



**SPRING MEETING
Agenda**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

(Note: This is a hybrid meeting. Participation can be in-person at H-GAC, 3555 Timmons Lane 2nd Floor, Houston TX, 77072 or virtual. Instructions to attend this meeting in-person or virtual via ZOOM can be found at the bottom of this Agenda)

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Welcome by H-GAC

Introductions of BIG members & staff

Review Agenda. Each agenda item shall provide time for discussion by the BIG followed by comments from the audience.

Certification of Quorum

Approval of the Proposed Members & Alternates

BIG members will review the Bacteria Implementation Group Roster and approve as appropriate.

Approval of the December 05, 2023, Meeting Summary

BIG members will review, comment, and approve as appropriate.

Public Comment

The public may sign up at the beginning of the meeting to make an informal comment of no more than three minutes.

Item One: Review BIG Meeting Ground Rules Revision

H-GAC staff will provide a review on revising the BIG Ground Rules. BIG members will review, comment, and approve as appropriate.

Item Two: I-Plan Revision Update

H-GAC staff will provide an update on revising the BIG Implementation Plan.

Item Three: 2023 Annual Report Update

H-GAC staff will review the draft 2023 Annual Report. BIG members will review, comment, and approve as appropriate.

Item Four: 2024 Annual Report Update

H-GAC staff will review acquisition of 2024 implementation data and progress on the 2024 Annual Report.

Item Five: TMDL Program Updates

TCEQ will provide an update to ongoing TMDLs within the BIG project area.

Item Six: Pathogen Indicator Workshop Discussion

The BIG will review and discuss workshop planning.

Item Seven: Implementation Projects

Partner Spotlight

Mr. Gao Lee (PE, CFM), Quiddity – Park Land Multi-use Guidebook – Transforming City Parks to Incorporate Stormwater Mitigation Strategies

H-GAC Projects

Mr. Elling Mann – will provide a review of the FY24 TMDL Targeted Monitoring Project.

Mr. Bill Ervin – will provide a review the OSSF Homeowners Assistance Program.

Mr. Cornell Evans – will provide a review of watershed protection plan development and implementation within the BIG project area.

Item Eight: Other Business/Roundtable

As time permits, H-GAC, BIG members, and stakeholders are encouraged to discuss implementation activities, related projects, and announcements.

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Adjourn

BIG Meeting Hybrid Meeting instructions: *(You must Register for the meeting to participate.)*

[Bacteria Implementation Group Meeting Materials | Houston-Galveston Area Council \(H-GAC\)](#)

In-Person and Virtual: Please register in advance for this meeting:

In-Person: <https://www.h-gac.com/events/big-spring-meeting>

Virtual:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdeurrTMuE9DY3AYgjVd1UQ7GFfZIKCmm#/registration>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

BIG Roster: 06/11/2024

First	Last	Representing	Organization	Alternate1	Alternate 2
Chris	Baecke	Urban County	Harris County Pollution Control Services	Nuguent Cotton	
Lauren	Boggs**	Urban County	Harris County	Jeff Lu	
Ralph	Calvino	Business / Industry	Terracon	Libby Decker	Paola Belloni
Jesuina	Chipindula**	Large City	City of Houston	Lam Tran	
Tom	Douglas	Conservation	Houston Sierra Club	Jim Williams	
Colleen	Gilbert	Conservation	Greens Bayou Coalition	Robert Fiederlein**	
Teague	Harris	Utility District	IDS Engineering		
Sam	Hill**	Agriculture	Texas Forest Service	Julia Schmidt	
Andrew	Isbell	Rural County	Walker County		
Lisa	Montemayor**	Large City	City of Houston	Lisa Montemayor	
Michael	Lee	Resource Agency / Academia	US Geological Survey	Zulimar Lucena	Jonathan D. Mills
Paul	Nelson	Conservation	Bayou Preservation Association	Rose Sobel	Brittani Flowers
Scott	Nichols	Rural County	Montgomery County	Frank Green	Reuben Martinez
Becky	Olive	Business / Industry	AECOM	Karen Kottke	
Mitchell	Page	Utility District	Schwartz, Page, & Harding, LLP		
Linda	Pechacek	Public	Citizen, Civil Engineer	Tom Douglas	
Sonia	Phillips	Small City	City of League City	Jody Hooks	
Jim	Robertson	Conservation	Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition	Steve Hupp	
Christine	Santiny	Small City	City of Conroe	Greg Hall	
Jamie	Shakar	Large City	City of Houston	Desta Takie	
Linda	Shead	Conservation	Texas Coastal Partners	Carl Masterson	
Brian	Shmaefsky	Resource Agency / Academia	Lone Star College, Kingwood		
Shane	Simpson	Business / Industry	San Jacinto River Authority	Aaron Schindewolf	
Robert	Snoza	Urban County	Harris County Flood Control District	Roberto Vega	
Liz	Stone	Business / Industry	Quiddity Engineering	Camila Biaggi	Scott Saenger
Michael	Thornhill	Utility District	SI Environmental	Matt Carpenter	
Scott	Tuma	Business / Industry (Boating)	Boater		
Joanna	Wilson	Business / Industry	Gulf Coast Authority	Shaun Austin	
Natasha	Zarnstorff	Conservation	Galveston Bay Foundation	Lisa Scobel	Haile Leija**
Vacant		Conservation			
Vacant		Agriculture			
Vacant		Agriculture (County)			
Vacant		Rural Small City			

