



**Onsite Sewage Facilities Workgroup  
Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, November 14, 2012  
1:00 to 4:00 PM  
H-GAC Conference Room C, Second Floor**

**Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions**

- Welcome & Introductions
- Review Agenda
- Review April meeting notes

**Presentation: Walker County Authorized Agent Program for OSSF – Andrew Isbell**

Mr. Isbell will discuss policies and procedures being undertaken by Walker County to improve compliance with state regulations and the local OSSF order.

**Presentation: Harris County Authorized Agent Program for OSSF – John Blount, P.E.**

Mr. Blount will share information about how strict requirements in the Harris County OSSF order and program have resulted in improved water quality.

**Mapping Project and FlexMap Application Introduction and Demonstration**

H-GAC staff will review the progress of the OSSF Mapping Project and will introduce the new online OSSF mapping application. Working with the region's Authorized Agents, H-GAC staff has developed a robust database of permitted OSSFs. H-GAC staff members will introduce and demonstrate a new web-based, interactive mapping tool that displays the information from the OSSF database. The interactive map has been designed to improve the information available to DRs to manage permitted and unpermitted OSSF within their boundaries. Staff will demonstrate how this mapping tool functions and how it can be used by DRs to evaluate, inspect, investigate, and plan for OSSF, especially in the context of improving surface water quality.

Points of the discussion will also include:

- Data collection and GPS use
- Mapping unpermitted facilities
- Mapping complaint data
- Requests for data and subsequent use
- How to use OSSF location data to identify priorities for repair, replacement, funding requests, etc. Criteria might include:
  - Age of system
  - Type of system
  - Lot size, subdivision lot density



- Soil Type
- Limiting layer depth (water table, bedrock)
- Proximity to surface waters or impaired water bodies
- Proximity to existing sewer system
- Income

### **Local Water Quality Projects**

H-GAC staff will provide a brief overview of water quality projects in the area that include recommendations relating to OSSF. Projects may include the Bacteria Implementation Group, Armand Bayou, Oyster Creek, Cedar Bayou, TMDL for Oyster Waters, Dickinson Bayou, Karankawa-Moses Bayous, Westfield Estates, etc.

### **BIG I-Plan Discussion**

Rachel Powers will lead a review and discussion of the status of BIG implementation relating to OSSF.

- **Overview**
  - Update on I-Plan process
  - Review implementation strategy
  - Review Annual Report format
- **Review Progress** Items identified in the discussion will be included in the annual plan.
  - IA 3.1: Identify and Address Failing Systems*
    - Interim, measureable milestones:
      - Year one: map of OSSF facilities created
      - Year two: target areas identified
      - 500 OSSFs repaired/replaced every five years for 25 years
    - H-GAC has refined mapping of permitted systems and has updated process for mapping probable locations of unpermitted systems.
  - IA 3.2: Address Inadequate Maintenance of OSSFs*
    - Interim, measureable milestones:
      - “Each community shall examine their regulations and policies within five years”
      - “Compile and share all existing regulations within project area within five years”
      - “One community shall revise or adopt new regulations every five years”
      - “By year five, flyers or other collateral material distributed”
    - H-GAC has begun researching and collecting existing educational material relating to homeowner education.
    - H-GAC has developed a curriculum and offered a pilot class geared towards providing continuing education to licensed real estate property inspectors.

### IA 3.3: Legislation and Other Regulatory Actions

- Interim, measurable milestone:
  - “Each community shall examine their regulations and policies within five years”
  - “Compile and share all existing regulations within project area within five years”
  - “One community shall revise or adopt new regulations every five years”
  - “Starting in 2012, TCEQ shall begin hosting biennial meetings to review OSSF regulations”
  - “Changes to TOWTRC rules updated within five years”
- The following table shows the year of the last update to local OSSF regulations:

Authorized Agent	Year Updated
Brazoria County	2010
Harris County	2009
Waller County	2009
Galveston County Health District	2008
Walker County	2008
Montgomery County	2007
San Jacinto County	2006
Fort Bend County	2005
Grimes County	2004
San Jacinto River Authority	2004

- **Identify Priorities**
  - What are the priorities towards which we should be focusing our efforts?
- **Discuss potential modifications to the I-Plan**
  - Modification process
  - What changes does the work group wish to recommend to the BIG?
- **Additional information for the Annual Report**
  - What additional information does the work group wish to include in the annual report?

#### Legislative Update

#### Wrap-up

#### Review tasks

- BIG Annual Meeting: May 22

Adjourn

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