

BACTERIA IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

Roster

Name	Representing	Affiliation	Alternate 1	Alternate 2
Michael Bloom	Ag/Business	PBS&J, Greater Houston Partnership	Jason Maldonado	
John Blount	County	Harris County Planning & Operations Division	Alisa Max	
Pat Buzbee	County	Montgomery County Environmental Health	Phil Moore	
Marilyn Christian	County	Harris County Public Health & Environmental Svcs.	Snehal Patel	
Robert W. Collins	County	Montgomery County		
Carol Ellinger	Municipal	City of Houston	Sarah Metzger	Richard Chapin
Catherine Elliott	County	Harris County Flood Control District	Joe Myers	Carolyn White
Joe Ferro	Municipal	City of Webster	Johnny Arrendondo	Pam Guillory
Mike Garver	Buffalo/Whiteoak TMDL	Buffalo Bayou Partnership	Scott Barnes	Jessalyn Ballard
Teague Harris	Municipal	Pate Engineers, Inc.		
Jason Iken	Metro TMDL	City of Houston	Alex Van Keuren	Richard Chapin
Tom Ivy	Public	Texas Stream Team	Jim Williams	
Ron Kelling	Ag/Business	San Jacinto River Authority	Michael Mooney	
James Tynan Kelly	Conservation	Bayou Preservation Association	Bruce Heiberg	
Helen Lane	Conservation	Houston Audubon	Gina Donovan	
Craig Maske	Metro TMDL	Dodson & Associates, Inc./HCEC	Scott Saenger	
Cathy McCoy	Ag/Business	Harris County Soil & Water Conservation Dist. #442		
Michael Mooney	Lake Houston TMDL	The Woodlands Joint Powers Agency	Ron Kelling	
Jack Murphy	Municipal	City of League City	Susie Cavazos	Brian Craig
Becky Olive	Ag/Business	AECOM	Nancy Sullins, Tony Bennet, Mary Purzer*	
Mitchell G. Page	Lake Houston TMDL	Schwartz, Page & Harding, LLP	Michael Page	
Raymond Pavlovich	Wildcard	Nottingham Country Municipal Utility District	Michael Thornhill	Mark Stendahl
Linda Pechacek	Public	Citizen, Civil Engineer	Fred Lazare	Steve Archer
Ceil Price	Buffalo/Whiteoak TMDL	City of Houston	Michael Schaffer	Guyneth Williams
Kathy Richolson	Clear Creek TMDL	Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority	Phyllis Frank	
Jim Robertson	Conservation	Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition	Richard "Dick" Smith	
Linda Shead	Conservation	The Trust for Public Land	Mary Ellen Whitworth	Carolyn White
Brian Shmaefsky	Public	Lone Star College, Kingwood	Dr. John Connolly	
Melvin Solomon	Municipal	City of Conroe	Ron Green	
Robert Stokes	Clear Creek TMDL	Galveston Bay Foundation	Vanessa Mintzer	Scott Jones

*not yet approved

**Bacteria Implementation Group
Meeting Summary**

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Members Present:

John Blount	Teague Harris	Mitchell Page
Pat Buzbee	Jason Iken	Linda Pechacek (phone)
Marilyn Christian	Tom Ivy	Kathy Richolson
Robert Collins (phone)	Ron Kelling (phone)	Melvin Solomon
Carol Ellinger	Helen Lane	Linda Shead
Catherine Elliott	Cathy McCoy (phone)	Brian Shmaefsky (phone)
Joe Ferro	Jack Murphy	

Michael Bloom was represented by Jason Maldonado (phone).

Mike Garver was represented by Jessalyn Ballard.

James Tynan Kelly was represented by Bruce Heiberg.

Becky Olive was represented by Tony Bennett.

Ceil Price was represented by Michael Schafer.