**Apon approval of the BIG



**FALL MEETING
Summary**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
In-person and Virtual ZOOM Meeting**

Members Present¹

Ralph Calvino, Chris Baecke, Danielle Cioce, Tom Douglas, Colleen Gilbert, Andrew Isbell, Paul Nelson, Linda Pechacek, Jim Robertson, Christine Santiny, Linda Shead, Jamie Shakar, Brian Shmaefsky, Shane Simpson, Robert Snoza, Michael Thornhill, Scott Tuma, Natasha Zarnstorff

Carol LaBreche was represented by Lisa Montemayor

Michael Lee was represented by Zulimar Lucena

Becky Olive was represented by Karen Kottke

Sonia Phillips was represented by Jody Hooks

Jim Robertson was represented by Steve Hupp

Scott Saenger was represented by Liz Stone

Members Absent

Teague Harris, Cassidy Ince, Carol LaBreche, Michael Lee, Cathy McCoy, Scott Nichols, Becky Olive, Mitchell Page, Sonia Phillips, Rachel Powers, Jo Wilson

Guests Present

Camila Biaggi, Roger Brookes, Taylor Chapman, Jesuina Chipindula, Libby Decker, Richardo Felan, Kelli Fereday, Marty Hughes, Brian Koch, Michael LaMontagne, Celina Gauthier Lowry, Jeff Lu, Carl Masterson, Lisa Marshall, Felix Mastraco, Daniela Mejia, Jazmyn Milford, Jonathan Mills, Grant Moss, Jack Newton, Julia Reed, Nicole Reed, Christian Rines, Desta Takie, Desiree Vargas, Roberto Vega, Kyle Wright

H-GAC Staff

¹ BIG attendance attached.

Jessica Casillas, Bill Ervin, Kendall Guidroz, Elling Mann, Todd Running, Rachel Windham, Jean Wright

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Mr. Todd Running of H-GAC welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Running reviewed the agenda with members of the BIG. Mr. Running asked if there were any changes or additions to the Agenda by BIG members. Hearing no requests for changes and no call for discussion, the meeting proceeded.

Certification of Quorum

Mr. Running called roll. Based on the number of BIG members and alternates in attendance, a quorum was certified.

Approval of the Proposed Members & Alternates

The BIG was asked to consider the following changes to the roster:

- New members proposed were as follows:
 - None were put forward.
- New alternates proposed were as follows:
 - Tom Douglas, (Public)
 - Libby Decker, Terracon (Business/Industry)
 - Paola Belloni, Terracon (Business/Industry)

All changes to member and alternate nominees were approved unanimously by the members present.

