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

Enforcement

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 Enforcement 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 Enforcement 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. Enforcement 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
10 AM – 12 PM

Attendees

NAME	ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED	ASSUMED COUNTY?
Dale Everett	San Jacinto County Pct. 1 Deputy Constable	
T. W. Garrett	City of Plum Grove	
Andrew Isbell	Walker County	
John Henderson	Walker County	
Jordan Austin	SJRA	
Shane Simpson	SJRA	

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

Information Requests:

- Can additional monitoring be completed? Maybe access students – partner with institutions for higher learning for additional monitoring analysis. Increase the number of volunteer monitors.
- TCEQ doesn't check for sludge hauler manifest – it is pretty much the honor system.
- Need to send the I-Plan packet to the group digitally for review / homework.
- Community Resource Guide – need to circulate this with the CC & Work Groups.
- Contact Officer Blommingdale – Sheriff's Office / came to first meeting.

Questions and Comments:

- H-GAC did a study (Amy Boyers) where they tried to locate all old, illegal dumps. Non-registered landfills – look into this study / proximity check for the watershed. Regional effort – but focus on this watershed. Monitoring Site 11235 is right next to an illegal dumping site.
- Biggest goal to get from these: someone would "fly the watersheds" every six months to keep an eye on the project area. Do it with existing aerials / GoogleEarth.
- The biggest issue: wide areas of concern, but with a narrow project focus (bacteria).
- Significant issue with illegal dumping of animal carcasses.
- One of the biggest problems is that there is a disconnect between enforcement and the impact on the community. Specifically explain to the public why this type of enforcement is necessary / important. Better identify the benefit to individuals and communities.
- Difficulty in accessing enforcement folks. And the various entities aren't communicating. Limited resources for some of the smaller communities.
- There are sufficient rules / penalties on the books – the problem is there are not sufficient resources applied to on the ground enforcement.
- There needs to be an aggressive outreach campaign to inform folks in the rural areas.
    - Bad quality = higher cost = more activity / inconvenience.
    - Need should be driven by the public, not political leadership. The money is more likely to go to these additional support resources if there are members of the public demanding it of their elected officials.
    - It isn't about the environment; it is how it impacts your health, safety, and pocketbook.
- Big Three Issues:

- Need to do a better job of notifying, informing, and communicating with the public about how this issue is pertinent to them. Better use of the media.
- Better job bridging the gaps between the different agencies / entities for resources.
- Need more boots on the ground to identify and resolve issues.

- Train local law enforcement on what to look for / what to do.
- Focus on students / schools.
- Incentives for doing the right thing. Treatment plants that let waste haulers pump receive a TCEQ credit / incentive?

Meeting Outcomes:

- 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