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

Estuarine Research Center
Port Aransas, Texas
August 17, 2012
9 am - 12 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 Morehead  
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 January 5, 2012 RAB meeting  
4: Powerpoint presentation for August 17, 2012 RAB meeting  
5: Excerpt from the 2006 management plan on about the Reserve Advisory Board program structure  
6: RESTORE act overview brochure  
7: Article from Rockport Pilot about freshwater inflow study  
8: Performance measures for reporting period 9/1/11 - 2/28/12  
9: Notes for break-out group discussion on coastal access workshop  
10: Notes for break-out group discussion on interpretive educational displays  
11: Important Dates  
12: Fliers including Blue crab citizen science project, Science Collaborative save-the-date for September meetings, Public Issues and Conflict Management workshop, San Antonio Bay Partnership kayak trip on Sep. 29th
Presentations: Status of Mission-Aransas NERR by Sally Morehead Palmer
Summary of research/monitoring program by Ed Buskey
Summary of education program by Carolyn Rose
Summary of stewardship program by Kiersten Madden
Summary of coastal training program by Kristin Hicks

Break-outs: 1: Discuss coastal access workshop
2: Discuss interpretive educational displays

Decisions:

- Discussion about the structure of the RAB. There was a desire not to create bylaws and an interest expressed in involving other groups that could provide leveraging opportunities (such as San Antonio Bay Foundation, Harte Research Institute, NOAA Restoration Center, and San Jose representative).
- Mark Dumesnil inquired about the upcoming sea level rise workshop and who the participants were, as well as the purpose of the workshop.
- There was a request to put an electronic version of the site profile on the Reserve website.
- There was an interest expressed to add new acquisitions (Holiday Beach and Big Tree Ranch) to the Reserve boundary.
- Discussion on the regulations affecting duck blinds and public access. Blinds that are on state property are exempt from regulation. If blinds are on ANWR property, the owner is contacted first and given opportunity to remove blinds before done so by USFWS.
- Informational - CBBEP is doing a marsh restoration project with TPWD (Jackie Robinson) on Egrey flats.
- Discussion about sea level rise future estimates for our area and historical rates.
Heather Wade and Shanna Madsen from the Reserve were also in attendance.

**Suggested Items for the next Meeting’s Agenda:**

1) Approve minutes from RAB meeting on 1/5/12
2) Presentations
   - Status of Mission-Aransas NERR operations (Sally Morehead)
   - Summary of Research/Monitoring Program (Ed Buskey)
   - Summary of Education/Outreach Program (Carolyn Rose)
3) Break
   - Summary of Stewardship Program (Kiersten Madden)
   - Summary of CTP Program (TBD)
4) New business
5) Items to be considered for future agendas
6) Breakout sessions