

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MEETING MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES

9:30 a.m., Thursday, June 11, 2015

Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street

On this the 11th day of June 2015, 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 Ron Helmke
Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Committee Member Virginia Hallinan
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, June 11, 2015, 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 April 16, 2015, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Committee Member Ron Helmke moved to approve the April 16, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Deliberate the effectiveness of the Lawn Care Provider Workshops and act on a recommendation to City Council regarding the future of the program.

Discussions centered on the relevance of topics chosen for the most recent workshop with respect to the target audience, commercial lawn care providers, and the optimal frequency of workshops. The general consensus was that some topics presented, while of potential interest to the general populace, were potentially of limited value to the commercial lawn care providers and should be dropped from future presentations to that audience. Some alternative topics for future presentations directed specifically to lawn care providers were discussed. The concept of providing short, 10-15 minute presentations to Home Owner Associations was also raised.

MOTION: Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith made a motion that topics for the next Lawn Care Workshop be changed and include such items as: types of fertilizers, pesticide use, lawn mower maintenance, water restrictions and that the workshops alternate every other year between presentations directed at commercial lawn care providers and presentations aimed at the general public. Committee Member Ron Helmke seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Deliberate and act on informational articles and plans for public outreach.

Committee Chairman Tom Callan explained that four articles based on the treatise, "Guidelines for Sustainable Stormwater Drainage on the Texas Coast" had been prepared and following some initial delays, had been given to committee member Virginia Hallinan to submit to the Rockport Pilot for inclusion in future editions of the paper.

A brief discussion was had on other potential modes of outreach. The idea of presentations to the HOAs was again raised. Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith reported that AgriLife, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists might be able to assist in future presentations.

The potential value of a display board at the various festivals in Rockport was mentioned as a means to get a concept in front of the public. Committee members were encouraged to bring additional thoughts on the topic to the next meeting.

6. Deliberate and act on renewing sampling in Little Bay for salinity due to recent volumes of fresh water entering Little Bay.

Chairman Tom Callan discussed monitoring salinity in Little Bay in view of the recent large rain events to learn more about the characteristics of the bay and the extent of fluctuations in salinity related to weather events. Environmental Specialist Kendra Baird reported on cost range for refractometers to measure salinity. Committee Member Ron Helmke mentioned that he thought the Environmental Committee was in possession of a refractometer and Kendra Baird said that she would investigate and see if there was a refractometer available to us. Jace Tunnel from Mission Aransas NERR reported that MA-NERR could assist in training personnel in use of the refractometer.

MOTION: Committee Member Ron Helmke made a motion that we establish a salinity testing program for Little Bay. Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

7. Deliberate on possible agenda items for the next meeting.

No new items for discussion were suggested.

8. Adjournment.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR WATER ISSUES**



Tom Callan, Chairman

ATTEST:



Kendra Baird, Environmental Specialist
Public Works Department