Approval of the May 23, 2023, Meeting Summary

The BIG was asked to consider the May 23, 2023, meeting summary. The BIG discussed edits suggested by Dr. Tom Douglas. In addition, BIG members requested two edits to the summary, 1) remove "Mr." and replace with "Dr." before Tom Douglas' name and 2) consider adding the specific timelines presented at the meeting under Item 1 and Item 2. The May 23, 2023, meeting summary was approved.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Item One: I-Plan Update

Mr. Running provided an update on where the I-Plan revision stands, and the next steps needed to finish. He noted that Mr. Steven Johnston is forming an editorial committee to assist preparing the final copy of the update. The committee will ensure that viewpoints of the BIG are incorporated into the final document. Mr. Running stated that Mr. Ralph Calvino and Mr. Brian Shmaefsky volunteered. He said that Mr. Johnston will reach out to members to seek additional volunteers, between 5 and 10 in total. Mr. Johnston would specifically reach out to members of the Joint Task Force - the City of Houston, Harris County, and the Harris County Flood Control District to seek participation.

Mr. Running said that Mr. Johnston would work with the review committee and the Coordination and Policy work group to begin review in January. The goal will be to put a clean copy before the BIG in May.

Item Two: 2023 Annual Report

Mr. Running asked Ms. Rachel Windham, H-GAC, to provide a status update for the 2023 annual report. The report covers the 2022 calendar year. Ms. Windham stated the H-GAC had acquired and completed analysis of sanitary sewer overflows, wastewater treatment facility discharge monitoring reports, Harris County Pollution Control inspection data, and onsite sewage facility data. She reviewed some of the analysis with the BIG.

Ms. Windham noted that Mr. Johnston was still seeking success stories and additional implementation programmatic effort from member organization. He will be reaching out directly and through the topical work groups to garner this additional data.

Ms. Windham stated that Mr. Johnston would be convening the work groups beginning with the Coordination and Policy work group in January to begin gathering this final information. The 2023 Annual Report will be presented to the BIG in May.

Item Three: TMDL Updates

Ms. Daniela Mejia, TCEQ TMDL Program, provided the update. She stated that the Winters Bayou (AU 1003A_01) TMDL and the Jarbo Bayou (AU 2425B_02) TMDL would be included as addenda with the TCEQ's Water Quality Management Plan. The plan is submitted to the EPA for approval.

Ms. Mejia also noted that there will be a new project collecting new water quality data within the Tarkington and Luce Bayou watersheds. The project is in response to a new contact recreation 303(d) listing for Tarkington Bayou.

Item Four: Reflection on Fecal Indicators

Mr. Running introduced Dr. Michael LaMontagne from the University of Houston at Clear Lake. Dr. LaMontagne is a microbiologist. He reviewed his current work to identify better indicators of human pathogens in water that can be used to better describe public health risk through contact recreation. Dr. LaMontagne has been studying CrAssphages and enterococci. A CrAssphage is a virus that infects bacteria that has been linked specifically to the human gut. He is looking at methods that can make the collection and analysis of CrAssphages more rapid and less expensive to encourage the use by water professionals and hopefully better quantify human health risk.

Discussion followed Dr. LaMontagne's introduction. Focus of the discussion was on the interest in holding a future workshop. Two areas were brought up: 1) Regulatory and human health risk and 2) New techniques for water professionals. Under the first topic, a workshop would encourage participation by regulatory agencies. The goal would be to garner the latest information on the direction of regulatory agencies regarding new indicators and center on public health. The second topic would provide hands on training on techniques and methods that could quicken the analysis and lower costs for analyzing pathogen indicators to help encourage possible adoption of these techniques. Mr. Running put forward that the Coordination and Policy work group should continue this discussion.

Item Five: Implementation Project Presentations

Three presentations were given to the BIG.

Mr. Elling Mann, H-GAC, presented on targeted monitoring for FY22-23. This project covered nine assessment units evaluated by the Environmental Institute of Houston, Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies, and H-GAC. The project is being funded through grants from the TCEQ's Clean Rivers Program and TMDL Program. A report was made for each assessment unit studied. Mr. Mann provided key results from the project. The presentation is available through the BIG project website, h-gac.com, for further review. Attendees were interested in individual reports and asked for copies. Mr. Mann said he or someone from H-GAC would provide a copy.

