

Illicit Discharges & Dumping Workgroup
Thursday, April 2, 2009
1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Individuals Present:

James Walls (Harris County), Denise Hall (HCPHES-EPH), Robert Snoza (HCFCD), Linda Broach (TCEQ), Steve Hupp (HCPHES-EPH)

H-GAC Staff Present:

Rachel Powers

Discussion:

Rachel reviewed the process for and results of the BIGs prioritization exercise:

- The IDDE workgroup identified specific sources and implementation activities (IAs)
- In meeting and by e-mail, IDDE 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.
- Illicit discharges were number four on the list of sources. Two IDDE IAs were identified as priorities: walking the channels and waste hauler controls.

The group commented that 'things fell out the way they should.' There was some discussion of IAs left of the BIG list, such as leaky dumpsters with plug holes. The group generally agreed that the BIG selections were appropriate and were a good place to focus effort.

The group then discussed these IAs, with specific focus on a watchdog effort, grants, direct discharges, and good programs in the region. Pasadena's program for waste haulers/vacuum trucks was singled out as a possible model program for research. Pasadena requires that any truck inside the city limits—even trucks traversing the city--must have a registration sticker.

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.