MEETING SUMMARY
Thursday, April 25, 2019 – 2:00 P.M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council of Government Offices
3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77027
(Meeting Held – Second Floor, Agency Conference Room 2-A)

MEMBER PRESENT
Air Alliance Houston – Bakeyah Nelson
City of Houston – Loren Raun
City of Houston – Win Colbert
City of Texas City – Gary Scoggin
Houston Advanced Research Center – Mustapha Beydoun
Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) – Edmund Petry
The Dow Chemical Company – William Nipper

ALTERNATE PRESENT
Air Alliance Houston – Harrison Humphreys
American Lung Association – Paulette Wolfson
Associated General Contractors – Marc Anderson
East Harris County Manufacturers Assoc. – Steve Smith
Harris County-Matt Van Vleck
Harris County Pollution Control – Stuart Mueller
Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) – Vincent Sanders
Port Houston – Kenneth Gathright

STAFF PRESENT
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Jim Mahood
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cameron Stawicki
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Lola Brown
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Kristen Jacobson
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency – Carl Young

OTHERS PRESENT
Sam Gammage – Texas Chemical Council

BRIEFING
Overview
a. The RAQPAC members and alternates were presented with agency reports (EPA update, TCEQ update, Regional Air Quality Monitoring update); 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 Summary (02-28-2019)
There were not enough members present to meet quorum. This meeting summary will be revisited for approval at a future meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS
ITEM 2A. EPA Update (Carl Young)
EPA briefed on two items:
1. Reclassification of the Moderate Ozone Nonattainment areas for 2008 Ozone Standard
   EPA continues to work on finalizing the reclassification of the Houston area, Dallas/Fort Worth, and five other moderate ozone nonattainment area 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, the final rule is expected to reclassify these areas to serious, setting new attainment deadline of July 20, 2021, as well as setting the deadline for a new SIP submittal.

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2. Expected Proposal on the Houston area Redesignation/Maintenance State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision for the Revoked 1-hour and 1997 8-hour Ozone Standards
EPA revoked the 1-hour ozone standard (124 parts per billion (ppb)) in favor of the 1997 8-hour ozone standard (84 ppb). Later EPA revoked the 1997 8-hour ozone standard in favor of the 2008 ozone standard (75 ppb). EPA stopped redesignations for the revoked ozone standards and promulgated a regulation that allowed for a “redesignation substitute” for the revoked standards.

The Houston area attained the 1-hour ozone standard at the end of 2013. The Houston area attained the 1997 8-hour ozone standard at the end of 2014. EPA approved “redesignation substitutes” for Houston area and these standards. Last year, the D.C. Circuit Court vacated EPA’s redesignation substitute provision.

This led Texas to develop and submit a full Houston area redesignation request and maintenance plan SIP revision for the revoked standards. In May EPA expects to propose action on the Houston redesignation/maintenance plan.


ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update (Lola Brown)
TCEQ staff gave updates on various topics including the following:

1. Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)
Programs currently accepting applications include: Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program (natural gas vehicles only); the Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program; and the Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction Program. These programs are offering grants on a first-come, first-served basis through May 2019, or until allocated funds have been awarded. The TCEQ has received a sufficient number of applications to award the allocated 2,000 electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles under the Light-Duty Purchase or Lease Incentive Program and has suspended the acceptance of applications for electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Applications for rebates are still being accepted for natural gas vehicles. Visit TERP website at www.terpgrants.org.

2. Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP)
The TxVEMP program is gearing up to open the first round of funding for the repower or replacement of school buses, transit buses, and shuttle buses. Visit http://www.TexasVWFund.org to stay updated on upcoming application workshop opportunities.

3. AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine (DACM)
The DACM program is no longer accepting applications for vehicle repair and replacement in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) area. The DACM program provided $2.2 million in assistance, repairing 310 vehicles and retiring/replacing 648 vehicles in the HGB area in the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2019 (December 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019). Since the start of the program in December 2007, 23,256 vehicles have been repaired and 29,381 vehicles have been retired/replaced in the HGB area at a cost of $101.9 million.

4. Proposal for Useful Life for Trucks that are both Combination Short-Haul and Long-Haul
Per an April 1, 2019 govt. delivery notice, the TCEQ posted the Proposal for Useful Life for Trucks that are both Combination Short-Haul and Long-Haul for public comment. (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/implementation/air/banking/guidance/useful-life-proposal.pdf). Comments must be submitted to ebtt@tceq.texas.gov by May 1, 2019. For questions, contact Guy Hoffman at (512) 239-1981 or Molly Ellsworth at (512) 239-2296.
5. **2019 Annual Monitoring Network Plan**
   The TCEQ is accepting comments on the [TCEQ 2019 Annual Monitoring Network Plan](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/monops/network_review.html) until 5:00 P.M. on May 21, 2019. Any comments pertaining to the 2019 Annual Monitoring Network Plan should be sent to: TCEQ; P.O. Box 13087; Attention Holly Landuyt, MC-165, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or emailed to: monops@tceq.texas.gov.

