



**East and West Fork of the San Jacinto River (E&W) Bacteria
TMDL:
Workgroup Report
Natural Resources**

July 8, 2014

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I. OVERVIEW

Per Umbrella Contract 582-12-13254, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requested Public Outreach support from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) for E&W Bacteria TMDL project, with activities for all elements of Public Outreach including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Identifying and Reserving Facilities for Meetings and / or Events;
- Providing a Facilitator for Any Meetings (As Needed);
- Providing Support for Organizing and Advertising Meetings and / or Events;
- Distribution and Posting of Meeting Agenda(s);
- Preparation of Meeting and / or Event Summaries;
- Preparation of Printed or Other Presentation Materials in Support of a Meeting and / or Event;
- Use of the H-GAC Website for Posting Meeting and / or Event Information; and
- Any Other Necessary Support Activities.

On July 8, 2014 H-GAC facilitated the Natural Resources Workgroup meeting to discuss the details of the TMDL and next steps.

II. PURPOSE

The water bodies included in this analysis are all within the Lake Houston watershed, which originates in Walker, San Jacinto and Grimes and run through Montgomery, Liberty, and Harris counties.

The Purpose of this workgroup meeting was to discuss the following:

1. Present Overview of the TMDL for new participants
2. Review Data derived from the TMDL Study
3. Discuss the Process for Developing an I-Plan
4. Review Two Examples of I-Plans Specific for Subject Area
5. Discuss Time-Line
6. Discuss Next Steps and Upcoming Decision for Either Joining the BIG or Developing an I-Plan



III. **APPROACH**

Interested and invited individuals were contacted directly via e-mail and phone to verify interest in participating on the Natural Resources Workgroup; identify best dates / times for the meeting; to notify them of meeting details; and to remind the potential attendees of the upcoming meeting.

IV. **NOTIFICATION**

Notification of the workgroup meeting took place via phone and e-mail. Additionally, TCEQ asked H-GAC to post meeting details to the project webpage (<http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/san-jacinto-river-east-west-forks.aspx>).

V. **MATERIALS**

The following materials were made available for the kickoff meeting:

1. Sign-In Sheet(s)
2. Natural Resources Meeting Agenda
3. Sections of the BIG I-Plan, Dickinson Bayou I-Plan, and Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan related to topic area.

VI. **MEETING SYNOPSIS**

Location

Cleveland Civic Center
210 Peach Ave
Cleveland, TX 77327

When

Tuesday, July 8, 2014
2 PM – 4 PM



Attendees

NAME	ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED	ASSUMED COUNTY?
Warren Oja	Sam Houston National Forest	
Ernest Bailes	Self	
Brian Koch	TSSWCB	
Jody Cronin	Shepard ISD	
Brandt Mannchen	Houston Sierra Club	
Jordan Austin	SJRA	
Shane Simpson	SJRA	

To view the sign-in sheet in its entirety, please see Attachment A.



Information Requests:

- Has TPWD provided any numbers / estimates on the total of different animals: wildlife, feral hogs, etc.?
- Are there federal BMP for silviculture? Yes, but not necessarily for private industry. Cutting / allowances for cutting?
- Is there an organized program to promote resources for private landowners? Yes – Soil Board has some programs like this.
- Develop a good Fact Sheet for circulation.
- Why would this group benefit from joining the BIG?

Questions and Comments:

- “Wet Event” is monitoring that takes place within two days of rain; “Dry Event” is outside of two days from rain. The standard on the map is modified based on flow (the curved red line).
- Feral hogs are not considered “wildlife” by TPWD.
- More monitoring is needed in the upper portion of the East Fork. Private property monitoring? Winter’s Bayou (sp?) and East Fork. Perhaps teaming up with an institution of higher learning.
- Need to add some Soil Board program information for private landowners. Soil Board tries to provide lots of CEU-earning programs to reach out to new audiences.
- Potential to do a “Watershed Stewardship” award for folks doing the right thing – nominated by others. PR for local businesses?
- Would like to see more clarity / specifics in the 9 element table, specifically under implementation.
- How do we capture the successes of other programs and duplicate them? Potential opportunity for targeted program case studies for future scalable implementation?
- Specific areas of Sam Houston National Forest are no hunting areas – Winter’s Bayou (sp?) and Scenic Creek (??).
- SHNF is seeing significant illegal dumping of chemicals.
- SHNF would like to see more incentive programs for hog control. Bounties?

Meeting Outcomes:

- Group voted to change name from the Agriculture, Silviculture and Wildlife Workgroup to Natural Resources Workgroup.
- Group reviewed available data from the TMDL study.
- Group provided comments on data needed for future meetings
- Group given I-plan examples related to Monitoring and Research to review prior to next meeting.



- Group reviewed Time-Line and discussed plans to vote on whether to recommend to the Coordination Committee to join the BIG or develop an I-Plan during the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

To Be Determined