

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

Meeting Notes Monday, October 28, 2019

The 279th meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, October 28th, 2019 at the Republic Grill. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The September 2019 meeting notes were approved without changes.

ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
x	Ruth Boyd	x	Clean Harbors , Bruce Riffel	x	Jeremy Albery, LBC Terminals, H/SEA CAP
	Tim Culp		Delta Companies Group , Frank Ingrassia	x	Tom Baldauf, Goodyear, H/SEA CAP
x	Ken Donnell	x	Dow Chemical Deer Park , Jeff Garry	x	Michael Bankston, TPC Group, H/SEA CAP
	Bobby Garcia	x	Dow Chemical , Whitney Bolger, rep by Jeff Garry	x	Della Barbato
x	Sherry Garrison	x	Evonik Oil Additives , Jim Bentinck-Smith	x	Harrison Barclay, DPHS
x	Tommy Ginn	x	GEO Specialty Chemicals , Derek Linder, rep by Blaine Murphy	x	Terry Blackwood, Baytown CAP
	Stephen Harrell		Hexion , Marlene Mercado	x	Jaicee Blair, DPHS
	Robert Hemminger		Intercontinental Terminals , David Wascome	x	Jose Cabalu, DPHS
x	Cara Herbeck	x	Lubrizol , Sarah Arroyo, rep by Doug Moore	x	Oscar Chapa, H/SEA CAP
	Steven Horton	x	Lubrizol , Tanya Travis, rep by Doug Moore	x	Mike Clawson, H/SEA CAP
	Norma Hysler	x	Oxy Vinyls VCM , Claudia O'Rourke	x	Terri Clawson, H/SEA CAP
x	Bill Irwin	x	Oxy Vinyls PVC/KOH , Craig Horak, rep by Claudia O'Rourke	x	John Collins
	Katherine Mitchum	x	Shell Deer Park , Amanda Accardo	x	Trilby Cressman, Evonik
	Mike Mitchum	x	Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site , Thor Nygaard, rep by Accardo	x	Butch Cressman
	James Ragaisis		Texas Molecular , Frank Marine	x	Madison Fox, DPHS
	Ariel Pena		Valvoline , Robert Shelton	x	Mitch Glassman, H/SEA CAP
x	Vickey Roberts	x	Vopak Terminal Deer Park , Paul Kanters, rep by Clifton Ferrell	x	Taylor Gleason, DPHS
	Robert Segelquist			x	Loretta Hamilton, H/SEA CAP
	Andy Smith			x	Emma Jones, DPHS
	Charles Thomas		Support Staff	x	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
x	David Wade	x	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator	x	Manuel Magana, Jr.
	Ernest Weedon	x	Anja Borski	x	Hector Martinez, H/SEA CAP
		x	Mary Jane Naquin, Facilitator HCAP/SEACAP*	x	Teresa Martinez, H/SEA CAP
				x	Carrie McCabe, Speaker, ACoE
				x	Steve Outlaw, GEO Specialty Chemicals
				x	Ed Race, H/SEA CAP
				x	Dianna Ramirez, Speaker, Texas GLO
			*HCAP/SEACAP shortened to H/SEA CAP	x	Ruben Saldana, UHCL

				x	Donna Scott, H/SEA CAP
				x	Andy Smith
				x	Sharon Tirpak, ACoE
				x	Wallace Ward
				x	Emily Williams, Shell Deer Park

Update on Coastal Protection

Presentation slides available at www.deerparkcac.org. (Direct Link: [Slides](#))

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) members were joined by members of the Houston, Seashore, and Baytown Community Advisory Panels for an update on the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas General Land Office. Sharon Tirpak and Carrie McCabe from the Army Corps of Engineers, and Dianna Ramirez from the Texas General Land Office, described the work being done by federal and state agencies to study the feasibility of construction projects, like barriers, to manage risks associated with hurricanes as well as projects to restore ecosystems, which may buffer the impacts of coastal storms. The study does not look for solutions to heavy rains from tropical storms like Harvey and Imelda, though it does consider the impact of inland flooding on barriers like high dunes and surge gates. A required Environmental Impact Assessment is looking at the costs and benefits of the options and must balance “engineering soundness, environmental acceptability, and economic justification.”

An initial proposal was modified after public review and comment. The current draft features a gate across the opening of the Houston Ship Channel to the Gulf of Mexico, which is designed to stop 65% of storm surge from a possible hurricane making landfall in the Houston/Galveston area. There would be a large primary gate for commercial vessels, as well as two sets of smaller gates that allow one way recreational vessel traffic. Current modeling suggests overall flow reduction in and out of Galveston Bay caused by the proposed gate system to be reduced by only 10%. Flow is needed to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Additional features of the proposed plan include 26 miles of beach and dune enhancements on Bolivar and 20 miles on Galveston Island from the western end of the Seawall to San Luis Pass. Additionally, a ring barrier/earthen levee is proposed to protect the back side of Galveston Island.

