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

University of Texas Marine Science Institute
Port Aransas, Texas
January 6, 2010
2 pm - 5 pm

Purpose: Objective 1: Mission-Aransas NERR staff will brief the RAB on Mission-Aransas NERR projects completed in the August 24th - January 5th 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
3: Minutes from August 24, 2009 RAB meeting
4: Bay Education Center schematic design
5: NERR news articles
6: Performance measures for reporting period 3/1/09 - 8/31/09
7: Powerpoint presentation for January 6, 2010 RAB meeting

Presentations: Status of Mission-Aransas NERR by Sally Morehead.
Summary of research/monitoring program by Ed Buskey.
Summary of education/outreach program by Rick Tinnin.
Summary of coastal training program by Chad Leister.
Summary of Little Bay sampling program by Britt Dean

Decisions: No committee business was brought to the floor.
Attendees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Proxy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ray Allen</td>
<td>CBBEP</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tammy Brooks</td>
<td>TGLO</td>
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<td>Peter Boone</td>
<td>TGLO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Williams</td>
<td>TGLO</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Raul Cantu</td>
<td>TxDOT</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Crofutt</td>
<td>Fennessey Ranch</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Dumesnil</td>
<td>TNC</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Hegen</td>
<td>TPWD</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felix Keeley</td>
<td>ACND</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad Stinson</td>
<td>ANWR</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jake Herring</td>
<td>CBLT/CBBEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sally Morehead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Tinnin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Buskey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Neblett</td>
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<td>Chad Leister</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiersten Madden</td>
<td>Mission-Aransas NERR</td>
<td>absent</td>
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Suggested Items for the next Meeting’s Agenda:

1) Approve minutes from RAB meeting on 1/6/10
2) Presentations
   • Status of Mission-Aransas NERR operations and facilities (Sally Morehead and Georgia Neblett)
   • Summary of Research/Monitoring Program and committee meeting (Ed Buskey)
3) Break
4) Presentations
   • Summary of Education/Outreach Program and committee meeting (Rick Tinnin)
   • Summary of Stewardship Program and committee meeting (Kiersten Madden)
   • Summary of CTP Program and committee meeting (Chad Leister)
5) New business
6) Items to be considered for future agendas
Discussion:

Blue Crab abundances and their connection to freshwater inflow and whooping cranes.
• Recruitment could also be an issue. There is a hypothesis that the closure of Cedar Bayou is reducing the recruitment capability of blue crabs in the local area. (Ed Buskey)
• TPWD have found that blue crab abundances have decreased coast wide. (Ed Hegen)
• Mark Dumesnil would like more information on this decrease.
• There was some discussion on salinity tolerance of crabs. It was mentioned that the acute salinity tolerance was quite high and that it varied based on life cycle and gender. The long-term salinity tolerances were not discussed or known.
• ANWR has seen a drastic decrease in crab abundances in their monitoring program at the Refuge. Typically blue crabs represent 85% of the whoopers diet. ANWR released an environmental assessment on the supplemental feeding (Dan Alonso)

Mark Dumesnil raised a question about the pH sensors at the SWMP stations. The pH sensors are not sensitive enough to measure fine scale differences of pH, but can determine long-term changes. (Ed Buskey)

There was a request to make the slides in the handout larger.

The ANWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan will be released in the next two weeks. This plan is the management plan for the refuge over the next 15 years. If you would like to provide comment, there is a 60 day comment period. Contact Dan Alonso with questions.

Dates to Remember
• Gulf Estuarine Research Society meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 3-5, 2010.
• San Antonio Bay Comprehensive Management Plan on January 12, 2010 at the University of Houston-Victoria at 10 am
• Bay Education Center Ribbon Cutting on May 6, 2010