



CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

COASTAL BEND AIR QUALITY PARTNERSHIP
2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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A woman with her hair in a ponytail is running on a wet beach. She is wearing a black sports bra, patterned leggings, and bright pink and green sneakers. The background shows the ocean with gentle waves and a bright, hazy sky, suggesting early morning or late afternoon light.

OUR HISTORY

The CBAQP (formerly the Corpus Christi Air Quality Group) was initially established in 1995 as a task force to address a now well-known air pollutant called “ozone.” Dedicated stakeholders from local governing bodies, businesses, universities, corporations, community members, the media—and even the military—met and worked collaboratively to design and deliver effective strategies to reduce ozone levels in the Coastal Bend.

Since then, industry has expanded, vehicles on the road have multiplied, hundreds of neighborhoods have been built, and major construction activities are on the rise. All while the EPA has tightened the allowable ozone level three times between 1995 and 2015.

Despite these challenges, we remain within acceptable levels of ozone due to the commitment of our partnership.



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings,

What an exciting year 2022 turned out to be for air quality in the Coastal Bend! It started with the official formation of the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership (CBAQP) as a non-profit and the hiring of our first-ever Executive Director – Ms. Sharon Bailey Murphy and ended with seating a well-established Board of Directors who meet monthly.

I am honored to be writing this to you as the first President of the Board for CBAQP. On behalf of the Board Directors, I commend you for your commitment and past involvement in helping ensure that air quality in our region is not just good, but great! Gretchen Arnold has entrusted her legacy for clean air to this community and it is our duty and honor to see that through. At the last Board Meeting in December 2022, the Board of Directors approved the development and support for the first-ever Coastal Bend – Community Air Action Plan, or CB-CAAP. This will be the communities' commitment and the path forward for clean air long into the future. I am hopeful for the support from each of you to serve on one of the many work groups that will endeavor to identify commitments, objectives, and initiatives that will collectively become the CB-CAAP.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the funding support from many organizations within the Coastal Bend airshed, funding that came with a commitment to ensure this organization's success and to serve on the Board of Directors. In the fall of 2022, the Board of Directors came together in a series of meetings that was a leadership retreat. During that retreat, we discovered the many ways

we can contribute as a community because of diverse perspectives, professional and personal motivations, and largely because of a love of this community and its people. I expect that will be the same in the working groups and help to build a solid, concise, and successful CB-CAAP.

While 2022 has been a fantastic year, there is still much need in the way of volunteers, participation, and funding of the initiatives to be considered in the coming years. If you aren't already participating in some way individually or as an organization, I invite you to consider how your support and participation could enhance the success of CBAQP. We would love to hear from you and discuss what is the right fit.

I wish us success in the coming year and look forward to pushing our sleeves up and brainstorming together, but most importantly, keeping air quality in our community great and our skies clear!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Garza', with a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Garza

President of the Board

Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership



COASTAL BEND
AIR QUALITY
PARTNERSHIP

GOING THE DISTANCE

“Do more than is required. What is the distance between someone who achieves their goals consistently and those who spend their lives and careers merely following?”

The extra mile.”



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past six months serving as the Executive Director for the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership, I cannot help but be so grateful for the opportunity afforded me to serve our wonderful community. From obtaining our non-profit status to seating our inaugural board of directors, we've seen our ad hoc voluntary group mature and be established into a formal organization. What a momentous milestone for our community, our public health, and our economy. Each moment collaborating with board members, partners, and supporters has been truly inspirational. You all bring such passion and knowledge to the organization and its mission.

It is through your commitment to our partnership that we have remained in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone and have significantly reduced overall emissions in our airshed. Your solid commitment to working together ensures our community will enjoy healthy air for generations to come. I am encouraged by what lies ahead in 2023 with the development of the Coastal Bend Community Air Action Plan (CB-CAAP). This plan will allow us to enjoy economic and population growth without sacrificing our clean air and community health. You, our regional partners, will be crucial in providing input and participating in the development of the plan in order to assure a balance of environmental stewardship and economic competitiveness.

Thank you for being a part of the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership. Together we can ensure healthy air that benefits everyone. I look forward to much more in 2023!

For those who may not yet be a part of the exciting things the partnership is doing, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss how, together, we can partner in keeping our community air quality healthy. Come see why we are the state and national benchmark organization for voluntary community collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Bailey Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Sharon Bailey Murphy, MPA, CHMM, REM
Executive Director
Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership



The Partnership believes that everyone wants to live, work and play in a community with healthy air.

