

Meeting Summary Notes  
**H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program**  
**Basin Steering Committee Meeting**  
Conducted Via ZOOM on Tuesday, May 28, 2024

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Basin Steering Committee (BSC) met Tuesday, May 28, 2024, via the ZOOM virtual meeting platform. Todd Running, Water Resources Program Manager, conducted the meeting. Andrea Tantillo facilitated the meeting with support from staff covering various topics. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM.

**Attendance List:** (See attached list for additional details)

Kaylei Chau, Vanessa de Vera, Lucy Flores, Kelli Gallagher, Andrew Isbell, Ericka Jackson, Kristin Lambrecht, Jeff Lu, Teri McArthur, Lisa Marshall, Sherah McDaniel, Grant Moss, Sylvester (Skip) Reeder, III, Dwayne Rogers, Linda Shead, Brian Shmaefsky, Shane Simpson, Sabryna Sulak, Desta Take, David Villarreal, Jenna Wadman, Marisa Weber, & Kyle Wright

**H-GAC Staff Present:**

Todd Running, Jean Wright, Jessica Casillas, Kendall Guidroz, Steven Johnston, Rachel Windham, Elling Mann, Bill Ervin, Cornell Evans, & Andrea Tantillo

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**Welcome**

Host, Todd Running, and Facilitator, Andrea Tantillo, opened the meeting at 2:00 PM with a welcome and then gave instructions on how the meeting would be conducted, and how individuals could ask questions and participate in ZOOM discussions. This meeting was originally scheduled to have in-person as well as online attendees. However, due to intense thunderstorms and some street flooding in the office area, the meeting was in-person for only H-GAC staff. Running gave a brief outline of the agenda for the meeting and conducted a roll call among those who were visible in the meeting's participant window. The ZOOM meeting was recorded with transcripts provided for follow-up.

**Public Comment**

Running asked if there were any public comments, for which, no one spoke up.

**Presentations**

Jean Wright, Senior Planner and Regional Monitoring Coordinator, gave a short presentation on the history of the Clean Rivers Program in the state. Her presentation also summarized all water quality monitoring being planned for FY2025 which would start September 1, 2024. Wright reported that all Coordinated Monitoring Meetings (CMM) were conducted the last week of March 2024, with individual meetings with each local partner, plus TCEQ and USGS. While nearly all sites, frequencies, and parameters remained the same, a few new sites and former monitoring locations were pulled back into the CMS for FY25. Also, with TCEQ's input, H-GAC moved some of the 24-hour Dissolved Oxygen (DO) monitoring efforts to different locations in the region. Between EIH and H-GAC, ten 24-hour DO sites will once again be monitored for the year. The updates CMS can be found at <https://cms.lcra.org/>.

Todd Running, Water Resources Group (& CRP Project) Manager, gave a presentation about the final 2024 Basin Highlights Report. This report was the standard format which required a very brief summary about every segment within the H-GAC basins. The presentation included a water quality

overview section that addressed water quality trends, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, PCBs/Dioxin, nutrients, and the 'Frog Chart.' A section about watershed Protection Plans, TMDL projects, and other, non-H-GAC watershed programs in the region. Lastly, a summary of Outreach projects, programs, and activities were reported for the year. The report can be found at [Basin Highlights/Summary Reports | Houston-Galveston Area Council \(H-GAC\)](#).

Kendall Guidroz gave a summary report on the activities related to the Texas Stream Team (TST) program funded by CRP. Her presentation included an explanation of the core TST parameters, an explanation of the training program, and an introduction to the WRIM (Water Resource Information Map) software where a map of the monitoring stations can be found along with all data submitted by trained volunteers.

Guidroz is also the coordinator for the "River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash." She gave a summary presentation of the 2024 Trash Bash which was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event held on March 23, 2024. A summary of the event showed that 2,184 volunteers removed 53.23 tons of trash and 226 tired from seventy-nine miles of the Galveston Bay watershed! Next year's event is set for March 29, 2025. Learn more at [www.trashbash.org](http://www.trashbash.org).

Elling Mann reported on the 'Targeted Bacteria Monitoring' special project that was funded through CRP in FY23 and is being funded again by through TMDL. This project is designed to locate source of pollution and refer those same sources to the agency/organization responsible for maintaining the sanitary/storm sewer lines in the vicinity of the high bacteria concentrations. The final report for FY23 was completed in August 2023 and the FY2024 project report is also due in August 2024.

Bill Ervin gave a presentation about the 'On-site Sanitary Sewer Facilities (OSSF) supplemental project that the Water Resources Group is conducting. This project is using environmental violation fines and grants to address non-functioning OSSFs in the region as well as offering pump-out services to those residents who may quality due to low income.

Steven Johnston presented summaries about all the Total Daily Maximum Load projects being conducted within H-GAC's 13 county region. Of primary interest is the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) area which is working with local stakeholders to identify and eliminate source of bacteria. A TMDL project is being planned for the above tidal portion of Clear Creek coming in FY25.

Lastly, Rachel Windham gave a presentation about the recent and upcoming Watershed Protection Plans (WPP) being conducted in the region. The newest WPP project in the works is scheduled for the above-tidal portion of Greens Bayou within the city of Houston. It is beginning in late FY2024.

For morning information about all watershed-based plans go to: [Watershed-Based Plans | Houston-Galveston Area Council \(H-GAC\)](#)

### **Other Business and Announcements**

Running closed the meeting with a request for other business and any announcements of about upcoming meetings and special events related to improving water quality throughout the region.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM.