



**WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY SOURCES
WORK GROUP MEETING
Meeting Notes
December 8, 2008**

- **Individuals Present**

Kathy Richolson (GCWDA), Kim Laird (TCEQ), Thomas Barnett (TCEQ), Joe Ferro, (City of Webster), Alisa Max (Harris County), Mark Lowry (AECOM), Steven Johnston (GBEP), Steve Barry (Jones & Carter), Jason Iken (City of Houston), Trent Martin (Harris County), and, by phone, Mel Vargas (Parsons), Scott Nichols (Montgomery County), Tojuana Cooper (San Jacinto River Authority)

- **H-GAC Staff Present**

Rachel Powers, Ayo Jibowu

- **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). We will eventually fill out the entire table.

Additional Sources: "Insufficient Permit Requirements" was added to the table.

Existing & Additional Implementation Activities: A variety of implementation activities were discussed:

- Reinstatement reviews of WWTF plans by TCEQ
- Begin inspection by TCEQ (or possibly others) of WWTF construction



- Reinststate elements of TCEQ's 317 rules. Currently, TCEQ must rely on 217 rules, which do not allow for adequate enforcements of violations.
- Require bacteria monitoring of effluent by all plants, including industrial plants, in watersheds with impaired waterways.
 - Current guidelines from TCEQ (from letter dated July 10, 2008) increase monitoring requirements, but do not require any bacteria monitoring by facilities under 5 MGD (unless the effluent sample submitted with the permit application is elevated, although apparently it is possible to 'time' the sampling to correspond with a low likelihood of exceedences).
 - If samples cost about \$50/each, then the total cost, not including staff time, would be about \$2,500/year for once-a-week sampling. Relative to operational costs for a WWTF, this is not an overwhelming expense.
 - Monitoring requirements should be tied to flow, and should address a variety of flow regimes.
 - Monitoring requirements should be instituted through permits.
 - Monitoring requirements should be phased in through permits.
- Allow unannounced inspections by TCEQ
- Strengthen the ability of TCEQ to conduct a "focused investigation."

Prioritization: We did not discuss prioritization criteria.

- **Wrap-up**

Next meeting date: Friday, January 9, 2009, 9:00 to 10:30, H-GAC Conference Room B

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