

Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee Meeting Meeting Summary Notes

Thursday, January 19, 2017

The first 2017 meeting of the Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee was held as a webinar on Thursday, January 19, 2017. Water Resources Program Manager, Todd Running, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Members (or their alternates) attending

Tom Beck
Steve Hupp
Jason Pinchback
Michelle Wilkins

Linda Broach
Sonja Lewis
Kelly Rodibaugh

Danielle Cioce
Gordon Pederson
Linda Shead

Interested Parties/Individuals attending

None

H-GAC Staff Present

Todd Running, Jean Wright, Will Merrell, Kathy Janhsen, Bill Hoffman, and Heather Fields

Welcome

Todd Running, Water Resources Program Manager, welcomed everyone, led introductions of all meeting attendees, and reviewed the purpose for this meeting.

Presentations

The Draft FY2018-2019 Scope of Work: Running gave a presentation about the proposed FY2018-2019 Scope of Work. This included a review of what is included within each of the six tasks from Project Administration and Quality Assurance to Data Management and Public Outreach. The presentation also included a brief discussion about the Budget. H-GAC's CRP is operating on 5% less than the 2001 funding. With increasing costs, H-GAC's program can no longer fund special projects as they were in the late 90's and early 2000's. On the flip side of the coin, CRP partners provide around 60% of the data used in assessment used the State of Texas Integrated Report. CRP is perfectly poised to pick up the monitoring that would address emerging contaminants as long as funding supported those efforts.

Only one question was asked at the end of this presentation. It involved the value and use of Texas Stream Team data to CRP. Running stated it was not necessarily the actual water quality data that provided the most value from the Stream Team monitoring program but rather, the regular observations that were documented by the volunteers about each site. This information was instrumental in addressing changes that would not have been detected by the suite of parameters collected by volunteers.

The draft Scope of Work (SOW) is due to TCEQ on February 1, 2017. If committee members have any suggestions or comments about the SOW, they should address comments to Todd Running or Jean Wright. Both of their information is provided.

Draft 2017 Basin Highlights Report: Running presented the outline for the *Draft 2017 Basin Highlights Report* which is due February 15, 2017. This is the shortest ‘How’s the Water?’ report that is compiled and submitted to TCEQ. Primarily, H-GAC is charged with reporting about water quality changes that have occurred since the Basin Summary Report was submitted. H-GAC is opting to address the requirements as well as discuss how CRP data is used by other projects and give an overview of the primary pollutants found in the greater Houston region. These include high bacteria concentrations, low dissolved oxygen and increasing nutrient concentrations in area waterways. The report will also highlight how CRP can provide another 25 years of water quality monitoring successes.

Comments can be submitted to Todd Running or Jean Wright.

Other Business and Announcements

Running announced that the next meeting of the Basin Steering Committee was scheduled for February 22 from 1:30 – 3:30 PM at the H-GAC offices. A meeting reminder will be sent out. Minutes from this meeting, the slide presentations, and a recording of the meeting will be uploaded to H-GAC’s web page for review and if anyone was unable to participate.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.