Draft Agenda for the 12th State of the Bay Symposium: February 24-25, 2026

3.30 a.m 10:00 a.m 10:0							
Day One Opening Plenary Session (Exhibit Hatt A) - Welcome by Collection Bay Estuary Program Manager, Lisa M. Marshall - Address TBD - Panet Water Rights (Toxas Water Trade, TPWD) - Address by City Council Member District C, Abbis Kamin 10:30 a.m 10:30 a.m. M. Program Manager, Lisa M. Marshall - Address TBD - Panet Water Rights (Toxas Water Trade, TPWD) - Address by City Council Member District C, Abbis Kamin 10:30 a.m 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Session I Toxas Address Marshall Marshall Marshall Marshall Bayer Multiple Stressor Chaltenges and their Impacts on Galveston Bay Region and its Ecosystems Containment Quality Hanad Rinki University and Preservation Bob Stokes, Calveston Bay Foundation Impacts on Ecosystem Protection and Preservation Bob Stokes, Calveston Bay Foundation Impacts on Ecosystems Antionata Quigo or alternate, Q	Day 1						
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Address by City Council Member District C, Abbie Kamin	8:30 a.m 10:00 a.m.	- Address TBD					
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Concurrent Session		- Address by City Council Member District C, Abbie Kamin					
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Collaborative Improving Water Community Engagement Oysters	1:30 p.m 3:00 p.m.						
				Community Engagement	Oysters		
		Conservation Through	Quality in Galveston	with Birds			
Natural Resource Bay with Healthy Soil		Natural Resource	Bay with Healthy Soil				
Damage Assessments and Green		Damage Assessments	and Green				
Infrastructure			Infrastructure				

	Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration in Galveston Bay Michael Cave, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality NRDA Sea Turtle Restoration on the Upper Texas Coast: Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring, Sea Turtle Rescue, Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Marine Debris Removal Chris Marshall, Texas A&M University Galveston Construction and Monitoring of Dickinson Bay Bird Island 2 Jeffrey Fato, Galveston Bay Foundation Continued Placement of Beneficial Use Material at Pierce	Improving Water Quality in Galveston Bay with Healthy Soil and Green Infrastructure Charriss York, Texas A&M AgriLife Brian Koch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Kelli Ondracek, City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department Brittani Flowers, Bayou Preservation Association Texas-Based Ecosystem Service Valuation for Benefit- Cost Analysis of Nature-Based Solutions Michael Niebuhr, AgriLife	How we Help the Birds: A Look at Bird-Friendly Actions Taken by Community Members Schyler Brown, Houston Audubon Filling in the Gaps: Using Houston Audubon Urban Bird Surveys to Improve the Quality of Community Science Datasets Schyler Brown, Houston Audubon Where Birds Thrive, People Prosper: Creating Resilient Communities Through Bird City Texas Certification Chloe Crumley Audubon Texas Beach Nesting Bird Conservation on the Upper Texas Coast: Stabilizing and Increasing Populations Through Habitat Protection, Population Monitoring, and Public Outreach Sarah Belles, American	Management Strategies for Oyster Recovery and Fishery Sustainability in Galveston Bay Christine Jensen, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Lessons Learned from Adaptively Managing and Oyster Reef Impacted by Sedimentation Kathy Sweezey, The Nature Conservancy The Galveston Bay Foundation's Oyster Shell Recycling Program: 14 Years of Growth and Future Goals Shannon Batte, Galveston Bay Foundation Sentinel Program to Track Perkinsus marinus in Oysters of Galveston Bay George Guillen, University of Houston Clear Lake
	Marsh Sally Clark, Galveston Bay		Bird Conservancy	
3:00 p.m 3:45 p.m.	Foundation	sion and Afternoon Break	(Eybibit Hall D)	
3:45 - 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Session III	Sion and Artemoon Break	(EXIIIDIL HALL B)	
·	Floral Ballroom A1	Flowel Bellingers AO		
	I torat battiooni A i	Floral Ballroom A2	Room 3	Room 4
	Panel: Caring for Trinity Bay: Building an Interagency Partnership to Evaluate and Remove Aging Oil & Gas Infrastructure	Land Conservation	Room 3 Exploration Green: A Nature-Based Solution for Stormwater Management in Houston, TX	TBD