A second version of the plan will be released for public review and comment before it is finalized in 2021. The presentation to DPCAC has been posted at www.deerparkcac.org. The Corps and the General Land Office are providing information for the public in formal hearings and informal open houses as well as social media, email, newsletters and a community working group. Details may be found at www.coastalstudy.texas.gov as well as on Facebook and Twitter @coastaltxstudy

Question: Will the dune/berm system erode away? The plan definitely takes into consideration natural erosion processes, and the need to renourish the dune/berm infrastructure over time. Currently sand sources are pretty far offshore, but they are looking into closer sources, as well as how to utilize the sand that may move around a bit, but remains within the system.

Question: If you have a house on the beach, will you still be able to see the Gulf/views? How high will the dunes be? The dune and berm systems should not block second-story views (most beach houses do not have living areas on the ground level). Plans are being designed for 14 feet from sea level, which is not to be confused with adding 14 feet above whatever is currently there.

Question: How much sand does the plan call for, and where will it come from? Not sure of the actual volume, but it is a lot. The cubic yard volume estimate is available in the online draft documentation.

Currently the sand comes from about 27 miles offshore, in Bureau of Ocean Energy Management jurisdiction.

Question: What does the project schedule look like? How realistic are funding sources right now? Are there phases of development or will it only begin once all funding has been secured? The proposed schedule is based on optimal funding. Implementation of the project is likely to take place in phases, with the gate construction occurring first, as it also accounts for the largest percentage of the project's storm surge suppression.

Question: Have you considered shoreline cages for erosion protection, like what is used in Michigan? Similar breakwaters are included in the ecosystem restoration portion of the plan.

Question: Erosion and hurricanes are very bad, but how do we deal with 55" of rain from a hurricane? The project does not address Harvey-type flooding. If a storm is all rainfall, the gates can remain open. Additionally, new marshes created by the ecosystem restoration projects in the plan may offer some improvement in rainwater/runoff management, by acting like a giant sponge. The Army Corps of Engineers has other projects for flood mitigation.

Question: If you build a 14 foot wall on the West End of Galveston, how will the rainwater escape? There will be pump stations to take rainwater out, similar to those planned for Clear Creek and Dickinson.

Question: Is there general support for the project and funding? Congressman Weber and Senators Cornyn and Cruz have been supportive. The Army Corps of Engineers does not lobby, however they do visit once a year to brief representatives and educate them on the benefits and costs of the project. The public is encouraged to participate in the review process by submitting comments, concerns and letters of support.

Updates

Question of the Month from Vopak

"What is Sustainability?" See www.deerparkcac.org for the answer and for questions from past meetings.

Level 2 Watches or Level 3 Warnings

None reported.

Written Facility Updates

Dow Deer Park reported the EPA conducted a Risk Management Plan inspection and a Water inspection during the reporting period. There was one reportable quantity release during a rough weather event. There were three injuries during the reporting period. Community projects include partnering with Deer Park Education Foundation on STEM education programs for 2020. STEM means Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Geo Specialty Chemicals had no reportable environmental spills or air releases during the reporting period. They had one recordable injury. The facility passed its annual mechanical integrity testing of on-site deepwells, with TCEQ present during testing of two wells.

Ozone Exceedance Days

TCEQ's Karen Lewis-Holmes reported that the Houston region had 4 8-hour, 71ppb ozone exceedance days in September, and 2 8-hour, 71ppb exceedance days in October. One of the October exceedance days

was in Deer Park. 2019 year to date there have been 33 8-hour exceedances. In comparison, there were 35 8-hour exceedances in all of 2018.

Plans for Future Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held at the Republic Grill. Food service begins at 5:30 and business at 6:00. We adjourn no later than 8:30.

MONDAY, December 2 – Deer Park Area Road Construction and Transportation Update

MONDAY, January 27 – Tour of San Jacinto College’s New LyondellBasell Center for Petrochem, Energy, and Technology

Dates for 2019 – all Mondays

Jan. 28
Feb. 25
Mar. 25
Apr. 30 (Tuesday for Boat Tour – Not Available Mondays)

June 3 (delayed due to Memorial Day)
No end of June meeting
No July meeting
Aug. 26
Sept. 23

Oct. 28
December 2 (delayed due to Thanksgiving Week)

Dates for 2020 – all Mondays

Jan. 27
Feb. 24
Mar. 23
Apr. 27
June 1 (delayed due to Memorial Day)

No end of June meeting
No July meeting
Aug. 24
Sept. 28
Oct. 26

Nov. 30 (delayed due to Thanksgiving)
no late December

Deer Park Community Advisory Council
Input on Coastal Protection Plans
10-28-19

Time did not permit additional discussion after the Q&A, but attendees were welcome to turn in any additional comments.

1. Anything you were glad to learn?

2. Anything that concerns you?
 - I will be dead before construction ever begins! I have concern this project will never get done.

3. Any questions that still need to be answered?
 - Did y'all contact east coast states since they have an entire coast of barrier islands? They have great solutions in place for beach erosion.

4. Anything you want to be sure those working on coastal protection consider?
 - Christmas trees are great for building berms.

5. Anything about anything else?