The quarterly meeting in Matagorda on May 19 was the first annual meeting for the Chapter since the By Law change and all the new Board members and officers were approved, now 17 board members. The Officers for the following year are:

Jerry Mohn – President

Vice Presidents

Upper Coast – John Lee, Galveston County Emergency Management
Middle Coast – Michael Kovacs – City Manager, Port Aransas
Lower Coast – Darla Lapeyre – South Padre EDC

Treasurer – Larry Wise – Moffatt & Nichol
Secretary – Dan Heilman – HDR/Shiner Moseley

The Texas Legislature convenes every two years from January 1 through May 31 and we have one coming up in 2009 with the 81st Texas Legislative Session. It is very hectic and most bills must be filed by mid March to obtain the proper review. For the upcoming legislative session, we are focusing our efforts in three areas: funding for coastal restoration projects; funding for a Texas clean beach initiative; and, opposing any increases in windstorm insurance rates.

The need for funding coastal projects is a given and we seek this every session through the Coastal Erosion Planning & Response Act (CEPRA), which the last legislative session provided $17.2 million for two years. The effort by the Chapter for the upcoming legislative session is a goal of $30 million over two years.

As far as trash and litter, Texas coastal communities spend millions of dollars a year in cleaning beaches of litter, debris, etc, and we are looking for the State of Texas and the Texas Department of Transportation to help in our efforts with funds and advertising. We would like to see the old billboard signs come back that said, "Don't Mess with Texas! No Littering!" We need to make people visiting the Texas beaches more aware of the need to keep the beaches clean. We are obtaining resolutions from Texas coastal
Message from our President
Continued from Page 1

communities to give and present during the legislative session to request more funds for litter control. For the ASBPA meeting in Washington each year, the Texas Chapter always requests resolutions from the coastal communities and organizations each year to support the ASBPA Legislative Agenda in Washington and we obtained 17 this past year.

On Windstorm insurance, some legislative committee members that review insurance rate increases are from non-coastal areas and they are not prone in helping the coastal communities on windstorm insurance. The non-coastal areas are very susceptible to hail and tornadoes but they see the Texas coast as separate and could support the insurance industry on increases. We will be working with the Coastal Windstorm Insurance Coalition (CWIC) of Texas in keeping windstorm insurance rates down.

The next Texas Chapter meeting will be in Rockport, Texas, on August 18 at the Saltwater Pavilion, from noon to three PM. Besides hearing from the Committees and various presentations on coastal topics, we will hear from the GLO on the upcoming Texas Coastal Conference 2008 “Caring for the Coast” in Galveston, TX, September 25-27. In addition, we will plan and discuss a meeting in Austin in February during the Legislative Session to meet with the Texas Coastal Delegation and various legislators on issues and concerns of the various Texas coastal communities.

Please come to Rockport and participate in this dynamic organization.

— Jerry Mohn,
President of Texas Chapter ASBPA

president@texasasbpa.org

Editor’s Letter

Dear Readers,

Many changes within the Texas Chapter have occurred within the last year as our President has addressed. In addition to changes in the By Laws, and the approval of new board members and officers, changes within the Publications Committee have occurred. Larry Wise, former Chairman of the committee has been replaced by Robert Kite. Larry has done a fantastic job during his appointment. Larry was instrumental in developing our original website and preparing this first newsletter to keep our membership informed about important coastal issues concerning every resident of Texas. Larry will remain on the committee as an advisor till the end of the year.

During the course of the last year we have weathered a serious crash to our website. It has been a long road back to recovery, but Marisa Weber and Tom Linton have been diligent in their efforts to rebuild, from the ground up, a new web site for the organization.

Lastly, our website and newsletter is solely supported by our members, yes that means you. We need the support through articles for the newsletter. Topics can include coastal related issues on litigation, policy making, funding issues, local projects and issues, technical articles and issues. Suggestions on the website content are always welcome. We also always welcome new members to our committee with technical writing ability and an artistic eye.

I will be calling on the membership to sponsor articles for selected publications, so put on your thinking caps.

Our goal as a Publications Committee is to build a communication pathway to educate and inform our readers of the latest coastal and bay issues through quarterly newsletters and website.

Best regards to all of our members

— The Editor,
Jerry Mohn serves as our chapter president with a drive and dedication to the Texas shores and bays which is paramount to no other. His second passion is to West Galveston Island Property Owners Association (WGIPOA) where he serves as President of the organization. Jerry’s involvement and dedication reaches into the Galveston County Beach Erosion Task Force as Vice-Chairman, the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association as Director, the Galveston Bay Foundation as a Board Member of Trustees, and the Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee as Chairman to the Galveston Parks Board of Trustees.

John Lee Jr. is the Mitigation Coordinator for Galveston County (TX) Office of Emergency Management and is a member of the ASBPA Executive Committee, serves as Vice-President of the Texas Chapter of ASBPA, Secretary of the Galveston County Beach Erosion Task Force, and is a member of the Galveston Island State Park Advisory Committee. John has been involved in the protection of coastal resources for over 30 years and believes it is possible for everyone to participate in that process through partnerships and collaborative efforts.

Michael Kovacs is our chapter Vice President for the Middle Coast. Michael possesses an MBA degree and has 10 years of experience in city management, mostly in coastal tourism destinations such as Surfside Beach, South Carolina, and Port Aransas, Texas. Michael has been married to his wife Fonya for 12 years, has three boys in elementary school, and enjoys surfing and hockey.

