

Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Meeting Summary Notes

The 2018 meeting of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Basin Steering Committee (BSC) was held at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center in Houston on Tuesday, May 1, 2018. Water Resources Program Manager, Todd Running, called the meeting to order at 1:38 PM.

Members (or their alternates) attending

Latrice Babin	Camila Biaggi	Sonja Lewis
Lisa Marshall	Kelly “Rodi” Rodibaugh	Linda Shead
Kristin Lambrecht	Michele Wilkins	Scott Harris

Interested Parties/Individuals attending

Cassidy Kempf, (GBEP)

H-GAC Staff Present

Todd Running, Jean Wright, Will Merrell, Becki Begley, Kathy Janhsen, Justin Bower, Steven Johnston, Bill Hoffman, and Brian Sims

Welcome

Todd Running, Water Resources Program Manager, welcomed everyone, led introductions of all meeting attendees, and reviewed the purpose for this meeting. He asked for any public comments, questions or concerns. There were none expressed.

Presentations

Running began the presentations with an Introduction to the Clean Rivers Program. He also reminded attendees how all our lives are intertwined with surface water in many way and how CRP is the foundation and the connection between the many water resources related projects in the region.

Running presented an overview of the findings to be found in the 2018 Basin Highlights Report (BHR) which is required to be a watershed characterization report. He started with a summary of the basins which are monitored by all the monitoring partners, then covered the results of the fifteen year trends analyses of bacteria impairments and concerns, dissolved oxygen impairments and concerns, and nutrient concerns. The report also highlights the impairments and concerns for PCBs and Dioxin. Running explained how to interpret and use the annual ‘frog chart’ to see the trends and percent impairments for each of the parameters or category in the chart. Since the BHR is being made as an interactive web application, it will have direct access to the WRIM – Water Resources Information Map. Lastly, Running identified the three segments that were chosen to be part of this ‘Watershed Characterization Report.’ Those segments are 1007, 1107, and 1108. The report (web application) is scheduled to be launched on May 15th.

FY2019 Ambient Monitoring: Wright provided a summary of the monitoring efforts conducted by the local partners and then reviewed recent changes that will be continued and what will be new in FY2019 which starts September 1, 2018. Wright's presentation also included a very brief summary of what is expected to change in the new year and a hard copy map of the current monitoring stations posted on an easel to allow for discussion after the meeting. For the most part, H-GAC plans to continue funding the 10 extra sites in the East Fork San Jacinto River watershed being collected by the Texas Research Institute on Environmental Studies (TRIES), monitoring a couple of EIH sites that were dropped from FY2018 due to budget, and conduct monitoring and flow at Caney and Oyster Creek.

Merrell presented an update on Texas Stream Team (ST) efforts in the greater Houston region. He covered the training process, where current monitoring is being conducted, and the value ST provides to the professional monitoring conducted by H-GAC and local partners.

Merrell gave a presentation about the Onsite Sewage Facility (OSSFs) activities being conducted by H-GAC. First, H-GAC maintains a database of permitted OSSFs in the 13 counties which make up H-GAC. Not only does the database include new permitted properties, efforts are being made to add grandfathered properties as well. The database has increased by 21% since 2010. H-GAC offers OSSF Home Inspection classes for Real Estate Home Inspection Professional as well as homeowner education classes. Lastly, Merrell announced that H-GAC's Wastewater Assistance Program which will repair or replace between 50-100 OSSF systems in the region. The caveat is the homeowner must provide proof of income requirements before work is initiated.

Becki Begley oversees the public outreach activities related CRP and other water programs. Begley's presentation provided updates on the Regional Litter Projects: The River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash which completed its 25th year; Trash Summit #3 which is working with Trash Free Waters initiative; and Trash Free Trinity Update which will now include all of Galveston Bay which is located at the bottom of the waterway. Begley also reported on the newest activity called 'Coast Communities Water Quality Education & Outreach Project'. This new project will work to fill the gap between the needs of coastal communities and education/outreach measures identified in other water quality projects, create a template for outreach with smaller communities, and pursue funding to implement the outreach activities in these smaller coastal communities. Lastly, she gave an update on outreach activities that H-GAC conducted and passed out a flyer which identifies all the educational outreach materials which H-GAC has available to loan to other agencies, organizations, schools, clubs and/or individuals.

Kathy Janhsen spoke about the Natural Resource Advisory Committee, an advisory committee to H-GAC's Board of Directors. The committee is charged with identifying issues and propose work programs to fulfill the objectives of the NRAC and pertinent legislation. The NRAC also provide an opportunity for all segments of the public to participate in natural resource planning of all kinds. The NRAC is developing a new program: WISE Awards (Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence) which will recognize projects that are aimed at improving water quality across the region. There are currently 4 potential award categories but details are still being flushed out.

Janhsen is also leading the effort to create *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition*. Janhsen included a brief history of the document, H-GAC's approach to creating this revision, a highlight of the technical content, and a 'how to' for reading the new document. Janhsen and the team are currently addressing comments and hope to publish the document Fall 2018.

Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) in the Region: Justin Bower gave a brief overview of the WPPs H-GAC is working on and the status of each. A total of 10 WPPs are in the region with several being recently approved by EPA or currently pending approval. Other projects are going

into the implementation phase and money is needed to help install BMPs. H-GAC will continue to be involved in these projects even if only to facilitate the meetings associated with them and help to disseminate information.

Steven Johnston, gave an update on all TMDL projects in the H-GAC region. His presentation gave brief updates on the BIG (Bacteria Implementation Group), Upper Oyster Creek TMDL, Basin 11: San Jacinto – Brazos Coastal Basin, the Chocolate Bayou TMDL, Basin 13: Brazos – Colorado Coastal Basin, and new projects Caney Creek Special Study.

Other Business and Announcements

Running opened the floor to attendees to share upcoming activities and meeting with the group. Minutes from this meeting will be uploaded to H-GAC's web page for review and if anyone was unable to participate. Slides will be available upon request.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.