OUR MISSION

Protect the Coastal Bend's air quality and inspire all emission sources to strive for performance targets beyond general compliance through research, education, and the development and distribution of guidance documents, recommendations, and tools for emission-reducing activities.

OUR BELIEFS

The Partnership believes that with its leadership and commitment to protecting healthy air quality, the work of the Partnership and its stakeholders will provide the region with the tools and resources it needs to maintain and protect the future of its healthy air.

CBAQP held a well-attended reception on July 28, 2022 to introduce the community to its newly formed Board of Directors.



New CBAQP President, Sarah Garza, chats with Port Commissioner Bryan Gulley, Valero Corpus Christi Refineries Vice President and General Manager Kevin Lassahn and Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development President and CEO Mike Culbertson.



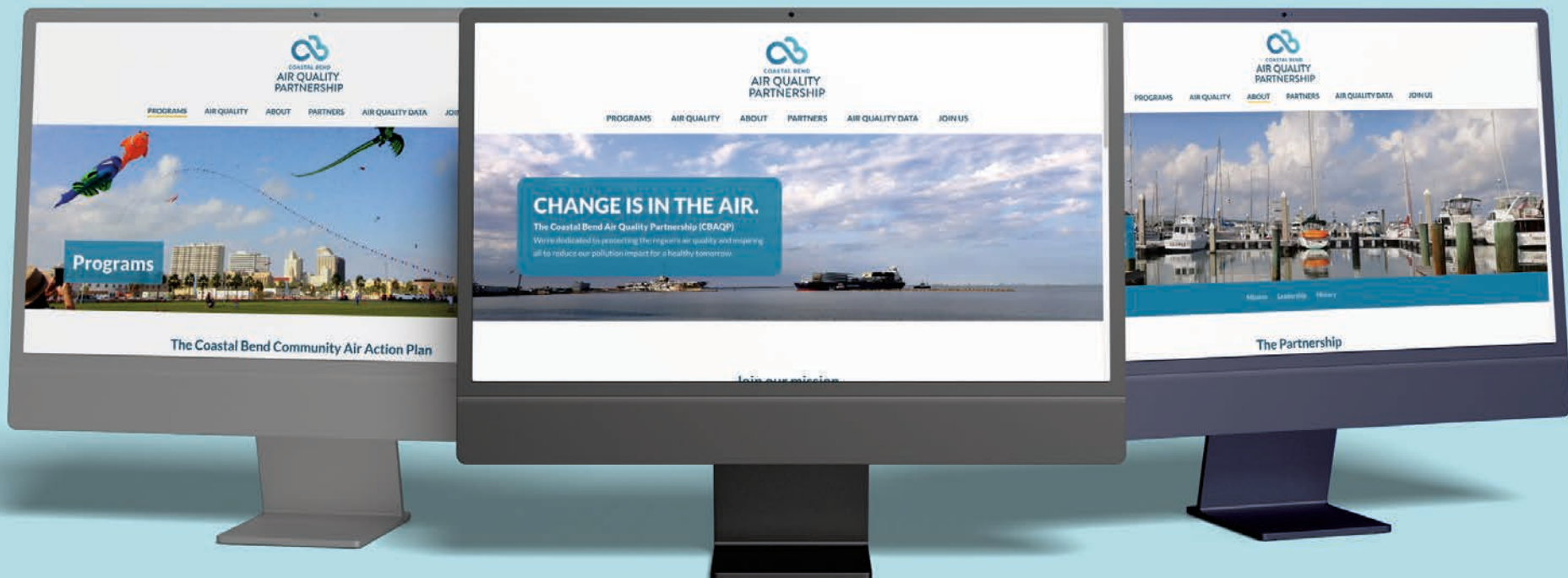
Community members gave a warm welcome to our newly appointed CBAQP Board of Directors in July.



Sarah Garza, elected first president of CBAQP, chats with interim board member Errol Summerlin.

NON-PROFIT STATUS & BOARD ESTABLISHED

In 2022, the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership fully transitioned from an interim board and working group to a 501(c)(3) organizations with a seated board of directors and a full-time executive director with an established office.



A NEW LOOK TO USHER IN A NEW ERA

A new brand identity, URL and website have been created to better showcase the great work we're doing for our region. Feel free to visit us at cbairquality.org and email us at info@cbaqp.org.

2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

Continuing 27 years of collaboration and emissions reductions

Over 20 stakeholders representing cities, counties, industry, regional planning and transportation agencies, and the military continued to perform voluntary emission reduction activities and implement emission-reduction programs.

