



## Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

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County Judge - \$500  
Commissioner Pct 1 - \$1,000

Coastal Issues Forums

FY 13/14  
Outside  
Agency Report

Evaluating Issues and Discussing Solutions to Maintain Healthy Bays and Estuaries

**Goal:** To provide nine (9) free public information forums on coastal issues (CBBF'S monthly COASTAL ISSUES FORUMS), which increase opportunities for regional public education and outreach. CBBF will continue working in partnership with the CBBEP as top sponsor.

**Tasks:** 1) Secure speakers and venue, send out notices and post CBBF website. (not to exceed \$1,900 in Salary budget and \$285 in Fringe categories).

2) Purchase small electronic equipment or parts for equipment needs and other needed items (not to exceed \$100 in Supplies category)

**Budget not to exceed \$2285 (\$1,500 County, \$785 CBBEP to be used for October Meeting)**

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The following Coastal Issues Forums were provided free of charge to the public during 2014.

### January 15th

- **Sea Level Rise, Storm Surge and Coastal Resilience – What to Expect in the Future?** – Dr. Jorge Brenner, PhD, Associate Director of Marine Science, The Nature Conservancy – Texas presented information on the project that TNC conducted with the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program which provides a series of GIS-based assessments and online tools to inform decision makers and to the general public of the impacts caused by sea-level rise (SLR) and storm surge, and their implications for coastal resilience along the Gulf Coast of Mexico. The Results of the study estimate the potential impacts of SLR and storm surge to human communities and natural habitats in the Corpus Christi Bay.

### February 10<sup>th</sup>

- **State of the Port of Corpus Christi** – This forum included an update on the development and future direction of the Port of Corpus Christi presented by Mr. John LaRue, Executive Director of the Port of Corpus Christi Authority.

### March 10<sup>th</sup>

- **Bird Migration along the Lower Texas Coast** – Dr. Bart Ballard, PhD presented information on passage rates, flight altitudes, and flight orientation and discussed migration strategies of birds passing through this region. His research focuses on ecology and management of waterfowl, waterbirds, and wetland habitats as well as investigation bird migration along the Texas Coast.

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Nueces County  
Commissioners Court  
Administration

#### April 14<sup>th</sup>

- **Does Oso Bay Have a Nitrogen Problem?** – Michael Wetz, PhD, Assistant Professor of Marine Biology and Coordinator of the Marine Biology Graduate Program at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi presented water quality data on an ongoing study in the Oso Bay system.

#### May 6<sup>th</sup>

- **Landscape-Scale Solutions for Surge Migration and Ecological Restoration** – Mr. Jim Blackburn discussed hurricane surge damage mitigation solutions envisioned by Severe Storm Prediction, Education and Evacuation from Disasters Center (SSPEED Center) Rice University. Mr. Blackburn presented two landscape-scale, non-structural approaches that propose to redefine the economy of low-lying, flood-prone lands of Matagorda, Galveston and Chambers Counties. This information can serve as a model for the counties of the Coastal Bend area.

#### May 12<sup>th</sup>

- **Project Update on M&G's Corpus Christi Resin Plant** - Mr. Mauro Fenoglio presented an updated timeline for construction of their new plant planned on the Corpus Christi Harbor Channel including status reports on permitting, details for the desalination plant and an introduction of the facility management team for the Corpus Christi M&G Chemicals project.

#### June 9<sup>th</sup>

- **Sustainable Desalination and Clean Power** – Mr. Joe Veytia with Salt and Earth Energy LLC and Mr. J Philip Jackson from Thermal Energy Partners LLC discussed innovative methods to provide fresh water and power to facilities with clean, base-load renewable power.

#### September 8<sup>th</sup>

- **Teaming with Wildlife, A natural Investment: Building a Coalition to Support Wildlife** – Mr. Richard Heibun, Conservation Outreach Program Leader with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department presented information on the coalition's work to connect the conservation community, provide a unified voice for issues of concern, and to solve critical issues affecting our state's natural heritage.

#### October 13<sup>th</sup>

- **An update on Voestalpine's HBI-Project Turning a Green Vision into Reality** – Matthias Pasti, Head of Corporate Communications and Public Relations, Voestalpine Texas LLC. The Voestalpine Group is a steel-based technology and capital goods group that operates worldwide and is one of the leading partners to the automotive and consumer goods industries in Europe and to the oil and gas worldwide.
- **Clean Power & Sustainable Power** - Mr. James Jackson, Chief Development Officer, Thermal Energy Partners (TEP) leads sales efforts to deliver onsite, base-load renewable power with zero emissions to the environment. Mr. Jackson is responsible for the development of TEP's go-to-market strategy and sales efforts to "Critical Infrastructure Markets" that include Industrial, Oil & Gas, Chemical, Healthcare, Data Center and Department of Defense clients.