Ms. Kendall Guidroz, H-GAC, presented on targeted monitoring for FY 22-23. This is a joint project with the Bayou Preservation Association. This project is being funded through a grant from the TCEQ's Galveston Bay Estuary Program. Ms. Guidroz reported on key results of the project and the coordination with the City of Houston to address sanitary sewer overflows that were found during the study. Attendees also noted their interest in a copy of the report.

Ms. Rachel Windham reported on the status of watershed protection plan (WPP) development and implementation within the BIG project area. She noted that the Clear Creek WPP was complete through the public comment period and has been handed off to the TCEQ for final review and eventual submittal to the EPA. The draft East Fork of the San Jacinto River WPP has been made available for public review and comment. Ms. Windham said that H-GAC has received funding to implement the Lake Creek/San Jacinto River, Spring Creek, and Cypress Creek WPPs. Initial data reviews have been completed and the next step is to work with stakeholders to implement management strategies within each WPP. Finally, she noted that H-GAC is working with TCEQ on a contract to develop the Greens Bayou WPP.

Item Six: Other Business/Roundtable

H-GAC provided a slide on upcoming meetings and workshops. Mr. Running encouraged attendees to add to the list of upcoming events.

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Bacteria Implementation Group Ground Rules

The following are Ground Rules for the Bacteria Implementation Group (hereafter referred to as the BIG) agreed to and signed by the members of the BIG in an effort to execute the Implementation Plan for Seventy-Two Total Maximum Daily Loads in the Houston-Galveston Region (I-Plan).

The signatories to these Ground Rules agree as follows:

GOALS

The goal of the BIG is assisting to reduce bacteria levels in the region's impaired waterways, making them meet water quality standards and become suitable for their current, designated uses. The BIG will accomplish this goal by coordinating, implementing, assessing, and revising the I-Plan. This I-Plan addresses bacteria loading in waterways for which TMDLs are being done or are completed.

POWERS

The BIG is the decision-making body for the I-Plan.

The BIG is an independent group of watershed stakeholders and individuals with an interest in restoring bacteria levels to a level safe for contact recreation.

The BIG provides the method for public participation in the planning and implementation process and is instrumental in obtaining local support for actions aimed at restoring surface water quality in the region.

TIME FRAME

Full implementation of the I-Plan may take decades after its initial approval by TCEQ in January 2013. The BIG may continue to function throughout this period as a recommendation of the I-Plan.

BIG MEMBERSHIP SELECTION

The BIG is composed of stakeholders from the Houston-Galveston region. Initial solicitation of members for equitable geographic and topical representation was conducted through a call to all stakeholders for nominations in 2008.

Stakeholders are defined as either those who make and implement decisions, those who are affected by the decisions made, or those who have the ability to assist with implementation of the decisions.

The BIG reserves the right to alter its composition to reflect changing needs identified during implementation of the I-Plan. The BIG will deliberate on any change in makeup to ensure consistency with the nomination process in 2008. Any composition change requires approval from a quorum of the existing members.

MEMBERSHIP

Members include both individuals and representatives of organizations and agencies. A variety of members serve on the BIG to reflect the diversity of interests within the region and to

incorporate the viewpoints of those who will be affected by the I-Plan. To effectively function as a decision-making body, the membership shall achieve geographic and topical representation. If the BIG feels a constituent group is not represented fully or at all it will have the ability to add members. New members will be asked to sign-on to the I-Plan to demonstrate the commitment to actively implement the I-Plan.

CURRENT BIG COMPOSITION

Representing	Number Organizations/ Individuals
Agriculture	2
Agriculture (County)	1
Business / Industry	5
Business / Industry (Boating)	1
Conservation	7
Large City	3
Public	1
Resource Agency / Academia	2
Rural County	2
Rural Small City	1
Small City	2
Urban County	3
Utility District	3
Total	33

REPLACEMENTS AND ADDITIONS

The BIG may add new members to existing, open positions or alter the number of representatives if (1) a member is unable to continue serving and a vacancy is created or (2) important stakeholder interests are identified as not represented or underrepresented by the existing membership. In either event, the BIG will, when practical, accept additional members. The BIG shall consider workgroup participants when filling vacancies on the BIG. New members, whether filling a vacancy, or in response to an addition of representation, must be approved by a quorum of existing members.