6. **Environmental Trade Fair and Conference (ETFC) Reminder**
   The TCEQ's ETFC will be held May 14 and 15, 2019 at the Austin Convention Center. Additional information, including registration and a draft agenda, is available on the Environmental Trade Fair a Conference webpage: [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/etfc](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/etfc).

**ITEM 2C. Regional Air Quality Monitoring Update** (Andrew DeCandis)
   Since the last meeting in February, there have been 3 exceedances of the 2008 75 ppb standard (2 in March and 1 in April). We have seen 6 exceedances of 2015 70 ppb standard (3 in March and 3 in April). At current, the present regional design value is 77 ppb as measured at the Houston Aldine monitor. So far, 2018 no exceedances. The Clinton PM 2.5 monthly average for March recorded 10.53 μg/m³. April averaged 9.5 μg/m³. Of note, the Galveston 99th Street monitor for ozone has been offline since January 22, 2019. TCEQ installed a new instrument last week and it is currently being validated. Once it has been verified to be operating properly, data will once again be available on the TCEQ ozone monitoring website.

**ITEM 2D. Legislative Update** (Sam Gammage, Texas Chemical Council)
   Presenter, Sam Gammage, gave a high-level overview of what is happening in the session right now. The final deadline for passage of bills May 27, after which the Governor has (20) day veto period. Major bills applicable to this committee.

1. Three TERP bills:
   a. **HB3745 (Cecil Bell):** This bill is moving through process. Funds must be appropriated by legislature. They will remove funding and create a trust fund. TCEQ would administer trust to use for TERP programs.
   b. **HB1746 (Lozano):** This bill extends TERP funding until it reaches attainment. It ends on September 1, 2019. Funds must be appropriated by the legislature. Both bills have been voted out of the House and pending Senate review.
   c. **HB531 (Bryan Burtwell):** Extended fees got substituted. (2) year extension only. The committee was not comfortable with extending the bill until attainment. The bill was voted out of Senate and currently remains in the House committee.

2. **Non-TERP Bills:**
   a. **HB1346 (Ed Thompson):** Stay within nonattainment areas 75 percent of travel. This bill will allow TCEQ to adjust the numbers accordingly. This bill has been voted out of the full House committee currently deferred to Senate.
   b. **HB3802:** Create zero emission vehicle program in TERP fund. Pass from House committee and currently on House calendar.
   c. **HB3291:** This bill applies to alternative fueling and fleet facility grant. Will allow to adjust the numbers accordingly. This bill can be accessed publicly. The MTA organization utilizes the funding not be publicly accessible. There are liability concerns. Voted from House and currently on House calendars.
   d. **Other Bills:** Aggregate bills filed on rock crushing, concrete batch plant regulations, and sand plant. Also, land field operations and enforcements.

Lastly, hearing held in the House committee on joint public safety: ITC fires. Organizations that spoke: EPA, TCEQ, Port of Houston, Harris County Commissioner, Harris County Attorneys, and Texas Department of Emergency Management.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**
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ITEM 4A. (Loren Raun)
Dr. Loren Raun, Chief Environmental Science Officer, for the City of Houston and RAQPAC Chair gave a presentation regarding City’s monitoring efforts related to the ITC Deer Park fire, an analysis of the collected data, and recommendations to improve air quality monitoring within the region in the event of future high emissions events.

ITEM 4B. (Bakeyah Nelson)
Dr. Bakeyah Nelson of Air Alliance Houston (AAH) gave an update on the progress of a joint effort between AAH and the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) to develop a health impact assessment of the North Houston Highway Improvement Project the upcoming I-45 reconstruction.

Go to http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-materials.aspx for the slides used in these presentations.

INFORMATION ITEMS
ITEM 5A. H-GAC Update (Andrew DeCandis)
1. Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Grant-In June 2018 H-GAC applied for a DERA grant. H-GAC was awarded funds to help replace diesel powered vehicles with all electric at (IKEA and Port of Galveston) to help with their yard operations.
2. Clean Vehicles and Drayage Program-H-GAC is accepting applications for the clean vehicles program to help award grants for local vehicles replacement. Also, (Drayage), funding has been rebranded.
3. Volkswagen Program-TCEQ will be implementing this program to help assist local fleet to determine whether they can apply for funding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
ITEM 6A. PM 2.5 Subcommittee Restart (Andrew DeCandis)

1. Andrew DeCandis gave a short presentation to reintroduce the PM2.5 Path Forward Report that H-GAC and RAQPAC submit each year. Andrew will be sending out an additional email to recruit members of the RAQPAC subcommittee that will assist with this process. Last year’s final Path Forward Report can be found here.

Next meeting will be June 27, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.