

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MEETING MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES

9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 21, 2016

Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street

On this the 21st day of January 2016, 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 Virginia Hallinan
Committee Member Ron Helmke
Committee Member Shawn Johnston
Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT

STAFF MEMBER(S) PRESENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Aransas County Commissioner Betty Stiles
City 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 9:38 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2016, 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 December 9, 2015, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Committee Member Ron Helmke moved to approve the December 9, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Committee Member Ginger Easton-Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Harbor Master Keith Barrett discussed the years of work and successful grant proposals that culminated in the Shoreline Stabilization Project in Little Bay. Independent monitoring of the site has shown the presence of some oyster spat on the deposited shell in the bay. It is hoped that the project will aid in both erosion prevention along the shoreline and in water quality improvement. According to Mr. Barrett, the Navigation District has applied for additional funding, made available following the BP spill, to remove sediment from Little Bay and to extend the jetties along Blevins Channel as part of remediation efforts to improve circulation and water quality in the bay. Chairman Tom Callan told Mr. Barrett that the Environmental Committee would be interested in partnering with the Navigation District to evaluate the efficacy of sediment removal operations in conjunction with the earlier Tule Creek restoration project which created a sediment pond to decrease particulate runoff into the bay. Mr. Barrett said he would discuss this offer with Naismith Engineering to further evaluate the cost and feasibility of such an endeavor.

5. Deliberate on the status of the upcoming Rain Barrel Workshop.

K. Dana Sjostrom, MA-NERR, reported that things were moving along well with the Rain Barrel Workshop. Kendra Baird, Environmental Specialist, city of Rockport, had been able to secure 31 barrels for the project. The agenda has been set and speakers are in place. A draft of the flyer for the event was circulated. Changes and additions to the flyer were discussed as well as the best avenues for circulating the flyer. The Workshop will be concluded with ‘The Forty Gallon Challenge’ – a multi-state on-line program designed to make citizens aware of easy ways to save water and ask them to commit to doing so.

6. Deliberate on recommendations of subjects for the next water and sediment quality implementation team meeting.

Chairman Tom Callan had planned to discuss information gleaned from a recent water and sediment quality team meeting but had given his copy of the proceedings to Keith Barrett. Chairman Callan said he would e-mail the information to the committee members for their perusal. The water and sediment quality team are looking for ideas for potential projects to enhance and restore our waterways. The team would then formalize the proposals and present them to Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries and request funding for the projects deemed most promising.

7. Deliberate and act on new outreach initiatives.

No new items were presented.

8. Deliberate on the activities and partnership opportunities with the Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve’s Citizen Science program.

Committee Member Virginia Hallinan informed the committee that Keith Barrett, Harbor Master, had given permission to house the equipment for the Citizen Science Project in the kiosk as you enter the beach park. An appropriate all-weather box will be obtained and labeled to secure the equipment. Permission had also been obtained to use the Little Bay Cottages' pier for sampling. A description of the project had been prepared and was being reviewed by MA-NERR staff. A flyer was in production to help recruit volunteers.

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

No specific suggestions were suggested.

13. Adjournment.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR WATER ISSUES**



Tom Callan, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kendra Baird, Environmental Specialist
Public Works Department