

# Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee Meeting Meeting Summary Notes

Thursday, April 17, 2014

The annual meeting of the Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee was held in the Houston-Galveston Area Council conference room A at 3555 Timmons Lane, Houston Texas, on Thursday, April 17, 2014. The meeting was called to order by Todd Running, Water Resources Program Manager, at approximately 1:05 p.m.

## **Members (or their alternates) present**

Randy Acreman*	Heather Biggs	Arturo Blanco
Lee Bodkin*	Allison Fischer	Darrell Gertson
Steve Grisham	Steve Hupp*	Martin Kelly*
Carole Lamont	Lisa Marshall*	Craig McNair
Bob Reed	Linda Shead	Robert Snoza*
Lori Traweek		

\*Alternate

## **H-GAC Staff Present**

Todd Running, Jean Wright, Bill Hoffman, Will Merrell, Paniz Bighash, Justin Bower, Aubin Phillips, Steven Johnston, Kathy Janhsen, Chuck Wemple

## **Others Present**

Travis Tidwell, George Guillen

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## **Welcome**

Todd Running, Water Resources Program Manager, welcomed everyone and began introductions of all people attending the meeting.

There were no persons present from the public wanting to address the committee so Running moved directly into the first presentation.

## **Presentations**

**The Draft 2014 Basin Highlights Report:** Running reported the final Basin Highlights Report is not due to TCEQ until May 15<sup>th</sup> however the text has received approval and the document is currently being laid out with photos, graphs, etc. for publishing. Copies of the text were made available to all members present. Running encouraged members to take the time to read and get any comments back to H-GAC as soon as possible. The document goes to print very soon.

**Coordinated Monitoring Schedule:** Jean Wright, CRP QAO and Monitoring Coordinator, gave a presentation updating everyone on the FY2014 and FY2015 coordinated monitoring schedules (CMS). Wright pointed out the current FY2014 CMS is printed out and hanging up for closer inspection near the refreshment table. Wright briefly described the expected changes that would be made to the FY2015 CMS beginning in September 2014. A few sites still need to have reconnaissance to determine final locations. Wright's presentation included how to access the

LCRA web site and navigate through the web site to find the desired information about current and past CMS. She made the web site address available to everyone via a handout.

Texas Stream Team Volunteer Monitoring: – *(Note: This topic was on the draft agenda but accidentally deleted from the final agenda.)* Travis Tidwell, Monitoring Coordinator with The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment in San Marcos, gave a presentation about the volunteer monitoring program which supplements professional monitoring activities throughout the state. Tidwell highlighted H-GAC's monitoring program and how people could access data through the Center's web site.

Other Water Resources Group Special Projects: Justin Bower, H-GAC Sr. Environmental Planner, gave an update on the various watershed protection plan projects that H-GAC is working on. These projects include the San Bernard River WPP, the Cedar Bayou WPP, and Bastrop Bayou WPP. Each of these projects use CRP data as their baseline of information for the waterway.

Stephen Johnston, H-GAC Sr. Environmental Planner, gave an update on the various Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects being conducted throughout this region. His update included the status of each Implementation plan (I-plan) including projects that are not specifically being conducted by H-GAC. His discussion included the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG), Armand Bayou I-Plan, Upper Oyster Creek, East & West Fork San Jacinto River I-Plan, Jarbo Bayou I-Plan, Upper Texas Coast Oyster Waters, Dioxins & PCBs, and Dickinson Bayou. All these projects also use CRP data.

Aquatic Life Monitoring Comparison Study – *(Due to the presenter being stuck in traffic, this presentation was postponed till later in the meeting.)* Dr. George Guillen, Director of the Environmental Institute of Houston at the University of Houston – Clear Lake (EIH), gave a presentation about the biological monitoring that EIH conducted for the Clean Rivers Program back in the spring and summer of 2011. The study involved revisiting five monitoring locations that were studied by the USGS back in 1997-98 and conducting new aquatic life use analyses then make a comparison of changes that have occurred in the habitat, nekton and benthic communities. All sites represented areas that had undergone or are still undergoing intense development in their respective watersheds. The final report for the study can be found on the H-GAC web site at [http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/publications/EIH\\_BioMonFinalReport\\_FINAL\\_V2.pdf](http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/publications/EIH_BioMonFinalReport_FINAL_V2.pdf).

OSSF Mapping & Approved SEP: Will Merrell presented information about H-GAC's ongoing efforts to develop a database and map all on-site sewer facilities (OSSFs) located in the 13 county region. Installation and permitting information is being acquired from the designated representatives in each county, then evaluated, formatted, and input to create a master database for the region. Bacteria is the most common waterway impairment in the region and failing OSSFs are one of many bacteria sources being addressed through on-going efforts. H-GAC also offers an OSSF real estate inspector class with approved CEUs to help identify failing systems when property ownership changes. Lastly, Merrell discussed the newly approved Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) where a part of the penalty money from TCEQ enforcement actions may be directed to SEP projects that address environmental concerns instead of 100% going directly to the general fund. In this case, the money will be used to pay to have failing OSSFs repaired or replaced in watersheds most impaired by bacteria.

### **Other Business and Announcements**

There was no other business discussed during the meeting.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.