



**Draft Meeting Summary
Tuesday, February 15, 2011**

Members Present:

Michael Bloom
Pat Buzbee
Marilyn Christian
Catherine Elliott
Carol Haddock
Teague Harris (on phone)
Jason Iken

Tom Ivy
Helen Lane
Craig Maske
Michael Mooney
Jack Murphy (on phone)
Becky Olive
Mitchell G. Page

Linda Pechacek (on phone)
Ceil Price
Kathy Richolson
Jim Robertson
Brian Shmaefsky

Bruce Heiberg was represented by Steve Hupp
John Blount was represented by Alisa Max
Robert Collins was represented by Mike Lindsey
Ron Kelling was represented by Michael Mooney
Robert Stokes was represented by Lisa Marshall

Members Absent:

Joe Ferro
Mike Garver
Cathy McCoy

Raymond Pavlovich
Linda Shead
Melvin Solomon/Joe Clark

Michael Turco

Guests Present

Tom Beck (TxDOT), David Beyer (Storm Water Solutions, LP), Rob Burneson (TCEQ), Richard Chapin (City of Houston), Lawrence Childress (City of Houston), Russell Cosbey (Huitt-Zollars), Tom Douglas, Bryan Eastham (TCEQ), Angie Hallimore (R.G. Miller Engineering), Nicole Hausler (Port of Houston Authority), Jedediah Greenfield (City of Houston), Jonathan Holley (HCFCD), Anita Hunt (Hunt & Hunt Engineering Corp.), Steve Hupp (Bayou Preservation Association), Diane Jones (Harris County), Kim Laird (TCEQ), Patrick Lee (City of Houston), Carole Lamont (Harris County Precinct 3), Scott McDonald (Harris County), Maria Modelska (UH), Chip Morris (TCEQ), Karen Olson (City of Houston), Nwachukwu Sam Okonkwo (TCEQ), Nick Russo (Harris County), Scott Saenger (Jones & Carter), Carol Serna (AEI Engineering), R.D. Smith (Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition), Robert Snoza (HCFCD), Mel Vargas (on phone), Guyneth Williams (City of Houston), Jim Wolfe (STES)

H-GAC Staff Present

Rachel Powers, Todd Running, Jeff Taebel, Justin Bower, Will Merrell

1. Welcome and Introductions

Rachel Powers called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30. Rachel welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. She initiated self-introductions of BIG members, those on the phone, TCEQ, TSSWCB, and H-GAC staff. Rachel then reviewed the agenda.

2. Certification of Quorum

Sixteen members or alternatives were present, forming a quorum.

3. Approval of Proposed Alternatives and Members

Joe Clark was approved as a replacement for Melvin Solomon, who retired from the City of Conroe. Rachel will review the list of alternates.

4. Approval of November 16, 2010 Meeting Summary

Meeting notes were approved as written.

5. Public Comment on Draft Implementation Plan Report

Steve Hupp, representing the Bayou Preservation Association (BPA), presented comments. BPA supports the I-Plan, although the support is based on the inclusion of the adaptive management approach, described in the draft on page 27. The BPA likes the plan and think it provides a good framework for further development. The draft, however, falls short in three areas. First, the plan does too little to reduce indicator bacteria in stormwater. Second, the plan does not adequately address nutrients being discharged by wastewater treatment facilities. Third, sediment issues are not adequately addressed. BPA plans to continue as a stakeholder and looks forwards to changes and reviews.

6. Draft Implementation Plan Public Comment

Rachel began by describing activities that were undertaken to solicit public comment:

- 50 people attended six meetings hosted by H-GAC
- More than 300 people attended seven other events at which information about the BIG was presented with an opportunity to comment
- At least six news articles were published, including radio, newspapers, statewide listserves, and websites
- So far, 92 comments were received from a total of 29 sources.

Four people volunteered to help draft responses to comments. The responses to comments will be posted on the BIG site by March 1, 2011. These responses will be considered by the BIG at its March 15 meeting. Once the BIG has provisionally approved responses, Rachel will make the changes to the document as appropriate, including changes to various errata (typos, inconsistencies in formatting, etc.) which have been reviewed and approved by the committee. The updated document will be sent to the

BIG for approval by e-mail. Once the changes have been approved, H-GAC will work with the BIG and various stakeholders to solicit formal support.