A very impressive report of regional voluntary emission reductions was submitted to the U.S. EPA as part of their Ozone Advance program.





COASTAL BEND
AIR QUALITY
PARTNERSHIP

A WORD FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Barbara Canales

Former Nueces County Judge (2018-2022)

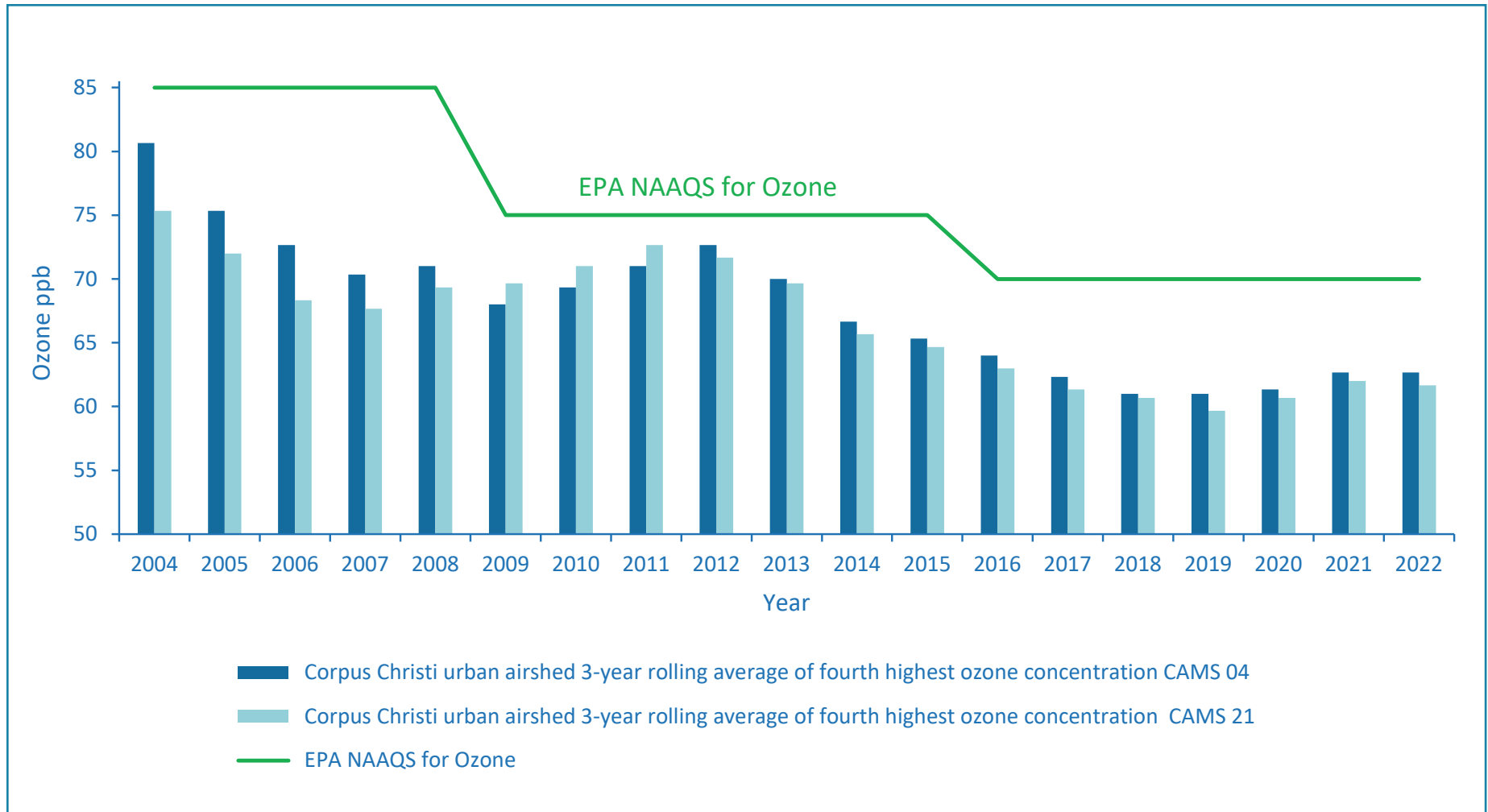
“Nueces County leadership has been a strong and proud supporter of the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership for many years. With the work of the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership and strong community support, we enjoy air that is compliant with health standards while also enjoying robust growth in business and construction activity.”

