

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MEETING MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR WATER ISSUES

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 17, 2016
Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street

On this the 17th day of August 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 Ginger Easton-Smith
Committee Member Ron Helmke
Committee Member Virginia Hallinan

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Committee Member Shawn Johnston

STAFF MEMBER(S) PRESENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

City Council Member Pat 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 Ginger Easton-Smith at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, August 17, 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 July 20, 2016 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Committee Member Ron Helmke moved to approve the July 20, 2016 meeting minutes with item #5 amended to reflect participation from Texas A&M Agrilife Extension in the upcoming Flood Preparedness Workshop. Committee Member Virginia Hallinan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Deliberate on the status of ongoing Mission-Aransas National Research Reserve activities.

K. Dana Sjostrom updated the committee on an upcoming public meeting to be held September 1st at the Bay Education Center dealing with growth projections for the city and their anticipated impacts. A second meeting, entitled 'Tools Café,' scheduled for September 22nd is designed for municipal leaders and planners. This workshop will utilize readily available online tools to help address specific issues encountered by municipalities.

The Resiliency Workshop held August 2nd discussed various aspects of living shorelines and helped to showcase the oyster reef/living shoreline project recently completed in Little Bay.

5. Deliberate on the Flood Management Measures Workshop to be presented in coordination with Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve and Texas A&M Agrilife Extension.

The Flood Management Measures Workshop is being designed primarily for local merchants according to K. Dana Sjostrom. The goals of the workshop are to assist merchants in planning for flood events, increase their awareness of steps being taken by the city to mitigate the impact of storm events, and help address their concerns and issues regarding flooding. Originally planned for September, postponing the workshop until October was discussed and recommended to allow for more time to make businesses aware of the planned event. A new tentative date of October 17th was proposed along with a time of 3:30-5:30pm.

6. Deliberate on the activities and partnership opportunities with the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve's Citizen Science Program.

Committee member Virginia Hallinan reported that sampling for salinity and turbidity in Little Bay is continuing on a schedule of 3x/week with the help of volunteers. Results of the sampling are available online at the Mission-Aransas NERR site and can be accessed by following the prompts to the Citizen Science Projects. Committee member Hallinan suggested that the results be linked to the city of Rockport website. City Council Member Pat Rios said he would investigate getting that accomplished.

7. Deliberate and act on new outreach initiatives.

Committee member Virginia Hallinan informed the committee that she had contacted a person involved in local homeschool initiatives in an attempt to get the youth of the area involved in the activities of the Environmental Committee. The person she spoke with said that the local home schooling group was having their first meeting the 19th of August and she would mention our query to them.

City Council Member Pat Rios made the committee aware of a change in the manner in which recycling and garbage will be picked up in Rockport starting in 8-10 months. He suggested that

this would be an opportunity to discuss recycling with the public. K. Dana Sjostrom discussed the possibility of a workshop on the topic of recycling in early spring.

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

Items mentioned included: Flood workshop planning, youth involvement in committee, recycling initiatives, and recruiting additional volunteers for the Environmental Committee.

9. Adjournment.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR WATER ISSUES**



Ginger Easton-Smith, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kendra Baird, Environmental Specialist
Public Works Department