In general, comments were favorable, indicating that the plan is an excellent starting point, a good balance of mandatory and voluntary activities, and a great example of cooperation. Several comments and questions were not specific to anything in particular in the plan. Several questions pertained to the nature of the bacteria impairments and public knowledge of the impairments.

Several comments expressed concern about a lack of information pertaining to costs and timelines. Rachel asked the group to discuss possible approaches to address this concern. The group indicated that some information is available in the plan and that other information will be difficult to quantify. A general schedule would be helpful, but projections beyond the first five years might not be prudent. Timeframes represent targets, but right now may be shots in the dark. The group agreed that, after the first five year, they would aim to have more detailed estimates of timeframes and costs.

Many of the activities described in the plan are clarifications of or modifications to activities that are already occurring or mandated. With more money, we could do things faster, but we are already funding and implementing many activities. To suggest that we do not have enough money to proceed would be neither responsible nor accurate.

Some comments will be responded to with language of diplomacy and further information. Other responses will result in in-line revisions to the text. Any proposed changes will be described specifically.

The BIG indicated that it would like to have information included in the plan that emphasizes the ongoing efforts to inform and involve a variety of stakeholders in a broad array of forums. The number of people who attended meetings or provided comments is not indicative of how many people were informed or involved in the process.

7. Proposed Solicitation of Formal Support

The BIG last discussed the plan for soliciting public support in January of 2010. It has changed little since then, although three cities and several special purpose districts are no longer inside the project area as a result of changes to the BIG project area. The plan calls for coordinating with BIG members, participants, and other stakeholders to develop an individualized plan for solicitation for each entity approached. A few changes must be made to the list of organizations. For example, the Trust for Public Land is no longer represented by a BIG member. Legacy Land Trust is now Bayou Land Conservancy. Cy-Fair and Tomball Chambers of Commerce should be included.

A few examples of resolutions of support were provided. Rachel asked for examples of additional resolutions. Resolutions will be included as an appendix in the Plan.

8. Timeline

In March, the BIG will be asked to approve the responses to comments and to approve the initiation of solicitation for formal support. The goal would be to have resolutions by early July. In July, the BIG would review support and make adjustments as necessary. In August, the BIG will be asked to approve

the Plan for submittal to TCEQ. The plan must be submitted by August 31, 2011. Once submitted, the plan will go through review, including a public comment period, at TCEQ. It is possible that the plan will be approved by January 2012.

In the meantime, we have already begun implementing some of the activities identified in the plan.

9. Other Business/Roundtable

Members of the audience introduced themselves.

H-GAC is hosting a workshop on OSSF mapping and planning activities on March 2, 2011.

H-GAC is hosting a workshop on Landscaping to Prevent Non-Point Source Pollution on March 23, 2011. More information on H-GAC's Clean Waters Initiative webpage: <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/cwi/default.aspx>.

On March 15, a draft of the Basin Summary Report will be available on H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program website.

H-GAC's Basin Steering Committee is soliciting recommendations pertaining to the ambient monitoring schedule for the next fiscal year.

H-GAC, along with 24 consortium partners, recently received a \$3.75 Million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from US Department of Transportation, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. A per information exchange will be held on Monday, March 28, 2011, at H-GAC. More information is available on the website: <http://www.h-gac.com/community/sustainability/default.aspx>.

The EPA Region 6 MS4 Conference will be in San Antonio July 5 to 8, 2011. <http://www.epa.gov/region6/water/npdes/sw/ms4/index.htm>.

Trash Bash will be on March 26, 2011. <http://www.trashbash.org/>

On April 1, 2011, PBS&J will be changing its name to Atkins.

On Thursday, March 24, 2011, PBS channels across Texas will be broadcasting TPWD's State of the Gulf – America's Sea. More at <http://www.texasthestateofwater.org/>.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

12. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at about 3:00 PM.