Darla Lapeyre is our chapter Vice President for the Lower Coast. She has lived on South Padre Island for 15 years and has been with the South Padre Island Economic Development Corporation since 2001. South Padre Island’s business is tourism and our livelihood depends on the beach and the Laguna Madre. Her duties include beach nourishment projects (funding and coordination) and related issues.

Larry Wise is a coastal and marine engineer with Moffatt & Nichol. He graduated from Texas A&M with a BS in civil engineering in 1994 and from Oregon State in 1999 with an MS in ocean engineering. Larry has worked in Texas since 2000 on a variety of coastal engineering projects including beach nourishments on Galveston Island, ship channel design and permitting in Matagorda Bay, and marine terminals in Sabine Lake and Corpus Christi Bay. He has served as treasurer for the Texas Chapter of ASBPA since it’s inception and has until recently chaired the Education and Communications committee. He lives in Houston and spends all of the time he can sailing on and enjoying Galveston Bay.

Dan Heilman is a professional engineer with the consulting firm HDR | Shiner Moseley in Corpus Christi. He has worked in Texas bays, estuaries, and beaches as a coastal engineer since graduating from Texas A&M University in 1995.
The TxASBPA is supported by our board members as well as our membership. The representatives for your area are as follows:

**Counties:** 12 Coastal Counties (Lower to Upper)
- Cameron – Darla Lapeyre, South Padre EDC
- Willacy – Mike Wilson, Port Director, Willacy County Navigation District
- Kenedy – (remains open)
- Kleberg – Dick Messbarger, Executive Director of Greater Kingsville EDC
- Nueces – Dan Heilman – HDR/Shiner Moseley
- Aransas – Tom Blazek, Rockport City Manager
- Calhoun – (remains open)
- Matagorda – Haskell Simon, County Facilitator
- Brazoria – Dude Payne, County Commissioner
- Galveston – John Lee, Mitigation Coordinator, Galveston County Chamber
- Jefferson – Andy Elms, V.P. Apollo Environmental Strategies

**At Large:** (Alphabetical)
- Marie Garrett – Galveston, President Beach Restoration
- Stephen Gilbreath – Houston, LAN Engineering
- Michael Kovacs – Port Aransas, City Manager
- Jerry Mohn – Galveston – President WGIPOA
- Cameron Perry – Corpus Christi, HDR Shiner Moseley
- Peter Ravella – Austin, President PAR Consulting
- Dr. Bill Seitz – Galveston, Associate V.P. TAMUG

**6 Inland Coastal Counties**
- Harris – Larry Wise, Moffatt & Nichol
  (Orange, Jackson, Victoria, Refugio, and San Patricio remain open)

Please contact the representative for your area to discuss coastal and bay issues that affect your area. It is important to be heard.
Texas Chapter of the ASBPA Meeting Agenda

Date: August 18, 2008  Time: 11:45 AM
Location: Rockport Saltwater Pavillion
Luncheon: 12:00 PM
Host: City of Rockport
Lunch Sponsor: Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation

AGENDA
12:45 - Call meeting to order - Jerry Mohn
Welcome Remarks
  Officials from Rockport and Aransas County
  Tom Blazek – City Manager
Approval of May 19, 2008, Meeting Minutes
Treasurers Report
GLO Report
  • CEPRA & CIAP
  • Major CEPRA V Projects
  • HB 2819
GLO Conference - Caring For the Coast: Texas Coastal Conference 2008
Committee Reports
  Education/Communication – Marisa Weber/Tom Linton/Rob Kite
    Website – Marisa Weber and Tom Linton
    Newsletter - Rob Kite
  Beach Maintenance – Tom Linton/Fred McCutcheon
  Legislative – John Lee/Sidney McClendon
    Coastal Summit and Resolution
    Senate Subcommittee
    Upcoming 81st Legislative Session
  Membership – Cameron Perry
    Corporate sponsors
    Booth Display – GLO Conference
  Technical – Charles Hermansen/Brett Geesey
    Presentation: To Be Advised
Hurricane Review:
  Dolly
    Cameron County
    Willacy County
  Edouard – Galveston County
Coastal Cities Report - Beach & Bay Issues
ASBPA Fall Conference Chicago 2008, October 15-17
Next Texas Chapter Meeting Location and Date
Adjournment
The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association recognizes that the shores, beaches and other coastal resources of America provide important quality-of-life assets within the reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. This Association is dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the beaches, shores and other coastal resources of America.

The Texas Chapter of ASBPA is dedicated to fulfilling this mission in the State of Texas. We are a member based advocacy organization. For more information on becoming a member, becoming a corporate sponsor, or becoming more active with the organization, please contact Jerry Mohn at the address to the left.

Please remember to visit our website at www.texasasbpa.org for more frequent updates on coastal happenings and the Texas Chapter of ASBPA. If you have information to submit for the website or newsletter please contact Jerry Mohn.

**Upcoming Events**

**September 2008**


**October 2008**


**November 2008**


**Corporate Sponsorship costs**

$500 and provides for recognition on Chapter website and all publications & events.

**BE HEARD, BE PUBLISHED!**

The TxAASBPA Newsletter staff challenge our readers to submit articles for publication.

**GUIDELINES:**

- 500 to 1000 word articles (pictures welcomed)
- Word format (Garamond @ 10 font)
- Ensure permission to publish is granted.

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