

Monitoring Workgroup
Friday, December 12, 2008
10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Individuals Present:

Tom Ivy (Texas Stream Team); Michael Bloom (PBS & J); Linda Broach (TCEQ); Richard Chapin by phone (City of Houston); Michael Thornhill (SWWC); Tony Bennett (AECOM); Catherine Elliott (HCFCD); Min Xiao (AECOM); Sylvester Johnson (CDM)

H-GAC Staff Present:

Rachel Powers; Erin Anderson

Brainstorming Session:

It was suggested that the workgroup categorize the many monitoring topics from the first meeting into several groups.

Ambient

- Identify sites in ambient monitoring that will measure progress
- Could enhance current monitoring programs (CRP, etc.)
- Need to distinguish between dry/wet weather flows for monitoring data (change SWQM guidelines)
- Additional/different indicator/parameters
- Use same standard method for all sampling
- DUP samples sometimes vary greatly

BMP effectiveness

- Additional/different indicator/parameters
- Use same standard method for all sampling
- DUP samples sometimes vary greatly
- Targeted source monitoring to show effectiveness

Discharge

- Need to distinguish between dry/wet weather flows for monitoring data (change SWQM guidelines)
- Additional/different indicator/parameters
- Use same standard method for all sampling
- DUP samples sometimes vary greatly
- More outfall sampling
- Targeted source monitoring to show effectiveness

Administrative

- Ordinance adoption (make sure things are tracked)
- Track how many of each IA was installed/implemented
- Decide who will be in charge of keeping track of activities throughout implementation process
- Make sure sampling efforts are not duplicated, coordinate
- Regional coordination of illicit discharge screening
- Regional monitoring database for all types of monitoring
- After a couple of years analyze sampling data to determine if monitoring program needs to be modified and if any trend lines are noticeable

Additional topics discussed

- Make sure ambient sites are representative of the waterways
- Make sure all monitoring uses the same methods (ambient, discharge and BMP testing)
- BMP effectiveness group would include structural BMPs and programmatic BMPs
- A joint database is useful, but groups would still need to own/maintain their own data
- Recommendations from the group would be voluntary for unregulated MS4s. Those that are regulated could have the recommendations incorporated into their permits.

Next meeting:

Monday, January 26, 2009, 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM, H-GAC offices, Conference Room C