

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MEETING MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES

9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 19, 2015

Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street

On this the 19th day of February 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 Virginia Hallinan
Committee Member Shawn Johnston
Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT

STAFF MEMBER(S) PRESENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Council Member Patrick Rios
Council Member Barbara Gurtner

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, February 19, 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 January 22, 2015, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Committee Member Ron Helmke moved to approve the January 22, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Committee Member Shawn Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Deliberate and act on plans for the Lawn Care Program.

Discussions centered on clarifying tasks that needed to be accomplished and assigning responsibility to individual committee members to work on specific tasks for the upcoming workshop on Lawn Care Practices. Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith volunteered to take the list of yard care companies that had been compiled and attempt to contact the various companies to update and expand the list. In addition, she was working in conjunction with NERR representatives on the specific topics and speakers for the program. Committee Member Shawn Johnston was taking charge of arranging for snacks for the meeting. Colbi Brown Gemmell, NERR, agreed to prepare the advertisement to run in the Rockport Pilot. Committee Chairman, Tom Callan, will review the planned posting before forwarding it to the Pilot.

Committee Member Ron Helmke had contacted Justin Butts, an organic farmer, to learn his views on management of fallen leaves and discuss his potential availability as a speaker. Justin Butts told Mr. Helmke that the oak leaves represented the best source of mulch available. Committee Member Helmke was going to get back with Justin Butts regarding the specific date and time of the Yard Care Program.

Date, time, and venue for the Program were confirmed: March 16, 2015, 3:00-6:30PM, Bay Education Center, Rockport.

A special meeting to further discuss the upcoming Lawn Care Program was planned for March 3, 2015 at 9:30AM.

It was established that the Yard Care Program was to be directed at professional Yard Care Providers, and the general public was not going to be specifically invited because a similar program for the general public was already planned by NERR and AgriLife.

MOTION: Committee Member Virginia Hallinan made a motion that the Yard Care Recognition Program be limited to professional yard care providers. Committee Member Shawn Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Deliberate and act on plans regarding public outreach.

Committee member Virginia Hallinan reported that she forwarded four potential articles based on the "Guidance for Sustainable Stormwater Drainage" to Michael Barrett, PhD, for his review and comments prior to forwarding the articles to the committee and the Mayor for review and was awaiting his response.

No action taken.

6. Deliberate and act on the committees involvement in Citizens' Science Projects through Mission Aransas NERR.

Committee Member Virginia Hallinan reported that she had met with members from NERR on two occasions. Various potential projects had been proposed. Dr Ken Dunton recommended that

we consider monitoring salinity and turbidity levels in Little Bay. He felt this could be done by volunteers and would add to our understanding of potential causes of the waxing/waning pattern of seagrass in the bay. A high quality refractometer, Secchi disk, and digital thermometer would need to be purchased. Estimate of cost for all three were discussed. Chairman Tom Callan thought there were funds available but questioned what additional information would be gained by this project. Colbi Brown Gemmell replied that it would add to the historical trend in data that has been collected. Committee Member Virginia Hallinan was to discuss the project further with the NERR staff.

No action taken.

7. Deliberate on the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program FY 2016 meeting held on February 4, 2015, regarding the Water and Sediment Quality Implementation Team meeting notes.

Chairman Tom Callan attended the CBBEP FY 2016 meeting. At the meeting, goals and objectives were set to assist in evaluating projects which were submitted for review and potential funding for 2016. Mr. Callan did not feel that the meeting was directly relevant to our committee.

8. Deliberate on proper disposal of fallen leaves.

Discussed during deliberation on agenda item 4.

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

No new items for discussion were suggested.

13. Adjournment.

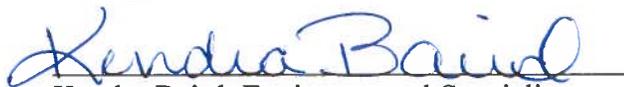
Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR WATER ISSUES**



Tom Callan, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kendra Baird, Environmental Specialist
Public Works Department