 21, 2014, meeting minutes.**

**MOTION:** Committee Member Ron Helmke moved to approve the August 21, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Committee Member Larry Hellums seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. Presentation by the local “Skip the Plastics” group regarding banning plastic bags.**

“Skip the Plastic” representatives returned to revisit the issue of obtaining Env Committee support for an ordinance banning single use plastic bags in Rockport. A video describing the adverse impact of plastics on sea turtles was presented, followed by a CBS news clip on the recent decision by California to ban single use plastic bags throughout the state. Several “Skip the Plastics” representatives, along with two local residents, spoke in favor of a ban. They addressed concerns such as the longevity of plastics in the environment, the inability of plastic to decompose, plastic marine debris as a pollution issue, and the potential to replace single use bags with other plastic bags one might have at home to address trash containment.

One resident spoke against a ban, and in favor of consideration of a tax on the single use bags with proceeds of the tax designated for activities that improve the marine environment.

**5. Deliberate and act on a possible recommendation to the Rockport City Council regarding the “Skip the Plastics” effort.**

**Motion:** Committee Member Virginia Hallinan made a motion to recommend to the City Council that a survey be conducted to determine whether the public supports a ban on single use plastic bags and that the Environmental Committee for Water Issues be involved in the structure and wording of the survey. The motion was seconded by Ron Helmke and carried unanimously. A subsequent motion to amend and broaden the scope of the initial motion did not advance.

**6. Deliberate and act on publication of an article regarding grass clippings.**

**Motion:** Committee Member Ron Helmke made a motion to submit the article on grass clippings as written to the Rockport Pilot and to include a copy with water bills mailed to constituents.

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

Tom Callan reported that the MANERR recently held a symposium summarizing their recent study on freshwater issues. He also reported that Colbi Brown will be the new NERR representative to the Committee.

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

Larry Hellums reported that the Nav District meeting had been cancelled.

**9. Deliberate scheduling the next Lawn Care Registration Program training session.**

Following discussion with Ginger Easton-Smith, a tentative date of March was chosen for the next Lawn Care Registration training session. Both members of the general public and lawn care service providers will be invited. Lawn care service providers will need to attend one session every two years to maintain their listing with the City.

**10. Deliberate the current Little Bay Report Card and quote for monitoring in FY 2014-2015.**

There were no major concerns regarding the Report Card results. The price quote for continued monitoring in FY2014-2015 was not available for review. Questions arose regarding the need for continued monitoring and concerns for potential impacts of the shoreline stabilization project on results if the monitoring is to continue. Further discussion is planned for the next meeting when start of the shoreline stabilization project will be clarified and cost of continuing the project or interrupting and later resuming the project will be known.

**11. Review and deliberate City of Rockport Wastewater Treatment Plant monitoring reports.**

The previously noted rising trend in nitrate levels at the weir has reversed itself with levels most recently below 5mg/L. There are no concerns with the present values.

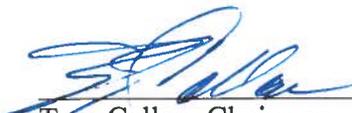
**12.) Deliberate on possible agenda items for next meeting.**

Items for consideration included outreach opportunities.

**13. Adjournment.**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 11:15a.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
FOR WATER ISSUES**

  
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Tom Callan, Chairman

**ATTEST:**



Kendra Baird, Environmental Specialist  
Public Works Department