

**COORDINATION & POLICY
WORK GROUP MEETING
Notes
March 30, 2009**

Members Present

BIG Liaison: Kathy Richolson (GCWDA), Alisa Max (Harris County), Steve Archer (AEC), Mary Purzer by phone (AECOM), Tom Ivy (Public)

H-GAC Staff Present

Rachel Powers, Erin Anderson

Discussion

Rachel began the meeting with self introductions followed by a review of the agenda.

Policy

A handout was given to attendees regarding topics from other workgroups that will need legal review. Discussion touched on the topics below.

- TCEQ has the right to require any community to get an MS4 permit, join the Phase II program, if they felt it appropriate. Is TCEQ going to require those under a TMDL to join?
- All areas have to have CGPs, also multi-sector general permits.
- Harris County's Bacteria Reduction Plan will be working with legislature in year three of the plan, so in two years. We want to pull together a comprehensive list and create our plan of action.
- Counties have limited authority to convert OSSF areas to a public collection system. We could add something in the OSSF permit, maybe, to connect to a collection system if available. Find a way to get unpermitted systems a permit.
- A comment was made that regionalization is not the only option and that in some situations requiring higher standards would be more appropriate.
- Question: Who makes codes and penalties regarding illicit discharges? Cities can. Counties can to some degree, Harris County more than others.
- The City of Houston does have some jurisdiction in the ETJ area around Lake Houston because they discharge to Houston's drinking water source.
- WWTF: The fact that 317 has been repealed will make it more difficult for the engineering community. They will be testing the effluent, but they provide no guidance on how to get there. Now they will be requiring bacteria limits.

Prioritization

The prioritization that has been done so far has been qualitative and not quantitative. Once things like cost are determined IAs may shift in priorities. Where does the tool fit in the prioritization? The C&P tool will be used for the IAs chosen during the March BIG meeting. That many criteria are difficult for a group of people to agree upon for the scoring. Maybe we can combine O&M costs and capital costs into just "cost".

One of the difficulties in the workgroups was reaching consensus. Could we do something web based where everyone gets to enter their individual scoring? Maybe it is not time for this. We need to determine specifics such as cost, etc.

The sticky dot exercise from the March BIG meeting did seem to come up with what would be politically feasible and those that are truly the big issues. Wastewater was voted as the biggest source, but we also need to look at Stormwater, which encompasses the many other sources.

Are WWTF really discharging bacteria? We just don't know how much collectively. Regrowth after passing through the outfall is likely a big issue.

It was decided that not enough attendees were present to make changes to the screening tool because the same discussion would need to happen again.

Homework:

Find out if TCEQ will be requiring all communities under a TMDL to join the Phase II program.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 28, 2009, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, H-GAC offices, Conference Room C