

Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee Meeting Meeting Summary Notes

Thursday, April 1, 2015

The annual meeting of the Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee was held in the Houston-Galveston Area Council conference room B/C at 3555 Timmons Lane, Houston Texas, on Thursday, April 1, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Todd Running, Water Resources Program Manager, at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Members (or their alternates) present

Allison Fischer
Carole Lamont
Bret Raley*

Glenda Callaway
Daisy James
Robert Snoza*

Greg Camp
Steven Mitchell*
Lori Traweek

*Alternate

H-GAC Staff Present

Todd Running, Jean Wright, Bill Hoffman, Will Merrell, Paniz Bighash, Justin Bower, Steven Johnston, Kathy Janhsen, Becki Begley

Others Present

Jenny Oakley, Natasha Zarnstom, Rachel Byrne, Dela's Moore, Sarah Whitley, Lauren Pulliam, Randy Woods, Lisa Groves, Lisa Leija

Welcome

Todd Running, Water Resources Program Manager, welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. All persons present were asked to introduce themselves and their affiliation.

There were no persons present from the public wanting to address the committee so Running moved directly into the first presentation.

Presentations

The Draft 2015 Basin Highlights Report: Todd Running reported the *draft* Basin Highlights Report was submitted to TCEQ in mid March and comments are expected back by mid-April. The 2015 Basin Highlights report is a segment characterization report where H-GAC is specifically required to take an in-depth look at five selected segments. However, the report still includes a brief overview of the region's water quality and data was analyzed to create the annual 'Frog Chart'. Copies of the text were distributed to all members present.

Running asked for committee input and comments on the text, formatting, and, in particular, how the annual 'frog chart' is presented in the report. There were two options shared with the committee – arranging the segments alphabetically by basin or arranging the segments alphabetically by 'number of frogs.' Majority of members present spoke in favor of keeping the traditional table format (segments arranged by basin). Two requests was made by members – first, move the 'BHR methodology' to Appendix A instead of in the overview section and add a reference to USGS being a partner due to flow data acquired from gages located around the region. Running encouraged members to take the time to read and get any additional comments back to H-

GAC as soon as possible. The document goes to print very soon since the final report is required to be published and copies sent to TCEQ by May 15th.

FY 2016-2017 CRP Draft Budget: Copies of the final FY2014-2015 budget and the draft FY2016-2017 budget along with the draft budget broken out by task were passed out for review and comparison. Running reported that in FY2011, H-GAC took a 5% cut in funding and we continue with the same allocation still. The new budget, 'personnel and travel' costs are expected to decrease while 'contractual' and the 'other' categories are expected to increase. Moving sites from H-GAC's monitoring program to the Environmental Institute of Houston's (EIH) monitoring program accounts for some of these changes. Unless members had a concern with numbers presented, the draft work plan and draft budget were being submitted to TCEQ later that day.

Coordinated Monitoring Schedule: Jean Wright, CRP QAO and Monitoring Coordinator, gave a presentation updating everyone on the FY2015 and FY2016 coordinated monitoring schedules (CMS). Wright briefly described some anticipated changes that will be made to the FY2016 CMS beginning in September 2015. At least one site still needs reconnaissance to determine final location(s). Wright's presentation included how to access the LCRA web site and navigate through the web site to find the desired information about current and past CMS.

Texas Stream Team Volunteer Monitoring: Will Merrell, H-GAC Environmental Planner, gave a presentation about the volunteer monitoring program which supplements professional monitoring activities throughout the state. Merrell highlighted H-GAC's monitoring program and how people could access data through the Meadows Center's web site.

CRP Special Project Update: Dissolved Oxygen: Jean Wright presented an update on the 24-hr DO data results collected from six monitoring stations across the region. Each slide identified the station and location plus the mean, maximum and minimum DO measured as well at the events that failed to meet the State of Texas Water Quality Standard.

Other Water Resources Group Special Projects: Stephen Johnston, H-GAC Sr. Environmental Planner, gave an update on various Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects being conducted in this region. His update included the status of the Implementation plans (I-plan). His discussion included the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG), Armand Bayou I-Plan, East & West Fork San Jacinto River I-Plan, and Jarbo Bayou I-Plan. All these projects also use CRP data.

Justin Bower, H-GAC Sr. Environmental Planner, gave an update on the Cedar Bayou Watershed Protection Plan project that H-GAC is working on. This project uses CRP data as its baseline of information for the waterway.

Other Business and Announcements

Running reported that H-GAC is creating an omnibus water quality report for elected officials which will be focused on bacteria.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.