

Houston-Galveston Area Council's Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2013
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:
H-GAC Office
3555 Timmons Lane
Houston, TX 77027
2nd Floor, Conference Room A

Meeting Summary Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

Todd Running welcomed everyone and began introductions. He briefly reviewed the agenda then gave a brief explanation of the Clean Rivers Program and the need for the Basin Steering Committee.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments made at the meeting.

3. Update: Draft 2013 Basin Highlights Report

Todd Running introduced the Draft 2013 Basin Highlights Report to the group. He reviewed the TCEQ requirements for this year's report and discussed how H-GAC chose the segments to highlight. Then Todd reviewed the overall 'frog chart' found in the report. The chart shows a summary of water quality impairments and concerns within the H-GAC region, as well as the trends and percent of waterways affected by impairments and concerns. Todd explained where the report could be found on H-GAC's web site (the link had been sent with the meeting notices) and asked that any comments be sent to H-GAC by Monday, May 29, 2013, for incorporation into the final version. The final report is due to TCEQ on May 15, 2013. Lastly, Bill Hoffman gave a brief explanation of how the trends and percent impairments were calculated. There were no questions about the report.

4. Coordinated Monitoring Meeting – April 23, 2013

Jean Wright gave a brief update on the current 2013 coordinated monitoring schedule (CMS) and local partner participation. She reviewed anticipated changes for FY2014, the list of parameters being collected, and what CRP was funding with all partners. A map showing monitoring stations for TCEQ and USGS, all local partners, and finally, H-GAC was shown to the group. Wright reviewed how individuals can access and review the CMS by going to the state wide monitoring schedule. She also explained how to navigate through the web site and how to use some of the tools available. Wright invited people to participate in the process and announced the coordinated monitoring meeting is scheduled for the next day April 23, 2013. Suggestions for monitoring sites and additional comments were also solicited. They are due by Friday, April 26, 2013.

5. FY 2014-15 Work Plan & Budget Update

Todd Running gave a presentation about the FY2014-15 Budget and draft Scope of Work for the next biennium. He included a review of historical funding along with H-GAC's current funding using both CRP and 106 funding. There was an across the board reduction of 5% from historical levels which leaves little money left for special projects. Running's presentation explained what activities are included in each of the 7 tasks of the CRP Guidance Document. He was pleased to show that H-GAC has kept administrative costs down to only 7.2% of the total budget. The bulk of the money (43%) goes to water quality monitoring expenses. Todd also highlighted the 'How's the Water?' mobile phone application. H-GAC plans to roll out a version for the 'Android' phone as well as upgrade the iPhone app to allow people to input information directly.

6. Texas Stream Team Update

Travis Tidwell, Monitoring Program Coordinator with The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University, gave a presentation about Texas Stream Team. It is a volunteer monitoring program supported directly by H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program. Citizen volunteers from throughout the region collect water quality data from sites to augment the efforts of the professional monitoring agencies. In the past, volunteers have been very helpful in identifying areas needing additional monitoring by professionals or intervention by TCEQ's regulatory forces.

7. Updates: H-GAC's 'other' Water Resources Group Special Projects

Members of H-GAC's Water Resources Staff gave updates on other projects being conducted by H-GAC. These projects are located throughout the region and rely heavily on water quality data generated by the Clean Rivers Program partners and TCEQ's Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program (SWQM). Below is the list of projects and the individual giving the presentation.

- a. On-site Sewer Facilities Mapping & Database Project – Will Merrell
- b. Bastrop Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) – Justin Bower
- c. Westfield Estates WPP Summary – Justin Bower
- d. Cedar Bayou WPP – Justin Bower
- e. San Bernard River WPP – Aubin Phillips
- f. Armand Bayou I-Plan – Aubin Phillips
- g. BIG (Bacteria Implementation Group) TMDL - Todd Running

8. Adjourn