		Anne Piacentini or other, Coastal Prairie Conservancy		
5:00 p.m.	Evening Reception (Room A4)			

7:30 a.m 8:30 a.m.	Registration			
8:30 a.m 10:00 a.m.	Pay Two Opening Plenary Session (Exhibit Hall A) - Welcome by Galveston Bay Council Chair, Vance Darr - Address by City of Galveston Mayor, Craig Brown - Address TBD - Presentation: Dr. Paul Montagna (Harte Research Institute)			
10:00 a.m 10:30 a.m.	Morning Break - Opportu	unity to network and visit	the exhibits and poster prese	entations (Exhibit Hall B)
10:30 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Concurrent Session IV			
	Floral Ballroom A1	Floral Ballroom A2	Room 3	Room 4
	Living Shorelines in the Galveston Bay System: Status, Considerations, and Long-Term Results	Panel: Watershed- Based Planning and Implementation	eDNA Biomonitoring in Galveston Bay	Flora and Fauna of Galveston Bay
	Living Shorelines in the Galveston Bay System: Status, Considerations, and Long-Term Results Jim Dobberstine, Lee College Cindy Howard, University of Houston Clear Lake Jeffrey Fato, Galveston Bay Foundation Evaluating Saltmarshes as a Nature-Based Solution to Microplastic Pollution Lydia Thurman, University of Houston Clear Lake	Panel: Watershed-Based Planning and Implementation Steven Johnston, Houston-Galveston Area Council Rachel Windham, Houston-Galveston Area Council Celina Gauthier Lowry, Texas A&M AgriLife Lucas F. Gregory, Texas Water Resources Institute Natasha Zarnstorff, Galveston Bay Foundation Nicole Hall, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	eDNA Biomonitoring in Galveston Bay Yasmina Shah Esmaeili, Texas A&M University Galveston Sheila Kitchen, Texas A&M University Galveston Guilherme Corte, Texas A&M University Galveston Jaelyn Rodriguez, Texas A&M University Galveston Nicholas Versfelt, Texas A&M University Galveston	Morphometrics, Population Structure, and Spatial Distribution of Diamondback Terrapin in Texas Estuaries Mandi Gordon, University of Houston Clear Lake Seagrass Community in West Bay and Christmas Bay: 2016 - 2024 Laura Ryckman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Evaluation of Microplastic Loading in Marsh Habitats Associated with Texas Diamondback Terrapins (Malaclemys terrapin littoralis) Gabrielle Hammerbach, University of Houston Clear Lake Green Sea Turtle Tracking Project TBD
12:00 p.m 1:15 p.m.	Luncheon (Exhibit Hall A	A), Keynote Speaker - Mar	cus Eriksen	