Members Absent:

Craig Maske	Raymond Pavlovich	Robert Stokes
Michael Mooney	Jim Robertson	

Guests Present:

Steve Archer (Archer Environmental), Scott Avis (TCEQ), Thomas Barnett (TCEQ), Tony Bennett (AECOM), Cynthia Brum (GBEP), Richard Chapin (City of Houston), Winston Denton (TPWD), Bryan Eastham (TCEQ), Rick Felan (TCEQ), Jedediah Greenfield (City of Houston), Nicole Hausler (PHA), Deborah January-Bevers (Quality of Life Coalition), Bruce Krewinghaus (SWH2000), Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Kim Laird (TCEQ), Gail Lindholm (TCEQ SBLGA), Ward Ling (TCEQ), Mark Lowry (AECOM), Heather Maloney (TCEQ), Ed Matuszak (URS), Ericka McCauley (GBEP), Maria Modelska (University of Houston), Chip Morris (TCEQ), Dan Obenour (James Miertschin & Assoc.) by phone, Nwachukwu Sam Okonwo (TCEQ) Victor Olivo (TCEQ), Allen Peach (URS), Tina Petersen (CDM), Nic Ramirez (AEI), Robert E. Snoza (HCFCD), Brenda Templeton (City of Houston), Mel Vargas (Parsons) by phone, Carolyn White (HCFCD)

H-GAC Staff Present:

Om Chawla, Erin Livingston, Carl Masterson, Dmitry Messen, Rachel Powers, Jeff Taebel, Todd Running

1. Welcome & Introductions

Rachel Powers welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. She initiated self-introductions of BIG members and H-GAC staff. Rachel then reviewed the agenda.

2. Certification of Quorum

Twenty-five members and alternates were present, achieving a quorum.

3. Approval of Proposed Alternates

Jessalyn Ballard was approved as an alternate for Mike Garver.

4. Approval of May 19, 2009, Meeting Summary

Rachel reviewed suggested changes she had received and made prior to the meeting.

- Page 3: Noted that sediment in runoff can harbor bacteria
- Page 6: Clarification was made to the purpose of a recreational use attainability analysis
- Page 6: Changes made to goals (primary recreation standards vs. goals of the Clean Water Act)

The notes were accepted with these changes.

5. Public Engagement Plan Phase I

Rachel explained that H-GAC had begun contacting representatives of counties and large cities and confirming the appropriate channels to contact the elected officials. H-GAC plans to begin sending letters by the end of the week and will continue according to the public engagement plan.

6. Workgroup Reports

Three workgroups met since the May BIG meeting. The BIG liaison for each of these workgroups or an H-GAC staff member gave a verbal summary to the BIG, as follows:

- Watershed Outreach: Linda Shead reported that the group looked at several maps as they relate to choosing geographic priorities. Maps included impaired assessment units, land cover, and land use.

The group also discussed the presentation made by Lori Hamilton on recreational Use Attainability Analyses. The group had concurred that it was not appropriate to change the standards that applied to each stream segment; streams should continue to be covered by Primary Contact Recreation standards.

The group discussed measures for prioritizing stream segments, including potential for use, the presence of groups promoting recreation, bacteria level (highest and lowest, but not middle).

- Stormwater: Tom Ivy reported that the group reviewed the implementation activities that were identified as priorities by the workgroup and by the BIG, and

then identified discrepancies. There were concerns that some priorities identified by the BIG were not identified in the workgroup; several implementation activities were suggested via e-mail. In general, the group felt that many of the activities were appropriate, but that some would be impractical in most situations. In particular, the workgroup felt that it would be impractical to modify outfalls to treat water before it enters channels, and that in-stream structural modifications would be appropriate only in limited situations.

There was a suggestion that the Stormwater and Land Developments should be merged. Tom briefly reviewed the charges of the two groups. The workgroup had agreed to propose the merger to the BIG.

After minimal discussion, the BIG agreed that the two groups would be combined. The groups will meet at the same time and discuss the same things.

John Blount cautioned that the results of bacteria monitoring at Mason Park treatment wetland might have limited significance because of limits in the monitoring protocol.