ALTERNATES

Members may designate up to two alternate representatives in the event that the member is unable to attend a meeting. These alternates will be compiled in a list that is submitted to the BIG for approval. Modifications to the list of alternates will be submitted to the BIG for approval on an as-needed basis. An irregular, undesignated alternate may be designated by a member, provided the member notifies the H-GAC facilitator by e-mail or in writing prior to the close of the business day prior to a meeting.

Alternates must abide by these ground rules. An alternate will be able to vote and speak on behalf of the member, will receive the same notifications that are sent to the member, and is encouraged to attend all meetings. An alternate who is neither attending with advance notification nor on the approved list of alternates will not be able to participate in votes.

Absentees may also provide input via another BIG member or send input via the facilitator. The facilitator will present such information to the BIG but will argue neither for nor against the viewpoint on that person's behalf.

ABSENCES

All BIG members agree to make a good faith effort to attend all meetings; however, the members recognize that situations may arise necessitating the absence of a member. Absences from two biannual meetings in a row of which the facilitator was not informed of beforehand or without designation of an alternate constitute a resignation from the BIG. H-GAC will contact each member who has an absence to remind them of the rule.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

BIG members are expected to participate fully in group deliberations. Members will identify and present insights, suggestions, and concerns from a variety of perspectives. BIG members are expected to work constructively and collaboratively with other members toward reaching consensus.

BIG members will be expected to assist with the following:

- Create and oversee work groups;
- Analyze and summarize data;
- Determine applicable implementation activities;
- Prioritize implementation activities to achieve goals established in the I-Plan;
- Review and update the I-Plan and timetable for implementation;
- Lead the effort in implementing this plan at the local level;
- Develop a monitoring plan;
- Participate in revisions to the I-Plan if revisions are warranted; and
- Encourage other watershed stakeholders to implement activities of the I-Plan.

BIG members may submit recommendations as individuals or on behalf of their affiliated organization(s).

H-GAC will serve as the facilitator for meetings of the BIG as funding is available. In order to carry out its responsibilities, the BIG has discretion to form standing and ad hoc workgroups to carry out specific assignments from the Group. BIG members may serve on one or more workgroups and represent that workgroup at BIG meetings to bring forth information and recommendations.

DECISIONMAKING PROCESS

The BIG will strive for consensus when making decisions and recommendations. Consensus is defined as a decision which all stakeholders are willing to accept. Consensus inherently requires compromise and negotiation, and should be inclusive, participatory, cooperative, egalitarian, and solution oriented.

If consensus cannot be achieved, the BIG will make decisions by a simple majority vote. If members develop formal recommendations, they will do so by two-thirds majority vote of those present, with the stipulation that minority reports may be included in any revision to the I-Plan.

From time to time, the BIG may make decisions through e-mail, web survey, or other remote means. In general, such decisions will be administrative in nature and shall be consistent with the I-Plan.

QUORUM

In order to conduct business, the BIG will have a quorum. Quorum is defined as at least 51% of the members. Designated alternates attending on behalf of members will count towards the quorum. A quorum is not necessary to hold a meeting or have discussions.

MEETINGS

All meetings (BIG meetings and workgroups) are open to the public and all interested stakeholders are welcome. At BIG meetings, discussion will be primarily among BIG members (or alternates sitting in place of members). Questions or comments from the audience will be addressed at the close of each discussion topic and will be generally no more than five minutes. Interested stakeholders are encouraged to participate in workgroups.

The BIG shall meet at least twice each year, at an annual meeting and at a mid-year update. The BIG may determine the need for additional meetings. Meetings will be scheduled to accomplish specific milestones in the planning and revision process. Workgroups will set their own meeting schedule to coordinate with BIG meetings, tasks, and milestones, and will generally meet at least once each year in preparation for the annual meeting.

Meetings will start and end on time. Meeting times will be set in an effort to accommodate the attendance of all members.

AGENDA

H-GAC staff, in consultation with all BIG members, is charged with developing the agenda. The anticipated topics are determined at the previous meeting and through correspondence. A draft agenda will be sent to the BIG with the notice of the meeting. Agendas will be posted on the project website. Agenda items may be suggested by members at the time that the draft agenda is provided. H-GAC staff will review the agenda at the start of each meeting and the agenda will be amended if needed and the members agree. The BIG will then follow the approved agenda unless they agree to revise it.