Errol S. Summerlin

Community Advocate

“This partnership has been a long time coming. We now have a Board of Directors that represents a broad range of interests and perspectives, from NGOs to local government to academia, business and industry, all with a focus on striving for the lowest achievable emissions from all sources to better protect public health and our quality of life in the Coastal Bend.”

2022 RESULTS: OUR AIR QUALITY REMAINS WELL WITHIN COMPLIANCE LEVELS OF OZONE



2022 FINANCIALS SIGNAL STRENGTH & STABILITY

Assets

Computer and Printer	\$2,500.00
Cash (Beginning Balance on January 1, 2022 (carry over from 2020 and 2021))	\$153,300.00
Donor Contributions — Unrestricted	\$249,999.00
Donor Contributions — Restricted	\$14,628.00
Interest earned from Coastal Bend Community Foundation account	\$336.65
Total Assets	\$420,763.65

Expenses

Administrative and Professional Services	\$114,200.00
Operating Expenses	\$15,377.00
Inaugural board meeting and welcome events fees (sponsored in restricted contributions)	\$14,628.00
Project Expenses	\$6,500.00
Total Expenses	\$150,705.00

Net 2022	\$270,058.65
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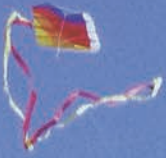
SUPPORT SHOWN THROUGH IN-KIND EXPENSES

Office rent and utilities	\$11,263.56
Legal fees	\$8,082.00
Marketing materials and development	\$28,000.00
Total value of in-kind supported expenses	\$47,345.56



Paulette Guajardo **Mayor, City of Corpus Christi**

“The City of Corpus Christi has had the privilege to work with members of the community in establishing and working through the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership. Since it began in 1995, the City of Corpus Christi, the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership, and its supporters have joined efforts in successfully maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone. We have been a national example of the successes that can occur when an air quality organization and the community work together and support each other. The City of Corpus Christi looks forward to continuing the great work of the Partnership to guarantee the health and well-being of our citizens and the region.”



LOOKING FORWARD

A PLAN TO MEET OUR MISSION

We have a PLAN to meet our mission of ensuring our region can rely on healthy air quality in the future.

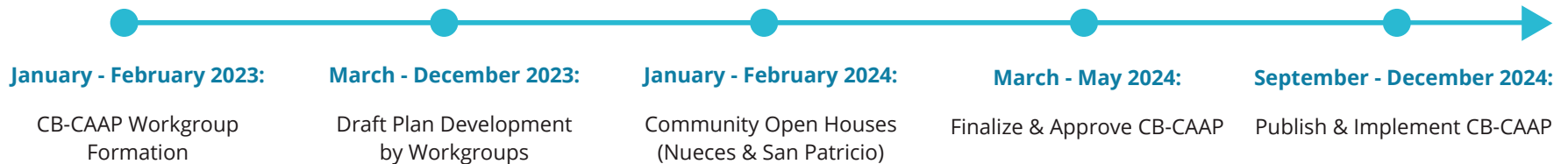
In early 2023, community partners and stakeholders began the work of creating a Coastal Bend Community Air Action Plan (CB-CAAP). Our goal in this process is to build strong commitments to air quality in the communities where we live and work.

The CB-CAAP will include air emission-reduction commitments, policy statements and measurable goals that will protect air quality and inspire all emission sources to strive for voluntary performance targets beyond general compliance.



CB-CAAP DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

Full Year 2023: Community Outreach, Education & Awareness



Sean Strawbridge

CEO, Port of Corpus Christi

“The Port of Corpus Christi is proud to be a founding partner for the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership. Protecting our air shed and positively impacting social determinants of health for our communities are core values of the Port of Corpus Christi and as the primary steward of the largest economic engine in the region, we must be bold in our efforts to improve air quality standards. This requires proactive engagement between community stakeholders, local governments, and industry partners. This Partnership has and will continue to play a strategic role in keeping that level of dialogue and cooperation fully transparent. Port of Corpus Christi leadership looks forward to expanding our role in protecting the regional economy and environment in tandem in the years ahead.”



A TRUE PARTNERSHIP IN EVERY SENSE

The Partnership is a dependable and long-term, research, advisory, and action-oriented organization that the Coastal Bend community can rely on to protect its current and future healthy air quality and quality of life. Via mutually beneficial relationships with stakeholders, the Partnership is a regional and national success for voluntary reductions of air emissions and protection of air quality. This would not be possible without the extended commitment from our financial supporters.



