Mission-Aransas NERR Reserve Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
Minutes

Bay Education Center
Rockport, Texas
February 14, 2013
9 am - 1 pm

Purpose:  
Objective 1: Mission-Aransas NERR staff will brief the RAB on Mission-Aransas NERR projects completed in the September - December timeframe.
Objective 2: RAB will provide advice to project implementation.

Meeting lead:  
Objective 1: Mission-Aransas NERR Manager, Sally Palmer
Objective 2: RAB Chairman, Felix Keeley

Handouts:  
1: Agenda for this meeting
2: Directory of RAB members and Mission-Aransas NERR staff and organization chart
3: Minutes from August 17, 2012 RAB meeting
4: Powerpoint presentation for February 14, 2013
5: Article from ENR with announcement of the Estuarine Research Center Best Green Project – Award of merit.
6: Article from Rockport Pilot about the Eagle Ford task force
7: Article from Rockport Pilot about Little Bay Report Card
8: Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Texas Marine Science Institute and the nine partner agencies
9: Spring 2013 Schedule of Events
10: Fliers each the GIS and Community Rating System workshops
11: Copy of the Education Market Analysis and Needs Assessment

Presentations:  
Status of administration by Sally Morehead Palmer
Summary of research/monitoring program by Ed Buskey
Summary of coastal training program by Kristin Hicks
Summary of stewardship program by Kiersten Madden
Summary of education program by Carolyn Rose

Decisions:  
No decisions were made.
Discussion: A general discussion on these two topics occurred instead of breakouts.

1: Education resources for teacher training

Participants provided input about research projects that are relevant to the development of a Gulf of Mexico Teachers on the Estuary Training workshop.

2: Discussion of Reserve Advisory Board Structure

Participants were provided the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Texas Marine Science Institute and the nine partner agencies and asked the following questions:

- Do your agencies agree to continued membership? *There was agreement.*
  How do we handle the Coastal Bend Land Trust incorporation into Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program? *There was no discussion on this point.*

- How do we involve other organizations or departments within your agency? (SABAY, SABF, Sea Grant, ICF, TPWD State Parks). What other agencies should we include? Suggested open meetings, committees...
  *Participants liked the idea of informational updates but would like prior notification so that they could be prepared. There were several suggestions for changing the meeting format and including other stakeholder organizations. This will be put to a vote by the Board:*
  1. Status quo with two Reserve Advisory Board meetings per year. Format would contain presentations, break-out sessions, and informational updates by board members.
  2. Two meetings per year. One meeting would be for the Reserve Advisory Board and contain presentations, break-out sessions, and informational updates by board members. The second meeting would target a larger audience and includes other partner agencies. This meeting format would include longer presentations and opportunity for informational updates by board members.
  3. Two meetings per year. One meeting would be for the Reserve Advisory Board and contain presentations, break-out sessions, and informational updates by board members. The second meeting would *include a pre-meeting with board members* and then a meeting for a larger audience and includes other partner agencies. Format would include longer presentations, and opportunity for informational updates by board members.

- Do you still agree on the following terms? *There was no discussion on this point.*

  In August 2006, the board voted for staggered terms (in years):
  - Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (3) 2009, 2012, 2015
  - Texas General Land Office Energy Division (4) 2010, 2014, 2018
  - Texas General Land Office Coastal Division (5) 2011, 2016
  - Texas Department of Transportation (3) 2009, 2012, 2015
- Fennessey Ranch (4) 2010, 2014, 2018
- The Nature Conservancy (5) 2011, 2016
- Aransas County (4) 2010, 2014, 2018
- Coastal Bend Land Trust (4) 2010, 2014, 2018

- We need to better define the role of chairman and vice-chairman positions. (In August 2006, the board voted in Felix Keeley as chairman and Ed Hegen as vice-chairman.) Should these positions have terms? There was no discussion on this point.

Boundary modifications will occur, if needed, during management plan. Do you want to include CBBEP new parcel on Lamar Peninsula? There was no discussion on this point.

**Informational updates by partners:**
- Fennessey Ranch received CIAP funding for Monarch Maddness and educational supplies.
- Fennessey Ranch is conducting star parties
- The Nature Conservancy was funded money for a large oyster restoration project in Copano Bay
- There was a general consensus that informational updates would be good to continue with advance notice to board members.