MEETING SUMMARIES

H-GAC staff will draft meeting summaries based on meeting notes and/or audio recordings. H-GAC staff will distribute meeting summaries to the BIG for their review and approval. All meeting summaries will be posted on the project website.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

H-GAC staff will prepare and distribute the agenda and other needed items to members. Distribution will occur via email and websites, unless expressly asked to use U.S. Mail (i.e., member has no email access). To encourage equal sharing of information, materials will be made available to all. Those who wish to distribute materials to the BIG or a work group may ask H-GAC staff to do so on their behalf.

WORK GROUPS

Topical workgroups formed by the BIG will carry out specific assignments from the Group. Work groups shall try to recruit participants from the broader community as a means of increasing stakeholder participation.

Each work group will be composed of a minimum of at least one BIG member that will serve as a liaison to the BIG and additional individuals with a vested interest in that topic. There is no limit to the number of members on a work group. At each work group meeting or as appropriate, each work group will elect a liaison to the BIG to provide an update on the activities of the work group to the BIG, as necessary. The liaison will be, in order of preference, a BIG member, an alternate to a BIG member, or a representative recommended by participants.

Tasks such as research or plan drafting will be better performed by these topical work groups. The work groups also serve as a forum in which alternate perspectives should be sought and considered.

SHARING OF/RELEASE OF INFORMATION

All members agree to openly exchange relevant information that is readily available to them. If a member believes he or she cannot or should not release relevant information, the member will provide the substance of the information in some form (such as aggregating data, deleting non-relevant confidential information, providing summaries, or furnishing information to the facilitator for limited or restricted use or to abstract) or a general description of it and the reason for not providing it directly.

Members will provide information as much in advance of the meeting at which it is to be discussed as is reasonably possible. Information and data provided to the BIG are a matter of public record.

The BIG does not have authority to protect confidential business information (CBI). When information required for BIG deliberations can only be derived from CBI (i.e. innovative technology, cost, or pricing information), the information may only be received by the BIG in aggregate form so as to protect specific CBI from release.

No member is expected to share advance information on its plans or strategy for filing or defending against litigation over TMDL issues. No member is expected to share any information that is subject to attorney/client privilege.

SPEAKING IN THE NAME OF THE BIG

Individuals do not speak for the BIG as a whole unless authorized by the Group to do so. Members do not speak for H-GAC and H-GAC does not speak for BIG members. If BIG spokespersons are needed, they will be selected by the Group.

Additionally, work groups and individual work group members are not authorized to speak for the BIG.

DEVELOPMENT AND REVISION OF GROUNDRULES

These ground rules may be changed by consensus provided a quorum is present.

Bacteria Implementation Group Ground Rules

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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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- Develop a monitoring plan;
- Participate in revisions to the I-Plan if revisions are warranted; and
- Encourage other watershed stakeholders to implement activities of the I-Plan.

BIG members may submit recommendations as individuals or on behalf of their affiliated organization(s).

H-GAC will serve as the facilitator for meetings of the BIG as funding is available. In order to carry out its responsibilities, the BIG has discretion to form standing and ad hoc workgroups to carry out specific assignments from the Group. BIG members may serve on one or more workgroups and represent that workgroup at BIG meetings to bring forth information and recommendations.

DECISIONMAKING PROCESS

The BIG will strive for consensus when making decisions and recommendations. Consensus is defined as a decision which all stakeholders are willing to accept. Consensus inherently requires compromise and negotiation, and should be inclusive, participatory, cooperative, egalitarian, and solution oriented.

If consensus cannot be achieved, the BIG will make decisions by a simple majority vote. If members develop formal recommendations, they will do so by two-thirds majority vote of those present, with the stipulation that minority reports may be included in any revision to the I-Plan.

From time to time, the BIG may make decisions through e-mail, web survey, or other remote means. In general, such decisions will be administrative in nature and shall be consistent with the I-Plan.

