

# **San Antonio Bay Partnership**

## *"The Future of San Antonio Bay"*

### **First Steering Committee Meeting**

**2:00pm – 4pm**  
**March 10, 2010**

**First Victoria National Bank Building, Suite 506**  
**101 S. Main St., Victoria, TX 77901**  
**(Corner of S. Main St. & E. Constitution St.)**

*(see attached map for location & directions to meeting room)*

***Note: You may join in this meeting by conference call using the following dial-in directions:***

- 1) Dial the toll-free conference system access number: 866-590-5055 and**
- 2) When prompted, enter the conference access code: 8463538, then hit the # sign; you will be automatically added to the conference call.**  
***The conference call will be initiated at 1:50pm -- you may dial in anytime after that. If you have any problems, call James Dodson on his cell phone : 361-649-1518***

### **Agenda**

- I. Introductions: Steering Committee Members and Guests
- II. Meeting Objectives (J. Dodson)
- III. Review and Approve Agenda
- IV. Report on Activities since the January 12, 2010 Initial Stakeholder Meeting (J. Dodson)
- V. Steering Committee Organizational Issues (i.e., Role, Leadership, Meetings, etc.)
- VI. San Antonio Bay Partnership Issues (i.e., Goals, Governance, Funding, Administration, etc.)
- VII. Steering Committee Comments
- VIII. Next Steps
- IX. Set next meeting date
- X. Adjourn

## **San Antonio Bay Partnership**

### **March 10, 2010 Steering Committee Meeting Summary**

The Steering Committee for the San Antonio Bay Partnership met in Victoria, Texas at 2 pm on Wednesday, March 10, 2010. All Steering Committee members, or their alternates, were present, either in person or by teleconference:

Steering Committee Members: Terry Baiamonte, Norman Boyd, Art Dohman, Roy Foley, Carla Guthrie, Beau Hardegee, John Kusalus, Brian Koch, Bob McCan and Hectoer Mendieta.

Alternates for Steering Committee Members: Robin Knipling, for Gary Burns; and Jeff Nunnely, for Danny May.

Others: James Dodson (facilitator), Steve Raabe, Ray Allen, and Brian Mast.

After opening the meeting, James Dodson asked each person attending to provide a brief self-introduction.

Mr. Dodson then briefly described what he felt were the meeting objectives, and asked if anyone else would like to state their own objective(s) for the meeting. Mr. Dohman indicated he'd like to see the San Antonio Bay Partnership (SABP) provide stakeholders with information on recent studies pertaining to San Antonio Bay and the watershed. Mr. Dodson described an effort underway to get funding to make that a primary task for the SABP. Mr. Boyd suggested that there should be an effort to identify and contact additional stakeholders who might not have attended the Initial Stakeholder Meeting in January. Mr. McCan asked if SABP will identify needs within the San Antonio Bay system, or would other groups be responsible for that task. Mr. Dodson responded that SABP would be undertaking to identify and prioritize issues and needs as part of the development of a San Antonio Bay masterplan. There was further discussion about establishing measurable goals and a method of evaluating project deliverables.

Mr. Kusalus asked what the "scope" of SABP activities might include. Mr. Dodson described the potential scope in terms of what other estuary programs had included in their efforts.

Mr. Dohman emphasized the need to identify and prioritize issues and projects.

There was then discussion about the process of developing "Status and Trends" information that would guide the identification and prioritization of issues and projects. Mr. Allen described some of the existing information sources that could be involved in this process. Mr. Boyd described how Texas Parks and Wildlife Department data is collected and what he could do to summarize that data for the San Antonio Bay system.

Mr. McCan also felt that there were "non-technical" needs the Steering Committee needed to address, including the development of a "mission statement."

Mr. Dodson then reported on some of the activities that had occurred since the January 12, 2010 Initial Stakeholder Meeting, which included:

Securing an additional 6-months funding, from the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), for the continued facilitation of the SABP development process;

Submitting a funding proposal to the San Antonio River Authority to support the compilation, archiving and dissemination of scientific and technical data related to the San Antonio Bay system, and for organizing a two-day meeting of scientists and stakeholders to review available information, identify data gaps and prioritize data needs;

Work on the development of a project website ([www.SABayPartnership.org](http://www.SABayPartnership.org) -- presently "under construction" by a website developer working for CBBEP);

Development of an expanded stakeholder contact list and a contact manager program for broadcasting e-mail communications;

Submittal of a pre-proposal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a grant to perform preliminary activities to develop a wetlands protection plan for the San Antonio Bay system; and

Hosting an EPA (Dallas Regional Office) staff member on a "site visit" to the San Antonio Bay area (including a boat trip to the Guadalupe Delta area, courtesy of Norman Boyd).

The next item of business was to discuss Steering Committee organizational issues. Mr. Dodson suggested that it would be appropriate for the Steering Committee to initiate some form of "self-governance," which might include naming someone to lead the Steering Committee efforts. The Steering Committee decided, by consensus, that two "officers" would be appointed: a Chair and a Vice-Chair. Mr. John Kisalus was appointed as Chair, and Commissioner Gary Burns as Vice-Chair.

It was decided to hold monthly Steering Committee meetings, to be scheduled on a regular day of the month determined by polling the members as to their schedules for regular commitments and available days.

The Steering Committee discussed the time-frame for their activities and it was decided to develop a Steering Committee Work Plan that would cover the period through the end of the year 2010. The Steering Committee will also draft a "Mission Statement" for the SABP, which will be presented to stakeholders for consideration at the next general stakeholder meeting, which the Steering Committee felt should take place in June 2010. Mr. Foley offered to look into the use, again, of a meeting room on the University of Houston – Victoria campus.

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The Steering Committee also discussed the addition of more members to the existing group. It was decided that Mr. Dodson would solicit additional members from the Calhoun County area, including Kenny Finster, Calhoun County Commissioner, Precinct 4, and Rhonda Cummins, Sea Grant Marine Extension Agent for Calhoun County; as well as a representative of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. Mr. Dodson asked Mr. Boyd for assistance in setting up a meeting in the Seadrift area to visit with Commissioner Finster and other local elected/appointed officials about Steering Committee membership. Mr. Boyd offered to assist.

There being no other business, the Steering Committee meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.