



MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST

PRESS RELEASE
January 22, 2021

Contact: Steven J. Raabe, P.E., Trustee
P.O. Box 1269
Poth, Texas 78147-1269
Phone: 361-200-1456
Website: www.mbmTrust.com
Email: Trustee@mbmTrust.com

MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST
ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR NINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

On October 30, 2020 the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust published a Request for Proposals for coastal environmental projects in four categories: habitat restoration, environmental research, public education, and improving public access. The Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust received a total of 39 proposals, from 16 entities, totaling 14.5 million dollars.

Today, Steven Raabe, Trustee of the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust, announces that nine projects, from six entities, totaling 3.2 million dollars have been approved for funding.

“We were so fortunate to receive some great proposals and it was difficult for the selection committee to make their recommendation because of the limitation of available funds,” Raabe stated. “But we are extremely pleased with the quality, scope, and cost effectiveness of the proposals selected as a significant step to research, restore and improve the Matagorda and San Antonio bays area environment,” he added.

The projects being funded, by category, are:

Habitat Restoration (Three projects totaling \$1,498,000)

Protection and Restoration of the Blackjack Peninsula, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, \$500,000, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program

Protection and Restoration of Matagorda Island West Marsh, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, \$498,000, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program

Schicke Point Living Shoreline Restoration, \$500,000, Matagorda Bay Foundation

Environmental Research (Four projects totaling \$1,658,730)

The fate and toxicity of microplastics and persistent pollutants in the shellfish and fish of Matagorda Bay, \$499,953, Texas A&M Galveston

Long-term Trends in Lavaca-Colorado and Guadalupe Estuaries, \$159,055, Texas A&M Corpus Christi

Microplastic concentration in sediments and waters of Matagorda and San Antonio Bays: Initial assessment and mitigation plans, \$499,805, University of Texas

Mercury and Plastic in Commercial and Recreational Fisheries in Lavaca, Matagorda, and San Antonio Bays: Risk Assessment and Interaction between the Two Contaminants, \$499,917, Texas A&M Corpus Christi

Public Education (One project totaling \$51,499.72): Coastal Ecology Educational Equipment, Calhoun County AgriLife Extension Service

Improving Public Access (One project totaling \$22,000.00): Wetlands and Dune Habitat Acquisition in Matagorda County, Texas, Matagorda Bay Foundation

The effective time frame of these projects ranges from 10 to 36 months.

In addressing the significance of the approved projects Raabe stated, “It is of particular note that, on the restoration projects, trust funds are being leveraged against other funds in order to complete important existing projects. And, with respect to the environmental research, we have focused on the impacts of plastic contaminants which is an important issue for the bay area.”

Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust was funded as a result of the settlement of a Clean Water Act lawsuit, San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper v. Formosa. The settlement called for, among other things, the establishment of the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust with funding provided by Formosa in the amount of \$50 million over a five-year period. The mission of the Trust is to support and fund environmental mitigation projects, studies, and initiatives in the Matagorda Bay and San Antonio Bay ecosystems.

For further information visit the trust’s website at www.MBMTrust.com.

end text