QUORUM

In order to conduct business, the BIG will have a quorum. Quorum is defined as at least 51% of the members. Designated alternates attending on behalf of members will count towards the quorum. A quorum is not necessary to hold a meeting or have discussions.

MEETINGS

All meetings (BIG meetings and workgroups) are open to the public and all interested stakeholders are welcome. At BIG meetings, discussion will be primarily among BIG members (or alternates sitting in place of members). Questions or comments from the audience will be addressed at the close of each discussion ~~topic, and~~ topic and will be generally no more than five minutes. Interested stakeholders are encouraged to participate in workgroups.

The BIG shall meet at least twice each year, at an annual meeting and at a mid-year update. The BIG may determine the need for additional meetings. Meetings will be scheduled to accomplish specific milestones in the planning and revision process. Workgroups will set their own meeting schedule to coordinate with BIG meetings, tasks, and milestones, and will generally meet at least once each year in preparation for the annual meeting.

Meetings will start and end on time. Meeting times will be set in an effort to accommodate the attendance of all members.

AGENDA

H-GAC staff, in consultation with all BIG members, is charged with developing the agenda. The anticipated topics are determined at the previous meeting and through correspondence. A draft agenda will be sent to the groupBIG with the notice of the meeting. Agendas will be posted on the project website. Agenda items may be suggested by members at the time that the draft agenda is provided. H-GAC staff will review the agenda at the start of each meeting and the agenda will be amended if needed and the members agree. The GroupBIG will then follow the approved agenda unless they agree to revise it.

MEETING SUMMARIES

H-GAC staff will draft meeting summaries based on meeting notes and/or audio recordings. H-GAC staff will distribute meeting summaries to the committeeBIG for their review and approval. All meeting summaries will be posted on the project website.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

H-GAC staff will prepare and distribute the agenda and other needed items to members. Distribution will occur via email and websites, unless expressly asked to use U.S. Mail (i.e., member has no email access). To encourage equal sharing of information, materials will be made available to all. Those who wish to distribute materials to the BIG or a Work Group may ask H-GAC staff to do so on their behalf.

WORK GROUPS

Topical workgroups formed by the BIG will carry out specific assignments from the Group. Work groups shall try to recruit participants from the broader community as a means of increasing stakeholder participation.

Each work group will be composed of a minimum of at least one BIG member that will serve as a liaison to the BIG and additional individuals with a vested interest in that topic. There is no limit to the number of members on a work group. At each work group meeting or as appropriate, each work group will elect a liaison to the BIG to provide an update on the activities of the work group to the BIG, as necessary. The liaison will be, in order of preference, a BIG member, an alternate to a BIG member, or a representative recommended by participants.

Tasks such as research or plan drafting will be better performed by these topical work groups. The work groups also serve as a forum in which alternate perspectives should be sought and considered.

SHARING OF/RELEASE OF INFORMATION

All members agree to openly exchange relevant information that is readily available to them. If a member believes he or she cannot or should not release relevant information, the member will provide the substance of the information in some form (such as aggregating data, deleting non-relevant confidential information, providing summaries, or furnishing information to the facilitator for limited or restricted use or to abstract) or a general description of it and the reason for not providing it directly.

Members will provide information as much in advance of the meeting at which it is to be discussed as is reasonably possible. Information and data provided to the BIG are a matter of public record.

The BIG does not have authority to protect confidential business information (CBI). When information required for BIG deliberations can only be derived from CBI (i.e. innovative technology, cost, or pricing

information), the information may only be received by the BIG in aggregate form so as to protect specific CBI from release.

No member is expected to share advance information on its plans or strategy for filing or defending against litigation over TMDL issues. No member is expected to share any information that is subject to attorney/client privilege.

SPEAKING IN THE NAME OF THE BIG COMMITTEE

Individuals do not speak for the BIG as a whole unless authorized by the Group to do so. Members do not speak for H-GAC and H-GAC does not speak for BIG members. If BIG spokespersons are needed, they will be selected by the Group.

Additionally, Work groups and individual Work group members are not authorized to speak for the BIG.

DEVELOPMENT AND REVISION OF GROUND RULES

These ground rules may be changed by consensus provided a quorum is present.

