

CBBEP Bays Plan Coordination Team

Meeting 5/11/05 Minutes

Attending:

Robert Corrigan
Maggie Dalthorp
Jeff Foster
Rocky Freund
Beau Hardegree

Barbara Keeler (via
phone)
Art Morris
Tara Schultz
Carola Serrato

Jim Bowman
Dustin Cravey
Monika De La Garza
Anne Hulse
Leo Trevino

1. Introductions – Meeting began at 9:10 a.m. Everyone present introduced themselves to the group.
2. FY 2006 Project Ranking Discussion –
 - a. Rocky Freund of the Water and Sediment Quality Implementation Team presented an updated project analysis from Dr. Joanna Mott concerning *Vibrio vulnificus* testing. The project originally documented on the proposed project ranking spreadsheet only requested \$50,000, but the new project analysis requested \$200,000. Mr. Corrigan inquired whether establishing a partnership with the City (or another entity capable of loaning equipment or assisting in laboratory analysis) would not be more cost-effective. Rocky will investigate those options.
 - b. Ms. Serrato suggested evaluating the projects on the spreadsheet in the order of greatest to least number of team votes and the group concurred. Therefore, discussions began with all projects receiving 8 team votes. (Total Team votes for each project are noted in parentheses following the name of the project.)
 - i. **Keepers of the Coast** (8) was approved at \$35,000
 - ii. **Kritters 4 Kids** (8) was approved for \$10,000 (half the amount requested) to only purchase books for distribution to public schools.
 - iii. **Teaching Environmental Science (8)** was approved at \$25,000
 - iv. **Public Education & Outreach Events & Activities** (8) was approved at \$40,000.
 - v. **Coastal Bend Land Trust** (8) was approved at \$75,000. However, in an effort to ‘push’ this organization toward self-sufficiency and since they have not yet used the \$50,000 provided this fiscal year, it was decided that the approved \$75,000 be considered the total funds provided for a two-year period. Funding for this project could then be re-evaluated in 2008.

- vi. **Kaufer Hubert Habitat Enhancement & Erosion Protection Project (Layola Beach)** (8) was approved at \$10,000.
- vii. **Support of Clean-Up Efforts for Priority Periods** (8) was approved at \$2,000
- viii. **Public Education & Outreach Media Plan** (7) was approved at \$25,000.
- ix. **Coastal Bend Bays Foundation** (7) was approved at \$40,000.
- x. **Whooping Crane Habitat Enhancement (Invasive Species Control)** (7) was approved at \$40,000
- xi. ***Vibrio Vulnificus*** (7) was approved at \$100,000 (twice what was originally requested, but only half of revised amount). It was suggested by Rocky Freund that we should try to find a 'matching' partnership to fully fund this project.
- xii. **Seagrass Restoration through Public Outreach Upper Laguna** (6) was re-evaluated by Carola Serrato and Barbara Keeler. They felt they had insufficient information when they ranked all the projects and that now, armed with additional information, they would like to vote for this project. Therefore, the ranking for this project was changed from 6 votes to 8 votes and it was approved at \$25,000 (half of the requested amount). It was decided that the Team is not interested in funding the marking of channels through seagrass beds, only in the installation of educational signage including signs at boat ramps and evaluation of signage's effectiveness.
- xiii. **Characterization of CB Seagrass Beds in Relation to Aerial Maps** (6) was approved at \$21,000.
- xiv. **Redfish Bay Scientific Area Seagrass Protection** (6) was approved at \$21,000.
- xv. **Botanical Gardens/Oso Greenbelt Protection & Enhancement** (6) was approved at \$10,000.
- xvi. **Oso Creek & Oso Bay Watershed** (6) – Because this project has sufficient funds carrying forward from the current fiscal year to fund it for another year, it was determined that no funds be set aside for this project in the '06 Work Plan. However, it should be noted that the Team strongly supports this project.
- xvii. **Animal Rescue & Rehabilitation** (5) was approved for \$10,000 (not the \$60,000 requested). Barbara Keeler stated that the list of organizations requesting funding under this project was too extensive and should be restricted to only those dealing with endangered species such as ARK, TSA and Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network. The committee agreed that the funding should be directed towards organizations working with priority marine species as stated in the Bays Plan.
- xviii. **Flounder Impact Assessment** (5) was approved for \$25,000.
- xix. **Youth Odyssey** (4) was approved for \$4,000.

- xx. **Invasive Species Control Emergency Response Fund (4)** was approved for \$10,000.
- xxi. **Laguna Shores Public Access Park (4)** was approved for \$10,000.
- xxii. **Bay & Gulf Debris (4)** was rejected.
- xxiii. **Continuation of Regional Coastal Assessment Program (RCAP) (4)** was rejected. According to Barbara Keeler and Jeff Foster, no funds are to be set aside as ‘placeholders’ for future spending.
- xxiv. **Seagrass Restoration Project (Develop & Install Signage) (3)** funding redirected to the “Seagrass Restoration through Public Outreach Upper Laguna” project.
- xxv. **CorpusBeat (3)** was approved at \$2,000.
- xxvi. **Bacteriological Contributions from Sediment (3)** was approved at \$20,000.
- xxvii. **Curricula Needs Assessment Follow-Up & Environmental Educator (2)** was approved at \$44,000 to fund hiring an educator.
- xxviii. **Land-Use Changes of Live Oak Peninsula (2)** was approved at \$20,000.
- xxix. **Shoreline Management Plan for Ecologically Acceptable Development (2)** was not recommended for funding at this time.
- xxx. **Beach Watch (Bacteria Monitoring) (2)** – This project initially requested \$20,000 and was revised to include Kleberg County in addition to Nueces and Aransas Counties for a new total of \$32,000. This project was approved at \$28,000.
- xxxi. **Effects of Dredging on Oyster Reefs in Copano Bay (1)** was not recommended for funding at this time.
- xxxii. **Harbors and Marinas (0)** was not recommended for funding at this time.

3. FY 2006 Budget Proposal – All of the discussions in 2. above are incorporated into the attached spreadsheet, which reflects the Team’s ’06 Budget Proposal totaling \$652,000.
4. FY 2005 Project Discussion – Project #0517 OSO Bay Characterization – The Water and Sediment Quality Implementation Team presented a project to evaluate loadings from agriculture activities in the Oso watershed. The project, being implemented by The State Soil and Water Conservation Service was in need of additional funding to assist costs associated with analysis of certain constituents. Without the additional funds, the pesticides and herbicides would be excluded from the project. The Water and Sediment Quality Implementation Team recommend \$40,000 from the FY 2005 Project 0517 (Oso Bay Characterization) be dedicated to this project to assure that testing for pesticides and herbicides is included in the scope of this project. Maggie Dalthorp made the motion to forward this request to the Board of

Directors for approval and was seconded by Art Morris. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Next Meeting – No future meeting is currently scheduled. However, the Coordination Team agreed that they would like a new committee established to oversee the newly acquired properties for public outreach, erosion control, predator control and vegetation issues. A future meeting may be called pending the recommendations from the various teams.
6. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.