

Stormwater Workgroup
Monday, March 16, 2009
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Individuals Present:

Philip Moore (Montgomery County); Jim Robertson (CCFCC); Steve Hupp (HCPHES-EPH); Nicole Hausler (PHA); Richard Chapin (COH, by phone); Tina Peterson (CDM); Dorene Hancock (COH); Stacy Pentecost (TCEQ); Bruce Heiberg (BPA); Michelle Ruckstuhl (TCEQ by phone)

H-GAC Staff Present:

Rachel Powers; Erin Anderson

BIG Reporter:

Bruce Heiberg

Discussion:

Discuss/finalize source priorities

At the last meeting, the following were

- Research to ID largest bacteria sources
- Identify and implement activities that provide the largest reduction per dollar spent

We want to have an idea of what we are doing before we spend money on it.

We had also discussed changing legislation to give counties the opportunity to regulate stormwater discharges. Another priority was to make illicit discharges specifically illegal with explicit codes and penalties.

Are we looking at just communities with MS4 permits? No—the entire area.

Rachel pointed out that the responses to Erin's e-mail request for prioritization elicited a variety of sources that were, to an extent, different than the issues discussed in the meetings

- Inlet filters
- Outfall modifications
- Constructed wetlands
- In-pipe systems
- Cleaning of system
- Filter water from paved surfaces before it enters stormwater system
- Various interceptors

There was a discussion of retrofitting existing facilities vs. imposing new requirements on new development. Expensive retrofits probably wouldn't be politically palatable.

There was a discussion of how well treatment wetlands, dry-bottom basins, and wet-bottom basins remove bacteria, and at what cost.

What do we want to focus on: reducing the amount of water going into the system, reducing the amount of bacteria in that water, putting structural systems in the stormwater collection systems?

Add: Gov'ts require stormwater BMPs be enforced on gov't contractors. There was some discussion of how there are often too few inspectors in some areas to inspect construction sites; and that gov'ts must rely on complaint systems to identify violations of SWMPP.

Discuss/finalize implementation activity priorities

At the end of the meeting, the group identified the following priorities (in no particular order):

- Incorporate bacteria reduction requirements as a secondary priority on flood control projects and any other new or retrofitted infrastructure projects
- Consider in-stream structural modifications
- Bracketed legislation to obtain (optional) regulatory powers over stormwater discharges
- Modify outfalls to 'treat' water before it enters channels
- Double urban tree canopy
- Decrease impervious cover

Introduction to the Coordination and Policy prioritization tool

Erin briefly introduced the prioritization tool. Comments on the tool would be appreciated.

Tasks:

Refer education regarding stormwater requirements for construction to Residential Workgroup for consideration (so that residents know what to report).

Refer to research: assess bacteria levels in stormwater. What elements of the stormwater collection system have the highest bacteria level.

Review Coordination and Policy activity screening tool.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, H-GAC, Conference Room B