

Meeting Summary
Clean River Program Steering Committee
05/01/07

Stakeholders Present

Darrell Gertson - Commissioner Colorado County, Patricia Wise - TCEQ, Mary Ellen Whitworth – Bayou Preservation Association, Dexter Brown – USGS, Laurie Shelton – Texas Water Development Board, Kathy Richolson – Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, Marilyn Christian – Harris County Public Health, Linda Shead – Trust for Public Land

H-GAC Staff Present

Todd Running, Jean Wright, Bruce Ridpath, Patrick Horton, Om Chawla, Gayla Stock

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 Final 2007 Basin Highlights Report

Running took the group through the 2007 Basin Highlights Report . The report had been posted on the H-GAC web page. Steering Committee Members had been able to give comments prior to the meeting which had been incorporated into the final text. There were no comments on the content of the highlights report during the meeting. Running stated that the report would remain on the website and any last minute comments by members not in attendance at this meeting would be incorporated. The committee approved the Report.

Approval of FY08 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule

Jean Wright Showed the group the monitoring sites that will be monitored in FY08. Attendees received a printout of all the monitoring site information. Wright showed the group (via the internet) the statewide coordinated monitoring schedule and took the group on a “tour” of website hosted by the Lower Colorado River Authority. The site contains all water quality monitoring stations in the State of Texas. Wright showed the group how to query the schedule to get any information they might be interested in. Steering Committee members found the site very useful and said they would definitely use it in the future for helping to plan. The Steering Committee approved the FY08 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule.

Comments on FY08-09 Clean Rivers Program Draft Workplan

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 that the major differences in the current workplan were: 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.

Running pointed out that the budget for the program has not increased in the last 6 years. However, the work now costs more than it did in 2001. Therefore H-GAC is looking for ways to become more efficient in data management and analysis. He explained that H-GAC is moving to SAS to assist with data management and analysis. The goal for H-GAC is to have data sent to TCEQ within 30 days of receipt from local partners.

Project Updates

Dexter Brown Gave Updates to the committee on the Cotton/West Fork Double Bayous study as well as the Highland/Marchand Bayous study. He explained that data collection for both projects will finish in August of 2007. Data Analysis and report preparation will begin in the next contract period.

Running announced that the Mustang Bayou Study was completed and that the final report was available on the H-OGAC website. Hard copies of the report will be available as soon as they are received from the USGS.

Set Timelines and Dates for Meetings

The group decided on June 4th or 5th for the next meeting date. Running said he would determine room availability and inform the committee.

Adjourn

Running adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:45