- **Coordination & Policy:** Kathy Richolson reported that the workgroup briefly reviewed the Prioritization Tool in the context of the BIG's prioritization of implementation activities. The BIG chose activities based on qualitative factors. These activities will be examined further for quantitative factors. This information will then be used with the prioritization tool to set priorities.

The group then discussed legal issues. In particular, the group discussed whether communities not currently covered by a Phase I or II MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit could be given or included in such a permit. The group thought that it is possible but that TCEQ might not want to do so.

Finally, the group introduced the topic of funding, but did not discuss it extensively.

7. Staff Presentation on GIS

Carl discussed several maps and analyses that H-GAC staff have been developing, as follows:

- Carl explained that the Lake Creek watershed, part of the Lake Houston watershed, will be included in future maps even though the stream is not listed as impaired.
- Carl explained that two subwatersheds are no longer included in the maps: Armand Bayou (which has its own plan) and Carpenter's Bayou.
- There does not appear to be an obvious pattern in bacteria levels at upstream monitoring stations vs. downstream. Carl provided a chart illustrating the levels

in various waterways. H-GAC will provide similar information in map format at the next meeting.

- The map of land cover was updated.
- Carl briefly discussed efforts to determine how much flow in the streams might be attributed to treated effluent from wastewater treatment plants.
- A map and graphs that show the projected increase in impervious surfaces in each watershed based on land cover, and how much of each type of landcover might become impervious. These analyses sparked thoughtful conversation. H-GAC offered to provide a similar analysis looking back thirty years. H-GAC is studying how redevelopment might influence these numbers. There was a fair amount of discussion of how to represent this data better.
- Agricultural land use has gone up, most likely from corn production. TSSWCB is examining runoff from agricultural lands.
- Maps and charts were presented that show current and projected populations that live with ¼ mile and ½ mile of a waterway. There is a presumption, based on park studies, that people who live in proximity of a stream are more likely to visit the stream. There was some discussion of how the length of the stream mile might influence the numbers shown.
- A map showing Phase I and Phase II MS4 maps were shown. (The map also showed communities that would need to be covered by a permit based on population projections and information provided by TCEQ. TCEQ subsequently clarified the information they provided, such that those areas would not be covered by a Phase I or Phase II MS4 community.)

Jeff summed it up that these maps and charts are beginning to tell a story, although it is not complete. He hopes to be able to correlate risk with opportunity or threat. These factors may be able to help us prioritize or phase at a geographic level.

8. Other Business/Roundtable

Rachel announced that EPA has approved the TMDLs for Buffalo and White Oak Bayous.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on July 21, 2009.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 PM.



Texas Stream Team

Caring for Our Waters

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) has been a local Texas Stream Team Partner for over a decade. Through our Clean Rivers Program, we have certified hundreds of volunteers and are active in local public education activities.

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Texas Stream Team Coordinator
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WHAT IS TEXAS STREAM TEAM?

Texas Stream Team is a network of trained volunteers and supportive partners working together to gather information about the natural resources of Texas and to ensure the information is available to all Texans. Volunteers are trained to collect quality-assured information that can be used to make environmentally sound decisions. Established in 1991 as Texas Watch, Texas Stream Team is administered through a cooperative partnership between Texas State University, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Currently, over 400 Texas Stream Team volunteers collect water quality data on lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, bays, bayous, and estuaries in Texas.

The Mission of Texas Stream Team

To facilitate environmental stewardship by empowering a statewide network of concerned volunteers, partners, and institutions in a collaborative effort to promote a healthy and safe environment through environmental education, data collection, and community action.

Texas Stream Team is guided by these goals:

- To produce quality-assured, usable information that government agencies, waste generators, and the public need to make environmentally sound decisions.
- To improve communication and facilitate education about the natural resources in Texas.
- To resolve conflicts over environmental impacts through positive cooperation.

These goals are founded on the premise that water issues are inextricably linked with air, biological, land, and human issues, and that the protection of all natural resources requires the active, positive cooperation of all Texans. For more information about the Texas Stream Team visit www.h-gac.com/texasstreamteam.

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