

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MEETING MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES

9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 16, 2015

Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street

On this the 16th day of April 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 Shawn Johnston
Committee Member Virginia Hallinan
Committee Member Ron Helmke

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith

STAFF MEMBER(S) PRESENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Council Member Patrick Rios
Council Member Barbara Gurtner
Aransas 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, April 16, 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 meeting minutes from February 10 2015, February 19, 2015, March 3, 2015, and March 13, 2015.

MOTION: Committee Member Virginia Hallinan moved to approve the meeting minutes for February 10, February 19, March 3, and March 13, 2015 as presented. Committee Member Shawn Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Tom Callan reported that attendance numbers were modest at the most recent workshop. It was decided that at future programs topics would be limited to the three areas where environmental concerns are heightened, namely, fertilizing yards, irrigating yards, and limiting conveyance of chemicals and yard waste to our storm drainage system. At the next Environmental Committee meeting, we will review the actual agenda of topics from the most recent workshop and adjust as indicated.

Since ‘recognition’ is for a two year period, a biannual program was envisioned. It was suggested that the month of February might yield higher attendance since lawns would not be actively growing.

Tom Callan will provide Kendra Baird with a final list of attendees from the most recent workshop so they could be ‘recognized’ in an ad in the Rockport Pilot.

Motion: Committee Member Ron Helmke made a motion that the yard care providers who attended the recent workshop be ‘recognized’ by being listed in an ad placed in the Rockport Pilot. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Shawn Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Deliberate and act on informational articles and other plans regarding public outreach.

Four articles based on the treatise “Guidelines for Sustainable Stormwater Drainage on the Texas Coast” had been compiled for possible submission to the Rockport Pilot. Two of those articles were available for review by the committee. Review of one of the articles led to a brief discussion on the utility of rain barrels for storing rain water for use on shrubbery and flower beds.

Motion: Committee member Shawn Johnston made a motion that the articles be submitted without change to the Rockport Pilot for consideration for publication. Committee Member Ron Helmke seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Deliberate on the status of the Aransas County Navigation District’s shoreline stabilization project and the Little Bay study by Belaire Environmental.

Chairman Tom Callan told the committee that the Nav District is assembling the required materials to proceed with the shoreline stabilization project and increasing activity at the site is expected in the next few weeks. In related news from the Nav District, the beach nourishment program has gone out for rebids as initial bids exceeded available funds; the long term Rockport Harbor

development plan has received clearance to proceed, and the proposed Belaire study on restoration of seagrass in Little Bay has been evaluated, and a reduced, modified plan has been accepted.

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

Chairman Callan and Commissioner Betty Stiles attended the recent Region N meeting. An Executive Summary of the long term plan for the development, conservation, and management of the state’s water resources was presented. Tom Callan provided committee members with a copy of the report for review and for potential future discussion topics.

8. Deliberate and act on the committee’s involvement in Citizen Science Projects through Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

With the recent decision by the Navigation District to proceed with a modified study on restoration of seagrass in Little Bay, it was decided that the previously proposed Citizen Science Project, which would have monitored salinity and water clarity in Little Bay using volunteers, was potentially duplicative and should be tabled. Committee Member Virginia Hallinan will convey the committee’s concerns to Colbi Brown Gemmell at Mission Aransas NERR.

9. Deliberate on possible agenda items for next meeting.

No new specific items were suggested.

13. Adjournment.

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR WATER ISSUES**



Tom Callan, Chairman

ATTEST:



Kendra Baird, Environmental Specialist
Public Works Department