

Research Workgroup
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Individuals Present:

BIG Liaison – Michael Bloom (PBS & J); Carolyn White by phone (HCFCD); Trent Martin (HCPID-WPG); Catherine Elliott (HCFCD); Ruben Martinez by phone (Montgomery County Environmental); Linda Broach (TCEQ); Linda Pechacek (Citizen/Civil Engineer); Amy Branom (TCEQ); Steven Johnston (TCEQ); Allen Peach (Citizen / URS); Bruce Heiberg (BPA); Ralph Calvino (AECOM); Tom Ivy (Texas Stream Team); Lauri Thanheiser by phone (Environmental Infrastructure Planning); Richard Chapin by phone (City of Houston); Tobin Synatschk (Jones & Carter); Darrel Reed by phone (Montgomery County); Pat Buzbee by phone (Montgomery County); Kathleen Ramsey (H-GAC); George Guillen by phone (UHCL)

H-GAC Staff Present:

Carl Masterson; Rachel Powers; Erin Anderson

Possible Research Topics:

- Testing BMPs/pilot projects (being done by HCPID-WPG, HCFCD, Dr. Hanadi Rifai)
 - Including alternate WWTP disinfection technologies
 - Targeted public education campaigns
 - Wet bottom basins
- Nutrient requirements for bacteria growth, parameters involved in growth, co-pollutants
- Modeling
 - Development pattern effect on water quality (started by H-GAC)
 - Looking at green infrastructure's effect on water quality
- Fate and transport, sediment in wastewater collection
- Expert Workshop Panel Report – Critical Science Path Plan
- WERF filling in gaps
- AECOM study on sludge downstream of WWTF outfalls
- Harris County WWTF disinfection efficiency
 - 24-hour composite sampling
 - Dye testing of chlorine contact chamber
 - Compare self-reported data with unannounced inspection data
- Effect of regionalization
 - Depends on stream being discharged to (stream morphology)
 - Assess streams
- Bacteria Task Force report from TCEQ(BST)
- Health risk from animal waste
- How effective is the way we monitor, what type of monitoring to recommend
- How many people have become ill

- What is coming off different land types, how much bacteria
- Whitman article – Great Lakes region bacteria had naturalized
- Sediment loading of channels
- Analyze Clean River data, challenge assumptions
- Study to better understand the sources of bacteria and bacteria life cycles
- Better methods to test for bacteria
- New products that target bacteria
- Advocate sensible water quality standards/start defining “Health Risk)
- Study of other locations with restrictions on fertilizer usage and quantify benefits
- Study to determine impact of public education on pollution coming from a single family residential subdivision
- Is bacteria re-growth possible in sterilized fertilizers and other soil amendments

Being done by Harris County per HC IBRP:

- Field investigations
- NSF studies
- WWTP studies
- TWRI studies
- In-house studies
- Monitoring literature
- Serving on research committees
- Conducting BMP evaluations on basins
- Public education’s effects

Next meeting:

Friday, December 12, 2008, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, H-GAC offices, Conference Room B