



**Meeting Summary**  
**Tuesday, December 15, 2009**

**Members Present:**

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

Tom Ivy  
Ron Kelling  
Craig Maske  
Becky Olive  
Raymond Pavlovich  
Linda Pechacek

Kathy Richolson  
Jim Robertson (phone)  
Linda Shead  
Brian Shmaefsky  
Melvin Solomon  
Michael Turco

John Blount was represented by Alisa Max.  
Joe Ferro was represented by Jesse Espinoza.  
Mike Garver was represented by Jessalyn Ballard.  
Carol Ellinger Haddock was represented by Richard Chapin.  
James Tynan Kelly was represented by Bruce Heiberg.  
Michael Mooney was represented by Ron Kelling.  
Jack Murphy was represented by Susie Blake.  
Robert Stokes was represented by Lisa Miller-Marshall.

**Members Absent:**

Robert Collins  
Helen Lane

Cathy McCoy  
Mitchell Page

Ceil Price

**Guests Present:**

Lynne Aldrich (The Woodlands Township), Tom Beck (TxDOT), Tony Bennett (AECOM), Clyde Bohmfalk (TCEQ), Daniel Bowen (Eastex Environmental), Linda Broach (TCEQ), Bill Carter (TCEQ), Anju Chalise (TCEQ), Catarina Cron (Harris County), Winston Denton (TPWD-Dickinson), Arthur Faiello (City of Willis), Nicole Hausler (PHA), Bob Higgins (AECOM), Margret Himes-Dorman (Citizen), Jonathan Holley (HCFCD), Anita Hunt (Hunt & Hunt Engineering), Steven Johnston (GBEP), Kim Laird (TCEQ), Carole Lamont (Harris County Pct. 3), Ed Matuszak (URS), Maria Modelska (University of Houston), Chip Morris (TCEQ), Nwachukwu Sam Okonkwo (TCEQ), Tina Petersen (CDM), Nick Russo (Harris County), Carol Serna (AEI Engineering), Craig Smith (TCEQ), Robert Snoza (HCFCD), Nancy Sullins (AECOM), Michael Thornhill (SWWC), Mel

Vargas (Parsons), Craig Vickery (Hancor), Cathy Wahren (Terracon), Jim Wolfe (Severn Trent Services), Paul Wood (LAN)

### **H-GAC Staff Present:**

Kristi Corse, Erin Livingston, Carl Masterson, Rachel Powers, Todd Running, Jeff Taebel

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Rachel Powers welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. She initiated self-introductions of BIG members, those on the phone, TCEQ staff present, 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**

Michael Turco, of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), was approved as a member of the BIG.

#### **4. Approval of November 17, 2009, Meeting Summary**

Meeting notes were approved as written.

#### **5. Public Engagement Plan Phase I**

Phase I of the Public Engagement Plan is wrapping up. On December 8, 2009, H-GAC hosted a public meeting with an open house format and no formal presentation. Over 30 people were in attendance, including representatives from Texas Department of Transportation and several municipal utility districts. Response has been generally supportive, although some think too much focus has been on wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs). We let people know that all sources of bacteria will be addressed. Phase II of the Public Engagement efforts will focus on gathering formal support from stakeholders.

Q: Have you posted the comments received on the website?

A: We have not done that, but we can.

Rachel briefly showed the BIG Facebook page, explaining that information is added at least weekly. All are encouraged to become a "fan."

Q: Will you continue to update the H-GAC website in addition to the Facebook page?

A: Yes.

#### **6. Workgroup Report**

H-GAC staff has drafted I-Plan sections for three workgroups, although they have not been sent to the workgroups for review. There is a possibility that the entire I-Plan draft will not be ready for review in January. H-GAC will send sections to the BIG as they are written.

### ***Sanitary Sewer Systems (SSS)***

The workgroup met on November 19, 2009. H-GAC provided a preliminary draft of the SSS section of the I-Plan. The group provided guidance regarding proposed implementation activities. Topics of discussion included implementation of a Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance (CMOM) program; subscriber systems; quick connects for lift stations; and a possible program to encourage citizens to report sanitary sewer overflows.

At both SSS and WWTF workgroup meetings, concern has been expressed that the trained workforce available for wastewater plants and collections systems is decreasing. Rachel indicated that H-GAC's Workforce Solutions group, which finds solutions to current and future labor needs of industries, is interested in working with us to develop a program to get more certified operators. Anyone interested in helping with this work should contact Rachel.

### ***Upcoming Workgroup Meetings***

- Coordination & Policy and Watershed Outreach – Wednesday, January 6, 2010, 1:30-3:30 PM, at H-GAC, Conference Room C
- Stormwater and Land Development – Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 1:30-3:30 PM, at H-GAC, Conference Room C

Q: What are the topics for discussion at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting?

A: Watershed prioritization and the level of formal support we want to get during Phase II of Public Engagement will both be discussed.

## **7. Staff Presentation**

H-GAC previously received a template from TCEQ that will be used in writing the I-Plan. However, H-GAC would also like to develop an executive summary that can be given to stakeholders, such as elected officials or the public, who may not necessarily have an interest in reading the more technical and lengthy I-Plan document.

Kristi Corse briefly discussed the executive summary template being developed that will be used for the I-Plan as well as for WPPs. The template will give us the basic structure to be used with the various documents and will be more graphically appealing, manageable, and user-friendly than the lengthier document. The I-Plan executive summary will likely have a similar look and feel as the BIG logo and information throughout will likely be separated by the various groups charged with implementation.

Q: Is the TCEQ template that was distributed in February 2009 the same one mentioned today?

A: Yes.

## **8. Other Business/Roundtable**

Chip Morris provided an update on the Houston Metro and Lake Houston TMDLs. The Greens Bayou TMDL was presented to the TCEQ commissioners on December 9, 2009, where its release for the public comment period was approved. The four remaining Houston Metro TMDLs will go to the commission in January or early February and Lake Houston will follow. A public meeting to receive comments for the Greens TMDL will be held at the Lone Star College: Greenspoint Center on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 6:30 PM in Room 306.

Q: Why is the Houston Metro TMDL being split up? This might be confusing to those that have been keeping informed of its progress.

A: It's just the way the agency chose to proceed with the TMDLs.

H-GAC received a pre-version of the 303(d) list and will be comparing the assessment TCEQ has done with our own data. If there are new segments on the 303(d) list that are in this area we may want to roll them into the I-Plan. H-GAC will distribute the document and comments are welcome.

H-GAC also received the 12 digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs) from USGS and has been comparing them to watershed boundaries generated by the Clean Rivers Program and Harris County. Boundaries in freshwater areas match up well, but those in coastal areas do not. H-GAC is making a list of questions regarding the new HUCs. H-GAC will distribute the information and welcomes comments.

H-GAC will be contacting municipalities to find out what is already being spent on improvements to stormwater systems, sanitary sewer collection systems, WWTFs, etc. What is already being done should be accounted for and included in the I-Plan.

## **9. Next Meeting Date**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on January 19, 2010.

## **10. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:12 PM.