DRAFT

We, the undersigned, as members of the BIG, agree to these Ground Rules of the Bacteria Implementation Group.

Michael Bloom

Helen Lane

John Blount

Craig T. Maske

Marilyn Christian

Cathy McCoy

Joe Clark

Michael Mooney

Robert Collins

Jack Murphy

Carol Ellinger

Rebecca Olive

Catherine Elliot

Mitchell G. Page

Mike Garver

Raymond Pavlovich

Frank Green

Linda Pechacek

Teague Harris

Coil Price

Bruce Heiberg

Kathy Richolson

Shannon Hicks

Jim Robertson

Jason Iken

Linda Shead

Tom Ivy

Brian Shmaefsky

Ron Kelling

Scott Jones

Michael Lee

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BIG Composition June 2024

Representing	Number Organizations/ Individuals	Organization	Organization	Organization	Organization	Organization	Organization
Agriculture	2	Texas Forest Service	Vacant				
Agriculture (County)	1	Vacant					
Business / Industry	5	Terracon	AECOM	San Jacinto River Authority	Quiddity Engineering	Gulf Coast Authority	
Business / Industry (Boating)	1	Boater / Marina					
Conservation	7	Houston Sierra Club	Greens Bayou Coalition	Bayou Preservation Association	Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition	Galveston Bay Foundation	Vacant
Large City	3	City of Houston	City of Houston	City of Houston			
Public	1	Citizen, Civil Engineer					
Resource Agency / Academia	2	US Geological Survey	Lone Star College, Kingwood				
Rural County	2	Walker County	Montgomery County				
Rural Small City	1	Vacant					
Small City	2	City of League City	City of Conroe				
Urban County	3	Harris County Pollution Control Services	Harris County	Harris County Flood Control District			
Utility District	3	IDS Engineering	Schwartz, Page, & Harding, LLP	SI Environmental			
Total	33						

Contact Recreation Health Indicator Workshop – Potential Speaker List

1. Terry Gentry (Terry.Gentry@ag.tamu.edu). He is local and an expert on microbial source tracking (MST).
2. John Griffith (<https://www.sccwrp.org/about/staff/john-griffith/>). John has decades of experience on MST from the perspective of a public agency. He is way out in California though.
 - [Dr. John Griffith - Southern California Coastal Water Research Project](#) Dr. John Griffith Department Head Microbiology 714-755-3228 johng@sccwrp.org View as printable resume Bio Resume Publications Dr. John F. Griffith is the head of SCCWRP's Microbiology Department and Coordinator of Molecular Technology. www.sccwrp.org
3. Jorge Santo Domingo (santodomingo.jorge@epa.gov). Jorge can provide a federal perspective on MST.
4. Vikram Kapoor, Ph.D. – Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Construction Management, University of Texas, San Antonio. <https://ceid.utsa.edu/vkapoor/>
 - Expert in the detection and quantification of bacterial and host organism DNA in rivers such as Cibolo Creek (north Texas) and the Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers (southeast Texas). (210) 458-7198. vikram.kapoor@utsa.edu
5. Anna Gitter, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Texas School of Public Health, El Paso Campus. Formerly at the Texas Water Resources Institute (Texas A&M)
<https://sph.uth.edu/faculty/#R5SahN0jWgkm+wbnhp+PpaGOB/0TbXfq5scqErJ3PII=>
 - Expert in human health risk modeling related to water quality, TMDLs, stakeholder engagement. (915) 975-8520. anna.gitter@uth.tmc.edu
6. Michael LaMontagne, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor of Microbiology, College of Science and Engineering, University of Houston Clear Lake
<https://www.uhcl.edu/science-engineering/faculty/lamontagne-michael>
 - Expert in molecular methods for assessing microbial water quality, for both nucleic acids and proteins, microbiota of floodwaters. (281) 283-3754. LaMontagne@UHCL.edu
7. <https://www.epa.gov/wqc/recreational-water-quality-criteria-and-methods>
[Recreational Water Quality Criteria and Methods | US EPA](#)
Documents pertaining to Recreational Human Health Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Microbial Organisms (Pathogens). These documents include safe levels for cyanotoxins microcystin and cylindrospermopsin, and Coliphage to protect human health.
www.epa.gov