



**ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITY SOURCES
WORK GROUP MEETING
Meeting Notes
December 8, 2008**

- **Individuals Present**

Trent Martin (Harris County), Jason Iken (City of Houston), Bryan Eastham (TCEQ)

- **H-GAC Staff Present**

Rachel Powers (H-GAC), Kathleen Ramsey (H-GAC)

- **Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions**

Rachel welcomed attendees, initiated self-introductions, and reviewed the agenda.

- **Brainstorm Session**

Discussion of table: Rachel explained that the table she handed out is one that is being used to develop the I-Plan for the Upper San Antonio River TMDL for bacteria. TCEQ suggested it might be a good way to structure our I-plan. One of the nice things about the table is that the columns correlate closely with the nine elements of a Watershed Protection Plan. A WPP on its own is not of value to our discussion, but the nine elements might allow some stakeholders to get 319 funds for implementation. (319 funds are not available for activities that are part of required permit or compliance activities.) For now, we are focusing on the first two columns of the table (cause/source of impairment & implementation activities). All columns must be completed.

Additional Sources: Information is available to estimate the number of septic systems in the BIG area (through H-GAC's GIS/Forecast Group)

Existing Implementation Activities:

- County/City Permits—HC began permitting in 1978
- Private citizen maintenance
- Stepwise program



Additional Implementation Activities:

- Incentives
 - Free/low-cost septic system installation
 - Underwrite maintenance
 - Free connections to municipal trunk lines
- Obstacles to achieving adequate sanitary sewer other than OSSF
 - Folks will not hook up to a system unless a permit is required that says the owner will hook up to municipal system if it becomes available
 - Maintenance agreements requirement
 - Different classes of systems. Some systems are so old that they need to be replace rather than maintained.
 - Geographic density of septic systems
 - If regional authority, they come into an area where there is no solution.
 - Foreclosure is not a problem because the property gets sold at auction.
- Options
 - Get state authority for county and city to maintain septic systems
 - Replace old systems
 - Regional septic system authority
 - Condemnation to acquire land and develop clusters for shared systems, but a mechanism must be developed to create over-arching responsibility for the clusters

Prioritization:

- Volume and flow in surfacing and runoff
 - Proximity to stream
 - Proximity to WWTF
 - Density of facilities
 - Violations
- **Wrap-up**

Next meeting date: Friday, January 9, 2009, 1:00 to 2:00, H-GAC Conference Room B

Tasks: Review table and suggest additions and modifications by e-mail to Rachel