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CBBEP History

- 1987 – U.S. Congress established the National Estuary Program (NEP) to promote long-term planning and management of nationally significant estuaries
- 1994 - CBBEP was officially established as one of 28 estuaries of “National Significance”
- 1998 - Coastal Bend Bays Plan formally approved by Tx Governor George Bush
- 1999 – Plan approved by the U.S. EPA
- 1999 – Program become non-profit org
The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program

• Local 501(c)(3) established in 1999

• Mission – the implementation of the Coastal Bend Bays Plan

• Non-regulatory, voluntary partnership effort - work with industry, environmental groups, bay users, local governments, and resource managers

• Support continued economic growth and use of the bays
12 Counties in the Texas Coastal Bend

- 75 miles of estuaries along south-central coastline
- 12 counties encompass 11,500 square miles of land
- 515 square miles of bays, estuaries and bayous
- 3 of the 7 major estuaries in Texas: Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi Bay, and Upper Laguna Madre
Key Funding
Partners = Owners

- $600,000 - US EPA
- $850,000 - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- $75,000 - Port of Corpus Christi (plus office space and utilities)
- $75,000 - City of Corpus Christi
- $75,000 - Port Industries of CC
- $30,000 – San Patricio County
- $5,000 – City of Aransas Pass
- $5,000 – City of Ingleside
- $5,000 - City of Portland
- $5,000 – City of Port Aransas
• A Community Developed Plan
• Commitment by the Partners (Owners)
• A Strategy to Leverage Base Funding and to Pursue other Opportunities
CBBEP
Board of Directors

Mr. Robert Wallace Jr., Chairman
Coastal Bend Bays Foundation

Mr. Robert Corrigan
CBBEP Bays Council

Mayor Joe Adame / Mr. Jay Reining / Ms. Peggy Sumner City of Corpus Christi

County Judge Terry Simpson / Mr. Tom Bridges
San Patricio County

Mr. Gary Eddins / Mr. Tom Curlee
Port Industries of Corpus Christi

Commissioner Francis Gandy / Mr. Bill Green
Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Coastal Bend Bays Plan

August 1998

- Hundreds of Volunteers
- 4 Years of Work
- 6 Major Themes
Priority Issues

- Human Uses
- Maritime Commerce & Dredging
- Habitat Loss
- Living Resources
- Water & Sediment Quality
- Freshwater Resources
- Public Education and Outreach
Habitats

- Open Water: 275,000 acres
- Seagrass Beds: 92,000 acres
- Coastal Marshes: 113,000 acres
- Wind-Tidal Flats: 21,400 acres
- Hard Substrate Reefs: 4,000 acres
- Shoreline: 13,000 miles
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge – Matagorda Island Marsh Restoration
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge – Matagorda Island Marsh Restoration by Adaptive Management

- Design and installation of water control structures to restore hydrology and improve water quality of the 15,000 acre marsh.
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
Whooping Crane Habitat Restoration

- Treated exotics and invasives
Copano Bay Oyster Reef Restoration Project

- Restored 1 acre of oyster reef in April 2008
- Lead by the TNC
Tarpon Tagging Project

- Tagged tarpon in the Coastal Bend with satellite tags to monitor migration patterns around the Gulf of Mexico
- Lead by the University of Texas – Marine Science Institute
• Project to restore freshwater flow back into the river delta
Nueces Delta Inflow Management

Pumps for diverting water into the Nueces Delta
Nueces Delta Inflow Management

- Outfall into the Nueces Delta
LiDAR of Nueces Delta collected to help understand water flow patterns
Nueces Delta
Shoreline Stabilization and Habitat Protection

- Documented erosion of 2.5 meters per year.

- Nearing completion of feasibility assessment of selection of preferred alternative.

- Next step: Design and permitting.
Nueces Bay Rookery Island Habitat Restoration Project

- CBBEP & TGLO - $1.5 million construction project
- Dredged material from the bay, shoreline stabilized with 5,000 tons of limestone rock
- Restore lost island habitat & protect existing rookery islands
Nesting Platforms
Nueces Bay Causeway Marsh Restoration

- Approximately 600 acres of emergent marsh lost to the construction of Highway 181
Nueces Bay Causeway
Marsh Restoration

Plan View –
Confined Emergent Marsh Planting Cells

- End Vision: Planting cells and circulation channels that mimic pre-construction marsh conditions.
Hypoxia Monitoring in Corpus Christi Bay

- Currently monitoring temporal and spatial characteristics of hypoxia in Corpus Christi Bay
- Project will be completed in December 2008
Post Opening Packery Channel
Nekton Sampling

Sampling nekton around a newly opened pass to the Gulf of Mexico and comparing to pre-opening conditions