

Meeting Summary
Clean River Program Steering Committee
06/24/10

Stakeholders Present

Lawrence Brown, Jr. – TSSWCB, Marilyn Christian – HCPHES, Mike Lee – USGS, Winston Denton – TPWD, David Hubenak – Austin County, Patrick Lee – City of Houston, Lori Traweek – GCWDA, Darrell Gertson – Colorado County, Robert Snoza – HCFCO, Patricia Wise – TCEQ, Snehal Patel – Harris County Attorney's Office, Helen Drummond – GBEP

H-GAC Staff Present

Todd Running, Jean Wright, Justin Bower, Aubin Phillips, Bill Hoffman

Others Present

Daniel Bowen – Eastex Lab, Lisa Groves – City of Houston, Kirsten Nichols – City of Houston

There were several other people in the audience who did not sign in.

Welcome and Introductions

Todd running welcomed those present at about 10:00 AM. Introductions were made by all members in attendance.

Agenda Items

Public Comment

There was no public comment during the public comment period. However, a member of the audience who did not identify himself or his daughter or sign in raised several questions about trash and water quality issues. He felt that more should be done by local entities to collect trash at storm sewer outfalls by installing trash interceptors.

2010 Basin Highlights Report

Running gave a presentation on the about to be published 2010 Basin Highlights Report. He covered all the sections in the report while paying particular attention to the sections: Summary of Water Quality Impairments and Concerns which also includes the frog chart, the 5 top Regional Concerns, and the Most Improved/Degraded Streams for Bacteria. The document is already available on the H-GAC web site and hard copies will be mailed out to stakeholders shortly.

Coordinated Monitoring Schedule for FY2011 & Water Resources Information Map (WRIM)

Wright reviewed the partner's monitoring schedule planned for the next fiscal year. A brief summary highlighting the Coordinated Monitoring Meeting findings and subsequent changes that will be implemented beginning in September 2010 were discussed. A map illustrating the location of monitoring locations was passed out to all attendees. Running gave a presentation on the updated mapping tools designed to make water quality data more easily available to the public. He showed the various features and demonstrated how to move around within the web site.

Project Results: Total Suspended Solids in the West Fork of the San Jacinto River

Mike Lee, a Coastal Hydrologist with the USGS, gave a presentation about the results of the total suspended solids project that was conducted on the West Fork of the San Jacinto River. USGS was attempting to relate suspended solids in the river with turbidity and the affects of different land-uses on

the sediment load in the river. The final paper is scheduled to be published in August 2010. A draft report is currently posted on H-GAC's web site.

*Project Updates: **Habitat Characterizations within the City of Houston***

Kirsten Nichols, Field Investigator for the City of Houston Health & Human Services Division, gave a presentation about what the habitat characterizations are and how they were conducted. She also shared several success stories from the 2 years of investigations. There are still 8 of the original 60 characterizations to be completed during this contract period.

*Project Updates: **24 hour DO Monitoring***

The City of Houston is also contracted to conduct 24-hour monitoring on 6 sub-segments in the Houston area. The sites were identified by TCEQ during the last assessment as being impaired for dissolved oxygen (DO). TCEQ needs additional data to determine whether there is a true DO impairment or not. Multi-parameter sondes will be deployed a total of six times over a 2 year period at each location. The first deployments were completed during July /August 2009 – the first of 2 critical period samples. The last deployment is set for the spring index period in 2011. There will be 2 additional index period deployments and 1 non-index deployment. Changes to the status of those sub-segments can only be accomplished by collecting additional 24-hour DO data that shows no impairment.

*Project Updates: **Watershed Protection Plan Development***

Watershed protection plans (WPPs) are currently being developed for 3 water bodies in the Houston region – Bastrop Bayou, Westfield Estates, and the San Bernard River. These WPPs are intended to be the guides for restoring water quality in impaired water bodies or protecting water quality in other water bodies that are being threatened by pollution. Bowers and Phillips gave status reports on each of these projects. The draft plan for Bastrop Bayou is available on H-GAC's web site. The Westfield Estates Plan is complete and in the initial stages of being implemented. The San Bernard River WWP just began the major stakeholders and public involvement process for the development of the plan.

Running announced H-GAC had just received preliminary approval for a new WWP project on Cedar Bayou. The project which will be funded by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will begin this fall.

*Project Update: **The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG)***

Running provided a very brief update on the BIG. Details are being worked out to finalize The Implementation Plan (I-Plan) to remedy high levels of bacteria in waterways identified in four Total Maximum Daily Load projects in the Houston Region. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating communications, developing recommendations, and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan.

Other Business and Announcements

Since the meeting was going over the scheduled time, Running made short announcements about the upcoming Clean Water Initiative Workshops (CWIs) scheduled over the next several months. Topics include modeling of flow and pollutant loading to water bodies, the transect model which describes how land use and development patterns change from urban to rural and how and where BMP would fit on the transect, and coastal communities that have success stories and available tools for dealing with pollution control issues. Running also announced that CRP staff would be beginning the 2011 Basin Summary Report in August or September for a draft deliverable of February 2011.

Adjourn

Running adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:15 PM.