Coastal
Bend
Industry
Association



PORT CORPUS CHRISTI

the
portland
of possibilities.



CORPUS CHRISTI REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY



Cathy Skurow Mayor, City of Portland

"I truly believe that if it were not for the efforts of the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership, we would not have been able to maintain EPA's ozone air quality standards. Since 1995, I have witnessed a small volunteer group evolve into the incredible organization it is today. Thank you to all the participants in the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership. When we all work together, we can achieve amazing results."

David Krebs Judge, San Patricio County

"San Patricio County is appreciative of the work of the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership as we work together to maintain air quality that is healthy for our San Patricio County community. We are proud to support the ongoing efforts of the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership."

Bob Paulison Executive Director, Coastal Bend Industry Association

"The Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership has proven to be an essential element of the region's efforts over the past 25 years to keep air quality in attainment of EPA's ozone standards. Since the partnership's inception in 1995, Coastal Bend Industry Association member companies have been proud participants in this whole-of-community effort to improve local air quality, and we look forward to continuing to work together to achieve additional improvements in the years ahead."



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Officer - Sarah Garza

- Board President
- Port of Corpus Christi Appointee
- Port of Corpus Christi Director of Environmental Planning and Compliance



Officer - Darcy Schroeder

- Board Vice-President
- Coastal Bend Industry Association Appointee
- Valero Public Affairs Manager



Officer - Barbara Canales

- Board Treasurer
- Nueces County Appointee
- Former Nueces County Judge



Officer - John Weber

- Board Secretary
- Community Representative



Sonia Lopez

- San Patricio County Appointee
- San Patricio County Commissioner, Precinct 1



Brady Fontenot

- Business and Industry Representative
- Gulf Coast Growth Ventures, Environmental Supervisor



Paulette Guajardo

- City of Corpus Christi Appointee
- Mayor, City of Corpus Christi



Travis Chaney

- Business and Industry Representative
- Bay, Ltd., Director of Safety



Zach Albrecht

- City of Portland Appointee
- Portland City Council Member



J. David Felix, Ph. D.

- Academia Representative
- Associate Professor of Environmental Chemistry Texas A&M University — Corpus Christi



SHARON BAILEY MURPHY

Sharon Bailey Murphy, MPA, CHMM, REM is a twenty-year environmental professional and has been an active partner with the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership (formerly the Corpus Christi Air Quality Group) for 13 years. Before joining CBAQP, Ms. Murphy served the City of Corpus Christi for thirteen years, managing internal and external Environmental Affairs, where she oversaw initiatives that promoted environmental stewardship and sustainability and was the City's point of contact for all federal, state, and local environmental initiatives. Sharon is a Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi graduate and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry and an MPA in Organizational Leadership from the University of Arizona in May 2021. She is a 2018 Water Environment Federation's Water Leadership Academy graduate, an international water and wastewater leadership training program.

Sharon Bailey Murphy presents a token of appreciation to Gretchen Arnold for 27 years of leadership, service, and dedication to protecting our community's air quality.

Mrs. Murphy is active in the Corpus Christi community and currently serves (or served) on numerous boards and committees, holding leadership positions such as:

- Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross - Coast Bend Chapter
- Immediate Past-President on the Board of Directors of the YWCA-Corpus Christi
- President on the Board of Directors of The Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
- Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuary Program
- Immediate Past -Chairperson of the World Affairs Council, South Texas Chapter
- Board of Directors of The Ark Assessment Center and Emergency Shelter for Youth

Sharon is especially proud of participating in the YWCA's Y-Teens program, where she encourages young girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. She is also a Host City representative and program presenter for the US Department of State's International Visitor's Program where she has hosted environmental and other professionals from Israel, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, South Africa, Russia, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Africa, Romania, Ukraine, and Serbia.

On a personal note, Sharon's husband Dr. Rich Murphy, a missionary to Mexico and pastor to pastors, is a technical writer and has authored over 200 books. They have four adult children, Jenni, Josh, Stephanie, and Rebekah, and are the overjoyed Mimi and Pawpaw to two granddaughters Anthem and Gemma, and grandson Ezra Jude. Sharon is an ordained minister and serves as a minister and teacher at Corpus Christi Christian Fellowship. Sharon loves her family, her church, her job, and Corpus Christi. She inspires people of all ages and backgrounds with her enthusiasm and genuine love for people as a motivational speaker, evangelist, and teacher.



CONTACT US

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