

Meeting Summary
Clean River Program Steering Committee
11/16/05

Stakeholders Present

Guy Grossman –TRRC, Chris Barry – Harris County, Patricia Wise – TCEQ, Deb Sneck-Fahr – USGS, Kari Hetcher – Aguila – USGS, Steven Johnston – GBEP, Aaron Wendt - TSSWCB, Mary Ellen Whitworth – BPA, Jim Adams – SJRA, Blake Traudt – GLO, Linda Shead - Trust for Public Land, George Guillen – University of Houston EIH

H-GAC Staff Present

Todd Running, Jean Wright, Bruce Ridpath, Ayo Jibowu, Om Chawla

Others Present

Berna Dette Williams – City of League City, Ralph Clavino – Turner, Collie and Braden, Vicki Roy - BQR

Welcome and Introductions

Jim Adams welcomed the group and started the introductions.

Review of Agenda

Running reviewed the items on the agenda and explained what discussion would be taking place during the meeting

Agenda Items

Discussion of 2006 Basin Summary Report Format and Layout

Running gave an overview and explanation of the 2006 Basin Highlights Report. He gave a brief comparison to the last report which was produced in 2001. He said that the last report was a great success and very useful document. However there were many areas that could be improved. Some of the changes that will be made include, changing the layout of the book so that the long axis is the vertical axis instead of the horizontal. HE then asked the committee for its ideas on format and content for the upcoming report. A good discussion took place.

It was noted that in the hard copies of the report data will be quickly outdated and people will resort to going to the H-GAC website for data after just a year or so and will not look to the hard copy report for that information. All raw data other than summary information will be put into the appendix of the report. That way if people are still interested in looking at raw data they can turn to the back of the report to get it. But those who are only interested in summary information will not be forced to page through raw data they have little interest in..

Making the extent of the maps as large as possible was important to the committee. Many members also requested that as much road detail be provided as possible without cluttering the map. Other items of interest to the group were a comparison of developed

vs. undeveloped land, WWTP loading information, and summaries of overflows and bypasses.

Vicki Roy, a graphics consultant with BQR attended the meeting. Her firm will be putting the layout for the report together. She added that the report would have stiffer cover stock which would help make the publication less floppy, and that the addition of tabs to the document will make it much easier to find information quickly.

Update on Budget Increase for FY06-07 Contract

Running led the discussion of the FY2006-2007 budget increase of \$36,000. Each attendee was given a copy of the budget increase showing the changes to the budget and background information. Running explained that the entire increase in budget would be for the production of a Statewide Clean Rivers Program Video

Update on Completed Special Studies

Bacteria Die-Off Study

Jean Wright gave a brief overview of the study which included a power point presentation. Main Points from the presentation were:

- Settling of samples resulted in lower bacteria levels
- Samples that were reshaken had high levels of bacteria
- Samples with High suspended solids had high bacteria concentrations
- Refrigerated samples had a much slower die-off rate than did samples kept at room temperature

Cypress Creek Source Identification Study

Todd Running gave an overview of the project which also included a power point presentation. Main points from the presentation were:

- High bacteria levels are found in the western (upstream portion) end of the watershed, where cattle have direct access to Cypress Creek.
- The highest bacteria levels found in the watershed came from an ornamental pond that drained directly to the creek.
- The highest Total Suspended Sediment Levels were found in the upstream portion of the watershed adjacent to new developments
- Bacteria levels did not seem to be elevated in tributaries to Cypress Creek but were in the main channel.

Lake Creek, Peach Creek, Caney Creek Systematic Monitoring

Deb Sneck- Fahr of the USGS gave a powerpoint presentation to update the committee on the Lake Creek, Peach Creek, Caney Creek and Mustang Bayou Systematic Monitoring Study. She explained that all data collection and report for the Lake Creek study was complete and that the final printed report would be available in the next month or so. Results indicate that water quality is good in each of the watersheds and that aquatic habitat is of a high quality. There are currently no concerns associated with any of these watersheds. It is recommended that they be studied again in the next five years to determine what if any impacts from development may have occurred.

Update on Continuing Special Studies

Mustang Bayou Systematic Monitoring

Deb Sneck-Fahr gave a brief update on the project. She explained that Data collection efforts on Mustang Bayou have been completed and that while habitat scores are somewhat low, fish IBI scores are higher than expected.

A draft report will be completed in early 2006, with a final report scheduled for August of 2006.

Update on New Special Studies – Cotton and West Fork of Double Bayou and Highland and Marchand Bayou

Running and Wright gave a brief background of the studies. Both studies are being conducted to determine Dissolved oxygen levels in these water bodies. Historical data indicate that DO values are low. Both studies will involve the collection of 24 hour DO data by use of a deployed datasonde. The studies will also include the collection of biological data such as fish and benthics as well as an assessment of habitat.

Intensive bacteria samples will be taken during the Highland - Marchand study to try a determine potential sources of elevated bacteria levels that have been found throughout the water bodies.

Adjourn

Chairman Adams adjourned the meeting