1:30 p.m 3:00 p.m.	Concurrent Session V				
	Floral Ballroom A1	Floral Ballroom A2	Room 3	Room 4	
	Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring and Management	Community-Based Water Quality Initiatives	Data/Modeling	Historic and Future Bird Trends	
	Coastal Groundwater Dynamics in Galveston Bay Dini Adyasari, Texas A&M University Galveston Application of Matrix- Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Time-of-Flight Mass Spec to Detect the Source of Enterococcus Contamination of Mustang Bayou Chris Howard, University of Houston Clear Lake Targeted Bacteria Monitoring: A Holistic Overview of the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Projects Cornell Evans, Houston-Galveston Area Council Developing a TMDL for a Stormwater- dominated Recreational Beach Sam Bickley, Texas	Clean Coast Texas: Providing Coastal Communities with Technical Assistance to Protect and Restore Water Quality Scott Jones, Texas A&M AgriLife Enhancing On-Site Sewage Facility Outreach and Improvements on a Community Level with GIS-Based Tools and Local Partners Kendall Guidroz, Houston-Galveston Area Council Public Awareness of Waterborne Pathogen Risk from Recreational Exposure: Insights from Galveston Beach Survey Ashley Ross, Texas A&M University Galveston Water Quality, Debris, and Citizen Scientists	Texas Clean Rivers Program Regional Water Resources Information Map Jenny Oakley, Houston-Galveston Area Council Galveston Bay Regional Monitoring Database: What Can It Do For You? Ryan Bare, Houston Advanced Research Center Next Steps in Estuarine Habitat Suitability Modeling in Galveston Bay: Integrating Process- Based and Data Driven Approaches Ryan Hostak, TetraTech Land Cover Forecasting for the HGAC Region using TerrSet Megha Shrestha, Houston- Galveston Area Council Leveraging the Texas Litter Database for Citizen Science and Watershed Stewardship	Enhancing Habitat and Birdlife on the Bolivar Peninsula: A Historical Perspective Wyatt Egelhoff, Houston Audubon Avian Conservation Initiatives at the Houston Zoo: Building for a Sustainable Future in Zoological Aviculture Programs and Global Conservation Ric Urban, Houston Zoo 60 Years of Avian Surveillance Within Harris County Mosquito and Vector Control Elise Nishikawa, Harris County Mosquito and Vector Control Roseate Spoonbill in Galveston Bay: Apparent Trends in Breeding Population Wyatt Egelhoff, Houston Audubon The State of the Attwater's Prairie	
	Commission on Environmental Quality	in Galveston Bay Natasha Zarnstorff, Galveston Bay Foundation	Kirsten Sorensen, Keep Texas Beautiful	Chicken (Tympanuchus cupido attwateri) in Texas and the AZA SAFE Conservation Initiative Kyle McAuliffe, Houston Zoo	
3:00 p.m 3:45 p.m.	Poster Presentation Session and Afternoon Break (Exhibit Hall B)				
3:45 - 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Session VI				
	Floral Ballroom A1	Floral Ballroom A2	Room 3	Room 4	
	Habitat Restoration and Enhancement	Legacy, Emerging Chemical and Biological Contaminants in Aquatic Ecosystems Part II	Next Generation Earth System Science: A Framework for Transdisciplinary Collaboration Among Research, Education, and Outreach	Dolphins	

	Native Plant Program for Lower Galveston Bay Watershed Ricci Simmons, Galveston Bay Foundation Construction and Monitoring of Dollar Bay-Moses Lake Marsh Terraces Jeffrey Fato, Galveston Bay Foundation An Upstream Piece of Galveston Bay's Ecosystem: Findings from an Urban Park's Native Habitat Restoration Courtney Hall, Memorial Park Conservancy Building Ecological Resilience Through Urban Restoration and Community Science at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center Nova Morales, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center	A Five-Year Observation on the Spatial and Temporal Distributions of PFAS in Galveston Bay, TX, USA Yina Liu, Texas A&M University Galveston PFAS in Texas and Galveston Bay Waters: Where are we Now? Vanessa Hulse, Houston Advanced Research Center Applied Time Series Analyses (2000–2017) Of Vibrio Vulnificus And Vibrio Parahaemolyticus (Pathogenic And Non-Pathogenic Strains) In The Eastern Oyster, Crassostrea Virginica Antoinetta Quigg, Texas A&M University Galveston Dioxin and Polychlorinated Biphenyls: Lessons Learned from two Decades of Monitoring, Data Analytics, and Modeling Hanadi Rifai	Next Generation Earth System Science: A Framework for Transdisciplinary Collaboration Among Research, Education, and Outreach Sandra Metoyer, University of Houston Clear Lake Wendy Reistle, University of Houston Clear Lake Debbie Bush, University of Houston Clear Lake	From Flood to Lesion: Bottlenose Dolphins as Early Indicators of Estuarine Change Lola Renauer, University of South Carolina Galveston Bay's Urban Bottlenose Dolphins: Updates on Residency and Threat Evaluation Melanie Rogers, University of Houston Clear Lake Common Bottlenose Dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) as Bioindicators of Inorganic Chemical Pollution Along the Galveston Coast Madison Hallmark, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi Land-Based Dolphin Surveys Conducted by Citizen Scientists: What we have Learned about Dolphin-Fisher Interactions at Seawolf Park Alyssa Quackenbush, Galveston Bay Foundation
5:15 p.m 7:00 p.m.	Post-Symposium Session			
	Floral Ballroom A1 Wetland Connections	Floral Ballroom A2 NRDA Public Meeting		
	Workshop Galveston Bay Foundation			