

Meeting Summary
Clean River Program Steering Committee
06/05/07

Stakeholders Present

Darrell Gertson - Commissioner Colorado County, Patricia Wise - TCEQ, Mary Ellen Whitworth – Bayou Preservation Association, Mike Turco – USGS, Kathy Richolson – Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, Marilyn Christian – Harris County Public Health, Guy Grossman - Texas Railroad Commission

H-GAC Staff Present

Todd Running, Jean Wright,, Ayo Jibowu, Gayla Stock, Kathy Ramsey, Carl Masterson

Others Present

Welcome and Introductions

Todd Running welcomed those present to start the meeting at about 10:00. 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

Approval of FY08-09 Clean Rivers Program Workplan and Budget

Running lead the group on a discussion of the proposed work plan and highlighted areas in the workplan and budget that were substantial changes to prior workplans. Running pointed out the major differences in the current workplan from previous workplans: He explained that H-GAC will start sampling at 30 locations in watersheds that had not previously received routine ambient monitoring. He explained that the sites had not been selected, but the new monitoring would start in September of 2008. Monitoring in Galveston and Brazoria Counties would be reduced from 6 times per year to 4 times per year. Running explained that the cost of NELAC and the field filtration of orthophosphate that is being required by TCEQ is cutting into the budget for special studies. In the past H-GAC was able to conduct two or more special studies in each contract. In the proposed workplan the budget can only allow for one special study. The USGS will be monitoring TSS levels in the West Fork of the San Jacinto River. The study will be done in conjunction with studies currently being funded by the City of Houston. Mike Turco of the USGS gave a brief explanation of the study.

Jean Wright gave a recap of the coordinated monitoring schedule that was approved at the previous steering committee meeting in May.

Project Updates

Kathy Ramsey gave the group an overview of the Westfield Estates FSSI project. Findings of the study were somewhat surprising in that the majority of bacteria found in areas with failing septic systems come from non-human sources. She went on to say that H-GAC will be doing further work in the area with a grant from GBEP to determine which septic systems in the area are failing and will start work to fix or replace them.

H-GAC gave an update on the Bastrop Bayou Watershed Protection Plan. There has been a delay in getting the contract signed but staff are continuing to stay in contact with watershed stakeholders. Watershed signs will be installed in conjunction with regular road maintenance schedules. A kickoff meeting for stakeholders is being planned for August.

Local Laboratory NELAC Accreditation Update

H-GAC gave a brief update on the status of local agency laboratories in applying for NELAC accreditation. All labs are moving toward having their applications in by the August 31st deadline.

New Bacteria Listings on 303(d) list

Running gave an update on the new bacteria listings on the 2006 303(d) list. He informed the group that there were 54 new listings for bacteria. He further explained that the reason for the new listings was not due to increasing bacteria levels, but that the TCEQ had changed the way they were handling the assessment. This breaks the stream segments down into much smaller units. This will help local agencies be able to concentrate on more specific areas when trying to find bacteria sources in the future.

Adjourn

Running adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30