



FALL MEETING Summary

Monday, November 2, 2015
1:00 am to 3:00 pm
H-GAC Conference Room B&C, Second Floor
3555 Timmons Lane

Members Present

Michael Bloom, Richard Chapin, Marilyn Christian, Catherine Elliott, Rick Felan, Tom Ivy, Scott Jones, Mike Lindsey, Craig Maske, Raymond Pavlovich, Linda Pechacek, Linda Shead, Brian Shmaefsky (phone), Aaron Wieczorek

Bruce Heiberg was represented by Steve Hupp
Alisa Max was represented by Danielle Cioce
Anne Olson was represented by Linda Shead
Becky Olive was represented by Ralph Calvino
Jim Robertson was represented by Richard Smith (phone)
Earl Smith was represented by Susie Blake

Members Absent

David Brown, Greg Hall, Teague Harris, Jason Iken, Helen Lane, Cathy McCoy, Mitchell Page, David Parkhill

Guests Present

Zafar Ahmed, Tom Douglas, Denise Hall (phone), Kate Hallaway, Diane Humes, Janice Keeven, Karen Kottke, Kim Laird, Chris Loft, Ruben Mantz, Brandt Mannchen, Lisa Marshall, Carl Masterson, Chip Morris (phone), Nwaothkwu Sam Okonkwo, Rachel Powers, Jerry Preston, Robert Snoza, Jennifer Wheeler (phone), Kyle Wright (phone)

H-GAC Staff Present

Kathy Janhsen, Steven Johnston, Paniz Miesen, Will Merrell, Todd Running

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Steven Johnston welcomed those in attendance. Members of the BIG and guest were asked to introduce themselves. The agenda was reviewed and the BIG was provided the opportunity to discuss.

Certification of Quorum

A quorum was certified during the meeting.

Approval of Proposed Alternates & Members

David Brown of the USGS, Rick Felan of the Gulf Coast Waste Authority, Richard Chapin of the city of Houston, and Aaron Wieczorek of the city of Houston were nominated by their organizations to represent them on the BIG. Shaun Austin of the Gulf Coast Waste Authority and Zafar Ahmed were presented as alternates to BIG members.

In addition to the changes to individual members, the updated roster was reviewed and discussed.

Steven Johnston asked if voting members supported the changes to the roster by each member providing a thumbs-up before the group. All were in favor of the changes.

Approval of October 21, 2014 Meeting Summary

BIG members reviewed and provided comment to the draft June meeting summary. With requested changes to the summary, Ray Pavlovich motioned for approval of the minutes and Michael Bloom seconded. All of the BIG members were in favor. There was no additional discussion.

Public Comment

Carl Masterson provided public comment. Mr. Masterson asked if there was anything being tracked to demonstrate implementation of the I-Plan. Michael Bloom responded by directing Mr. Masterson to Appendix C of the draft Annual Report.

Old Business

Discussion: 2015 Draft Annual Report

Staff led the BIG in a discussion on the draft 2015 Annual Report. Staff provided a draft version of the Annual Report for review. Staff noted that there had been two rounds of comments.

The first round took place following the June 22, 2015 Annual Meeting. Five sets of comments were received during that period. The second round was a follow up with those that provided comment to ensure that those comments were handled correctly. The report provided to the BIG represents the results of the second round of comments. The BIG provided initial comments.

Staff reported that comments will be taken through November 15, 2015. Staff would address those comments and the final document presented to the BIG via email and hard copy during meetings.

Implementation Plan Updates

H-GAC staff as a follow up to the June 22, 2015 meeting presented Addendum #2. Staff reminded the BIG that the Addendum was conditionally approved at the previous meeting. Staff noted that the TCEQ and EPA approved the Armand Bayou TMDL on August 5, 2015 and that the condition for approval of Addendum #2 was fulfilled.

Addendum #2 added seven new TMDLs to the BIG I-Plan, one segment in the Buffalo Bayou watershed and six in the Armand Bayou watershed. Addendum #2 effectively completed the process of joining the Armand Bayou watershed with the BIG project area.

Discussion: Watershed Updates

Staff provided updates to the Jarbo Bayou and East and West Fork of the San Jacinto River TMDL implementation planning processes. The review included information on the BIG's conference call that discussed adding new seats and addressing vacancies. East and West Fork of the San Jacinto River and Jarbo Bayou stakeholders will have an opportunity to present potential representatives for those positions.

New Business: East and West Fork of the San Jacinto River and Jarbo Bayou draft Letters of Support

Staff reviewed the East and West Fork and Jarbo Bayou TMDL time-line and the need to seek support letters from individual organizations within those watershed. Additionally, the BIG is expected to provide a support letter that demonstrates its acceptance of the two watersheds. Staff reviewed two draft letters of support that would come from H-GAC on behalf of the BIG. Staff reminded the BIG that a similar letter was written for Armand Bayou. Staff noted that the letters would be provided to the BIG for review and comment over the next couple of weeks.

Discussion: Review 2016 Annual Report Process

Staff reviewed high points of the 2016 Annual Report Process with the BIG, including the schedule of work group meetings, and focus for 2015 implementation tracking. Staff stated that the topic would be addressed in future Coordination and Policy meetings.

Discussion: Basin 11 and Basin 13 TMDL Projects

Staff reviewed the project scopes and focus with the BIG. Staff noted that the TCEQ is shifting its efforts to a prioritized Basin approach in an effort to target each area with funding and technical assistance. The goal is to find gaps and to develop water quality recommendations.

Other Business/Roundtable

As time permits, H-GAC, BIG members, and stakeholders are encouraged to discuss implementation activities, related projects, and announcements.

Next Meeting Date

May 24, 2015

H-GAC Conference Room B (2nd Floor)

Adjourn