

# CITY OF ROCKPORT

## MEETING MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES

9:30 a.m., Thursday, October 15, 2015

Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street

On this the 15th day of October 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 Ginger Easton-Smith

#### COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT

#### STAFF MEMBER(S) PRESENT

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Council Member Patrick Rios  
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, October 15, 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 August 27, 2015, and September 17, 2015.**

**MOTION:** Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith moved to approve the meeting minutes for August 27, 2015 and September 17, 2015 as presented. Committee Member Ron Helmke seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. Deliberate on a status report regarding the activities of the Aransas County Navigation District.**

Commissioner Betty Stiles reported that the Nav District has been in discussions with Belaire Environmental regarding implementing a study involving collection of sediment samples on either side of the newly placed oyster shell barrier in Little Bay and placing a sediment fence over a small section of the shell barrier to elucidate the effectiveness of that portion of the 'shoreline stabilization project' in abating wave action near the shore. In further discussion, Tom Rowe mentioned that seagrass will be planted near the south end of the shoreline stabilization project. This will be in addition to the cord grass already planted as part of the original project.

**5. Deliberate and act on content of the next Lawn Care Workshop for the general public.**

Ginger Easton-Smith informed the committee that she and K. Dana Sjostrom (MA-NERR) are contemplating a two hour workshop focused on rain barrels and management of grass clippings. Chairman Tom Callan suggested that consideration be given to adding a talk on proper use of fertilizers. Subsequent discussion focused on how rain barrels might be constructed during the workshop along with the possibility of having a separate, family oriented workshop devoted to rain barrel creation. Committee Member, Shawn Johnston was tasked with investigating potential sources of the barrels.

**6. Deliberate on publication in The Rockport Pilot of the committee's articles regarding water issues.**

Committee Member Virginia Hallinan reported that all four articles had been published on successive Saturdays in August, and Research Fellow, Mary Van Zant had received copies.

**7. Deliberate on a status report regarding the activities of Mission Aransas –National Estuarine Research Reserve.**

No representatives were present. Chairman Callan advised the committee of two upcoming events of potential interest: the Nueces Delta Preserve Roundup scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup>, and a TCEQ meeting for public comment on two draft TMDLs on indicator bacteria in tidal segments of the Mission and Aransas Rivers scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Refugio Community Center.

**8. Deliberate on the partnership opportunities with the Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve's Citizen Science program.**

Committee Member Virginia Hallinan reported that she had met with Nicole Pringle, Volunteer Coordinator and Education Coordinator for Mission Aransas NERR, concerning the Environmental Committees' plan to monitor salinity and turbidity in Little Bay. Basics of the project, required equipment, and potential modes of recruiting volunteers were discussed.

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

No new specific items were suggested.

**13. Adjournment.**

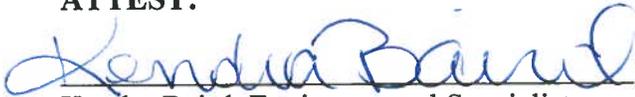
Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:10a.m. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 10, 2015.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
FOR WATER ISSUES**



Tom Callan, Chairman

**ATTEST:**



Kendra Baird, Environmental Specialist  
Public Works Department