

Meeting Summary
Clean River Program Steering Committee
06/11/08

Stakeholders Present

Darrell Gertson - Commissioner Colorado County, Patricia Wise - TCEQ, Mary Ellen Whitworth – Bayou Preservation Association, Dexter Brown – USGS, Lori Gernhardt – Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, Brian Koch – TSSWCB, Tojuana Cooper – SJRA, Snehal Patel – City of Houston

H-GAC Staff Present

Todd Running, Jean Wright, Jeff Taebel, Om Chawla, Gayla Stock, Bruce Ridpath, Kristina Hardwick

Others Present

Lee Bodkin – USGS, Eric Biltonene- HARC, Tina Petersen – CDM, Christine Kolbe – TCEQ, Ralph Calvino – TCB,

Welcome and Introductions

Todd Running welcomed those present to start the meeting at about 2:00pm. Introductions were made by all members in attendance.

Review of Agenda

Running made sure those in attendance received all the meeting materials and reviewed what was to be covered during the meeting.

Agenda Items

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Approval of final 2008 Basin Highlights Report

Running lead the group in a discussion of the final 2008 Basin Highlights Report and the accompanying appendix – a summary table of water quality concerns and impairments. Steering committee members were able to provide comment on the final draft. All comments on text were to be incorporated into the final document. The steering committee approved the report.

Approval of FY08 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule

Jean Wright gave an overview of the FY09 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule. The schedule was developed at the March Coordinated Monitoring Meeting by H-GAC and seven local partner agencies. The schedule contains approximately 310 monitoring sites throughout the region. Wright explained that H-GAC staff have been monitoring in areas that previously had not been covered. Mostly in upper portions of watersheds that are outside of local partner jurisdictions or in rural areas where there is not a local partner. Wright then lead the group through the Coordinated Monitoring Schedule website, which

is maintained by the LCRA. Wright showed the group how to navigate through the site and gave everyone an overview of the sites content. The FY09 Coordinated Schedule was approved by the Steering Committee

Presentation of Harris County Bacteria Studies

Ralph Calvino of TCB gave a presentation on two studies that are being conducted by the Harris County Watershed Protection Group. Harris County conducted these studies as a way to determine where and which BMPs might be most effective.

Land Use Runoff (Puddle) Study

The purpose of this study is to evaluate potential bacteria contributions from the land uses later described and commonly found throughout the Houston region and supplement the dataset generated by the previous TMDL Land Use Study conducted by Harris County in year 2005-2006; where other potential sources of bacteria were assessed by various land use categories.

The project sample sites were categorized by land use including: forested, commercially maintained residential lawns, non-commercially maintained residential lawns and golf courses. Storm water will be collected from two of each of these land uses, at four different times. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water monitoring guidelines will be used for wet weather monitoring with regards to intensity of storms monitored, antecedent dry period requirements and sampling response times to meet “first flush conditions”. This will provide some uniformity by standardizing similar conditions represented by water samples collected. The samples will be collected manually within two hours of the start of the storm event, in order that a ‘first flush’ sample will be obtained. A qualifying storm event will follow an antecedent dry period of greater than or equal to 72 hours since the last qualifying storm event, produce a minimum of 0.10” of rain, and produce visible “runoff” enabling manual sample collection. The samples will be analyzed for *E. coli*, ammonia as nitrogen, nitrate+nitrite nitrogen, orthophosphate, total phosphorus and total suspended solids. Flow measurements or flow estimates will be included at each site.

The results from this study will assist in evaluating potential bacteria contributions from the land uses included in this project. The potential contributions from these land uses have not been assessed and will provide an understanding of additional potential sources of bacteria into these bayous. These data will provide insight into the widespread bacteria problem that is affecting these urban streams and could potentially assist in long term watershed planning.

Sediment and Industrial Wastewater Study

The purpose of this study is to collect data to identify the potential contribution of re-suspended bacteria (into the water column) from in-stream sediments in Halls Bayou and Little White Oak Bayou. The study areas were chosen in order to compare a water body with a high concentration of wastewater effluent, Halls Bayou, to one having no permitted wastewater discharges – Little White Oak Bayou. These two waterways are in close proximity to each other and both watersheds contain typical urban land use – mixed single and multi-family residential, commercial and industrial activities.

Sediment samples and in-stream water samples will be collected from up to six ambient sites, three from each bayou, in order to compare bacterial concentrations in the sediments and water column. Each site will be sampled twice. Sampling will occur once in dry weather conditions (<0.10” of rainfall in the previous 72 hours) and once in wet weather conditions (>0.10” of rainfall in the previous 72 hours). Sediment samples will be analyzed for *E. coli*, fecal enterococci and fecal coliform. The water samples will be analyzed for *E. coli*, fecal enterococci, fecal coliform, orthophosphorus, total phosphorus, nitrate and nitrite as ammonia, ammonia nitrogen and total suspended solids. Flow measurements or flow estimates will be included when each site is sampled.

One additional site on Little White Oak Bayou will be sampled for bacteria in sediment. (This site is in addition to the three other sites on Little White Oak Bayou.) Sediment samples will be collected both

upstream and downstream of a stormwater outfall. A water sample will also be collected from the discharge of the stormwater outfall itself.

The second study will examine industrial discharges to Buffalo Bayou, Greens Bayou, Halls Bayou, and Sims Bayou that have a sanitary component. Many of the industrial discharges are permitted to co-mingle sanitary waste with process wastewater. Depending on the permit requirements, these waste streams may or may not require disinfection. The purpose of this study is to collect data to evaluate these industrial discharges as potential sources of bacteria in the bayous. Seven industrial facility outfalls will be sampled at the end of the pipe for *E. coli*, fecal enterococci, fecal coliform and flow for a total of three sampling events. .

Status of NELAC Activities with Local Partners

Om Chawla gave a brief update on the status of local agency laboratories in receiving their NELAC accreditation. All local labs have submitted their applications and are on track to receive their accreditation by the August 31st deadline. Chawla said that each of the labs has worked very hard to get their materials in order and are prepared for their upcoming audits.

Project Updates

Dexter Brown gave a presentation on two special studies that are being conducted by the USGS for H-GAC – Cotton/West Fork Double Bayou and Highland / Marchand Bayou. Both projects have completed data collection efforts. Currently the USGS is preparing draft reports for TCEQ and H-GAC review. Final Reports will be available in the fall of 2008.

Om Chawla gave a presentation on the status of the Bastrop Bayou Watershed Protection Plan that H-GAC is conducting in Brazoria County. H-GAC is conducting public meetings on a monthly basis with the Stakeholder group. Two meetings are being scheduled each month, one in the afternoon during the lunch hour and one in the evening. The hope is that we will get a larger turnout by giving stakeholders and option on a time more convenient to them. Current discussions at these meetings are centering around prioritization of bacteria sources and the selection of a model to determine loadings.

Texas Stream Team Update

Gayla Stock gave the group an update on Texas Stream Team formerly Texas Watch. Stock explained that the name change had come about because other organizations within Texas were using the same name, which has caused some confusion. Stock then discussed how to contact H-GAC if there was interest in becoming a Texas Stream Team volunteer.

Adjourn

Running adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:30pm