

COASTAL BEND BAYS & ESTUARIES PROGRAM, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 25, 2011
MINUTES

BOD Members/Proxies Present

Tom Bridges for San Patricio County
Greg Brubeck for the Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Robert Corrigan for the Bays Council
Tom Curlee for Port Industries of Corpus Christi
Francis Gandy for the Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Tom Russell for Port Industries of Corpus Christi
Robert Wallace for Coastal Bend Bays Foundation

Others Attending

Jeff Foster, TCEQ

Staff Present

Ray Allen	Lari Jo Johnston
Sara Bounds	David Newstead
Dustin Cravey	Alice Sanchez
Owen Fitzsimmons	Leo Trevino
Jake Herring	Jace Tunnell
Anne Hulse	Beth Wilson

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions, and Quorum Determination

Mr. Robert Wallace, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. and a quorum was set.

2. Consideration and Action re: Minutes of Meeting held on July 28, 2011 – Ms. Anne Hulse (attachment 1)

Mr. Corrigan made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2011 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Russell and passed unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda: The following items are of a routine or administrative nature and do not require an action of the Board. Any member of the Board of Directors may request that an item on the consent agenda be discussed in open session:

- a. **Monthly Financial Report, Local Government Funding Report, and Working Capital/Reserve Fund Report – Ms. Alice Sanchez (attachments 2A, B, C)**
- b. **Monthly Project Status Report – Mr. Leo Trevino (attachment 3)**
- c. **Grants and Proposals Update – Prepared by Dustin Cravey (attachment 4)**
- d. **Communications Activities Update – Ms. Beth Wilson (attachment 5)**
- e. **Environmental Education Activities Update – Ms. Lari Jo Johnston (attachment 6)**

Ms. Johnston distributed a copy of David Sykes article in the Caller-Times this morning pertaining to Nature Challenge, a state-wide contest to entice families outdoors to explore nature centers in their area. There are 25 nature centers in the Coastal Bend participating from August 20 to November 19th, each with missions (activities) for the families to enjoy and document in a scrapbook which will be judged and awards presented during the closing ceremony. This year 38 local families enrolled during the opening ceremony.

- f. **CBBEP Property Management – Prepared by Mr. Jake Herring (attachment 7)**
- g. **Coastal Bird Program Activities – Prepared by Mr. David Newstead (attachment 8)**
- h. **Future Meeting Schedule – Ms. Anne Hulse (attachment 9)**

4. Update on Development of FY '12 Annual Work Plan – Mr. Ray Allen (attachment 10)

Mr. Allen informed the Board that the Implementation Teams have all submitted project recommendations. With the new fiscal year funding now determined, Carola Serrato and Robyn Cobb have agreed to continue as chairs of the Coordination Team which will meet on Sept. 1 to begin evaluation of the FY '12 Annual Work Plan for final recommendation to the Bays Council on Sept. 14th, in time for the next Board of Directors Meeting.

Mr. Corrigan extended an invitation for all Board members to attend the Bays Council meeting in order to learn how the process works.

Mr. Allen explained that the attachment includes all projects presented by the Implementation Teams and the final page is simply staff recommendations on those projects for the Coordination Team to consider, as well as available funding.

5. Consideration and Action regarding FY 2012 Administrative Budget – Mr. Ray Allen and Ms. Alice Sanchez (attachment 11).

Ms. Sanchez explained the proposed FY 2012 Administrative Budget in comparison to prior fiscal year budgets. Mr. Allen added that CBBEP is under a salary freeze given the current budget situation and the state of the economy.

Mr. Corrigan explained that it is necessary to approve the Administrative Budget at this time, before the approving entire fiscal year budget, so operating expenses can be met. Due to the late determination of total funding, it was not possible to complete the process in order to approve the entire budget prior to the start of the new fiscal year. The project budget will be presented at next month's meeting. The Finance Committee will meet again in approximately six months to evaluate the organization's financial status compared to this budget.

Mr. Corrigan made a motion to approve the FY 2012 Administrative Budget and was seconded by Mr. Gandy. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration and Action regarding authorizing the purchase of trucks for program use – Mr. Ray Allen (attachment 12)

Mr. Allen explained the demands on the one truck owned by CBBEP and the one CBBEP has access to, but Audubon owns. He further explained the increased vehicle requirements to perform activities for which grant funds have been awarded.

Mr. Corrigan suggested that serious consideration be given to purchasing used vehicles, in lieu of new vehicles, simply due to the hard use the vehicles will receive which prevents a long road-life.

Mr. Bridges made a motion to approve the \$45,000 requested to be spent on purchasing trucks, whether new or used, and was seconded by Mr. Russell. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Executive Session: Public Notice is given that the Board of Directors may go into an Executive Session as authorized by the Open Meeting Act, Chapter 551.072 to deliberate regarding real property acquisition of Whooping Crane Habitat on Copano Bay and in the Nueces Delta and may in open session take such action as appropriate on items deliberated in Executive Session

The meeting remained in Open Session. Mr. Herring announced that title work has begun on the Hammett Property and a survey has been requested. Additionally, research has begun on the Odem Heirs

tract. The Whooping Crane Habitat may be unobtainable if the review of the yellow book appraisal doesn't return a significant increase in value.

- 8. Executive Director Comments** – Mr. Allen stated that potential projects have been submitted to the State and Federal agencies for utilizing BP NRDA funds in the Coastal Bend. Now it simply becomes a waiting game to see how the process develops.

Mr. Allen also discussed the Port Bay Hunt Club's desire to establish a mitigation bank by creating wetland habitat to receive 'credits' which can then be sold. CBBEP was consulted for these discussions as a technical advisor and potential partner.

Mr. Allen announced that the Gunderland Marine site on the Portland Causeway is for sale. Mr. Bridges stated that inclusion of that property would fit within the Sunset Lake Master Plan goals and there is no sewer line that far outside Portland to enable commercial development. Mr. Wallace suggested investigating who owns all the property surrounding the Portland Causeway Marsh Restoration site.

Mr. Allen also stated that CBBEP has been working with Mr. Tanner at the City of Portland to apply for a grant for State (TxGLO) funds to address erosion problems at Indian Point.

Mr. Corrigan discussed a meeting with the City of Corpus Christi regarding development of an educational outreach component at the Oso Nature Center.

Mr. Cravey stated that Aransas County has a couple habitat protection initiatives beginning implementation under their stormwater master plan and they have approached CBBEP to assist in management and oversight of these projects which already have funding.

Mr. Allen explained the impact the drought is having seagrass planting at the Portland Causeway Marsh Restoration site. Planting is currently on hold due to drought-induced high water salinity. Some of the plants already planted have died and will need to be replanted, but there is no point in spending more resources to plant until the drought ends.

- 9. Board of Director Comments** – Mr. Russell mentioned the award being presented by Lyondel Bassell to CBBEP on Sept. 1 of up to \$2,000, based upon \$100 per home run hit during home games in the month of August.

Mr Curlee announced the Port Industries Public Affairs Committee is planting large trees and installing a watering system for them at the Nueces Delta Preserve.

Mr. Corrigan requested Mr. Gandy initiate a discussion with the Port Commissioners regarding beneficial placement of dredge material at Sunset Lake to raise the level of the lake bottom so seagrass can return and salinity can improve.

Mr. Wallace stated that Destination Bayfront is moving forward with the plans to reduce Shoreline to four lanes.

- 10. Public Comments - None.**

- 11. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 9:27 am.**

Approved by the Board of Directors on _____

Robert Wallace, Jr., Chairman of the Board