REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY
Thursday, November 29, 2018 – 2:00 P.M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Houston, Texas 77027 (Meeting Held in Room 2A)

MEMBER PRESENT
Brazoria County – Joe Ripple
City of Houston – Loren Raun (Chair)
City of La Porte – Kristin Gauthier
City of Texas City – Gary Scoggins (Past Chair)
ExxonMobil Corporation - Baytown – Sherman Hampton
Greater Houston Partnership – Steven Hansen
Harris County – Jacque Darbonne
Harris County – Ronnie James
Harris County Pollution Control (HCPC) – Bob Allen
Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) – Mustapha Beydoun

ALTERNATE PRESENT
Air Alliance Houston – Harrison Humphries
Associated General Contractors of America – Marc Anderson
Greater Houston Partnership – Steven Will
Harris County Pollution Control – Stuart Mueller
Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) – Vincent Sanders
TxDOT - Houston – Charles U. Airiohuodion

STAFF PRESENT
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Laurie Chandler
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Patrick O’Reilly
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Lola Brown
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Jamie Zech
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Carl Young

BRIEFING
Overview
a. The RAQPAC Members and Alternates were presented with agency reports (EPA update, TCEQ update, Regional Air Quality Monitoring update); action items; a series of discussion and information items were delivered; and the meeting concluded with announcements.

b. Go to http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-materials.aspx to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER
ITEM 1A. – Introductions
Loren Raun, Chair, called the meeting to order, and members introduced themselves.

ITEM 1B. – Approval of Meeting Summaries (9-27-2018 and 10-25-2018))
Meeting summaries were approved.

AGENCY REPORTS
ITEM 2A. - EPA Update (Carl Young)
EPA briefed on four items: 1) Reclassification of the Moderate Ozone Nonattainment areas for 2008 Ozone Standard; 2) Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Air Quality Standard; 3) Proposal to Amend the 2016 New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry; and 4) Cleaner Truck Initiative.

1. Reclassification of the Moderate Ozone Nonattainment areas for 2008 Ozone Standard
On November 14, 2018, EPA published a proposal to reclassify the Houston area, Dallas/Fort Worth area and five other Moderate ozone attainment areas that missed the 2008 ozone standard attainment deadline of July 20, 2018 and did not qualify for a 1-year extension of the deadline. In the Federal Register notice, EPA proposes to reclassify the areas to Serious setting a new attainment deadline of July 20, 2021.

2. Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Air Quality Standard
3. Proposal to Amend the 2016 New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry
   On October 15, 2018, EPA published a proposal to amend the NSPS for the oil and natural gas industry. EPA is proposing changes to requirements for: 1) Frequency of monitoring fugitive emissions at well sites and compressor stations, 2) Pneumatic pumps at well sites, 3) Requesting alternative means of emissions limitations.

4. Cleaner Truck Initiative
   On November 13, 2018, EPA announced the Cleaner Truck Initiative which is an initiative to update nitrogen oxide (NOx) emission standards for on road heavy-duty trucks and buses. EPA last revised these NOx emission standards in January 2001.

ITEM 2B. - TCEQ Update (Lola Brown)
TCEQ staff gave updates on various topics including the following:
   1. Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision One-Hour and 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) – The HGB Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan SIP Revision for the one-Hour and 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS is scheduled for consideration by the commission for adoption at the December 12, 2018 Commissioners’ Agenda.
   2. Point Source Emissions Inventory Reminder – TCEQ is preparing to develop an attainment demonstration SIP revision. If the SIP revision is adopted, this will update the SIP emissions year, which may impact a regulated entity’s ability to generate credits. SIP emissions are based on the annual EI data used in the attainment demonstration SIP modeling; for HGB point sources that are not electric generating units, 2016 will become the SIP emissions year.
   3. Emissions Banking and Trading (EBT) –
      a. Applications to generate Emission Reduction Credits (ERC) of Discreet Emission Reduction Credits (DERC) using the current SIP emissions years for the HGB eight-hour ozone nonattainment area are due January 18, 2019.
      b. At the November 14, 2018 Commissioners’ Agenda, the commission recertified the Houston-Galveston Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization (AERCO) for another 12-year term.
   4. Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) – Various grants are available. To stay updated on all programs, visit the TERP website at www.terpgrants.org.
   5. Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust – The Final Plan is available on the TCEQ’s Texas VW Environmental Mitigation Program webpage at www.TexasVWFund.org.

For additional information on these and other topics, go to http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-materials.aspx

ITEM 2C. - Regional Air Quality Monitoring Update (Andrew DeCandis)
Since the last meeting in October, there have been no exceedances of the 2008 75 ppb ozone 8-hour standard or the 2015 70 ppb 8-hour standard. The fourth highest design value this year remains 88 ppb which was recorded at the Houston Aldine monitor. In addition to the 8-hour standards, so far in 2018 there have been three exceedances of the one-hour standard. No new exceedances have occurred since the last meeting in November. The Clinton PM 2.5 monthly average for October was 6.84 µg/m³.

ACTION ITEMS
ITEM 3A. – TERP Recommendations to H-GAC Board of Directors (Andrew DeCandis)
Andrew discussed recommendations from the TERP Subcommittee in preparation for the upcoming legislative session. The final suggestions were discussed, and additional suggestions were incorporated into the final list. Finally, a motion to approve these recommendations for distribution was made and approved by the committee. The final recommendations can be found here: http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-materials.aspx
DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4A. – Proposed RAQPAC Bylaws Changes (Andrew DeCandis)
Andrew DeCandis and Alan Clark discussed potential changes to the RAQPAC bylaws. It was the consensus of the group that additional time was needed for members to examine the revised bylaws, but that there was no need to wait until the next scheduled RAQPAC meeting in January 2019. An online poll will be sent to allow members to register their voice on the acceptability of the revisions. To view a copy of the proposed changes to the RAQPAC Bylaws, visit http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-materials.aspx.

ITEM 4B. Volkswagen Settlement Priorities (Andrew DeCandis)
Andrew presented information regarding the final TCEQ Volkswagen Settlement and the changes that occurred between the draft and the final version. The settlement to date is $14.7 Billion of which Texas will receive $209MM. TCEQ goals are: to reduce Nitrogen Oxide emissions; to reduce the potential for exposure of the public to pollutants; to prepare for increased and sustained use of zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs); and to complement other incentive programs. Priority areas include: Dallas-Fort Worth area, Houston-Galveston Brazoria area, San Antonio area, Austin area, El Paso County, Bell County, Beaumont-Port Arthur area. TCEQ is basing its funding calculation on three components: 1) relative percentage of affected VW vehicles, 2) nonattainment areas, and 3) strategic allocation (determined by an assessment of how best to use the funds to address the goals of the project. TCEQ has given a chance for input from the region; the deadline is December 21, 2018. For more on the TCEQ Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Beneficiary Mitigation Plan for Texas, see http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-materials.aspx.

ITEM 4C. Intra-Basin and International Transport Modeling (Greg Stella, Alpine Geophysics)
Greg Stella of Alpine Geophysics presented work-in-progress being done by his organization in conjunction with the 8-Hour Coalition to better understand and model the sources of emissions that contribute to nonattainment episodes at specific ozone monitoring stations within the region. http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-materials.aspx.

Next meeting will be January 31, 2019.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 4:03 P.M.