

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING - JULY 6, 2010

On the 6th day of July, 2010, there was a Joint Workshop Meeting of the Commissioners' Court, Rockport City Council, Aransas County Navigation District, and Fulton Town Council held at Rockport City Hall, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, with the following members present: C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge; Leslie "Bubba" Casterline, Commissioner Precinct 2; Howard Murph, Commissioner Precinct 4; and Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Officer present was David Reid, Drainage Engineer.

The Meeting was convened at 11:00 a.m. at which time a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

Rockport Mayor C. J. Wax introduced Dr. Kenneth Dunton and Christopher Wilson who gave a presentation on their two-year assessment of Little Bay water and sediment quality in relation to indices of seagrass condition.

Dr. Dunton told the group the Aransas County Navigation District purchased 604 acres of land from the state in 1953 at a cost of \$1.00 per acre. In 1962 Key Allegro was constructed on Frandolig Island that was once a wetland habitat for birds. In 1971 Harbor Oaks was built. In 1972 the sewage treatment plant capacity doubled and in 1988 Rockport Beach Park was constructed. Now the sewage treatment capacity is at 2.5 mgd. Dr. Dunton stated that chemical agents don't seem to be the cause of the massive decline of seagrasses in Little Bay that started in 2005. Seagrasses provide a habitat for fish, crabs, birds, and other marine life that was abundant in Little Bay. The two-year study could not pinpoint why the grasses died off. Dr. Dunton stated water quality in Little Bay seems acceptable for seagrass growth; water salinity is the "smoking gun". Plants do not do well in salinity of less than 20%. The freshening of Little Bay during periodic flooding may have contributed to the long-term decline in seagrasses.

Mayor Wax stated a final report on findings is scheduled for will be received around September. Mayor Wax summed up the meeting by stating there are no silver bullets. There are three problem areas - water exchange, non-point sources, and stormwater runoff.

Judge Mills agreed with Mayor Wax's assessment adding " we are our own worst enemy."

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Navigation District Commissioner Lamar Story stated they are looking into solutions, such as making an inlet from Aransas Bay at the south end of Little Bay via box culverts; however, they have funds. Commissioner Casterline asked if any study has shown adding an opening at the south end of Little Bay would keep Blevin's Channel cleared out; Story replied a study says they would have to extend groins way out into Aransas Bay to prevent siltation.

(Assessment inserted)

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned was adjourned by Mayor Wax.

C. H. "BURT" MILLS, JR., COUNTY JUDGE

PEGGY L. FRIEBELE, COUNTY CLERK &
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT