

BACTERIA IMPLEMENTATION GROUP
Animal & Agriculture Workgroups
Wednesday, April 08, 2009
10:00 am to 11:30 am

Individuals Present:

BIG reporter: Nancy Sullins (AECOM); Brian Koch by phone (TSSWCB); Stephen Johnston (GBEP/TCEQ); Rodney Adams (TCEQ); Winston Denton (TPWD-Dickinson); Kirk Fleener (TCEQ);

H-GAC Staff Present:

Rachel Powers

Discussion:

Rachel reviewed the process for and results of the BIG's prioritization exercise:

- The Animal and Agriculture workgroups identified specific sources and implementation activities (IAs).
- In meeting and by e-mail, workgroup participants (both sign-ups and meeting attendees) selected IAs of most interest.
- IDDE selections were presented to the BIG along with the selections from other workgroups.
- Neither animals nor agriculture was identified as priority sources by the BIG. Furthermore, the BIG did not identify IAs related to animals or agriculture as priority IAs, although audience members identified control of feral hogs and livestock controls as items of concern.

The group agreed that, in general, these results were appropriate. Rachel explained that, because of the low priority, efforts would not concentrate on animal or agricultural sources or IAs, although they would not be ignored.

The group then discussed the IAs that were identified. There was agreement that good programs were in place for livestock management, particularly provision of alternative water sources. There was a more lengthy discussion of hog management. The group agreed that the prioritization exercise that identified sterilization of feral hogs was impractical, and that it should be identified as management or control of feral hogs. Rachel provided information about a conversation relating to Harris County Precinct 3's proposal to allow hog hunting in the reservoirs, and the impracticalities and some solutions to the proposal. Brian Koch mentioned hog education days that have been held in other TMDL areas. The topic of "pig pickins" was discussed. (A pig pickin is a South Carolina version of a luau that involves a whole roast pig.)

Rachel said that H-GAC staff would be researching the identified IAs, with a focus on being able to fill out the 'table' that will be included in the I-Plan. Once sufficient information has been gathered, H-GAC will convene another meeting as appropriate to review the findings before review by the BIG.

Next meeting: No meetings will be scheduled until H-GAC staff has done additional research.