



**Animals and Agriculture Workgroup
Draft Meeting Summary
Monday, December 8, 2014
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
US Geological Survey – 19241 David Memorial Dr, Shenandoah,
TX 77385**

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Ernest Bailes (Citizen), Danielle Cioce (Harris County), Winston Denton (TPWD), Brian Koch (Texas State Soil Water Conservation Board), Helen Lane (Houston Audubon), Michael Lee (USGS), Brandt Mannchen (Houston Sierra Club), Kyle Wright (NRCS)

Review Summary from 2/11/2014 Meeting

The workgroup reviewed the notes from the previous meeting.

Discussion: Preparing BIG 2014 Annual Report – I-Plan Strategy 7.0 Animal and Agriculture Sources

The group reviewed the 2014 Annual Report and discussed the timeline for preparing the 2015 report. Members were interested in seeing if there were any success stories for feral hog removal and documentation of water quality improvements. The group discussed Harris County's project for the Barker/Cypress Reservoirs. It was stated that the data would likely not be available for the 2015 report. Additionally the group would like to determine if there has been any research completed on removal or the use of reproductive and poison use to control feral hog populations. It was noted that the Texas Department of Agriculture provides grants to counties that can be used to pay hunters for shooting feral hogs. It was also noted that the EPA 319 program does not support through their grants, the use of hunting as a reimbursable method of control.

TSSWCB stated that there were no water quality management plans created in 2014. NRCS stated that they would work on pulling data for USDA programs like EQIP in the BIG project area for the annual report. The group would also like to see documented the percent of agricultural land use change over time to other uses.

For the 2015 calendar year, the group recommended that the BIG's Research workgroup consider evaluating feral hog effective population control methods and also determine the best approach to track populations. Also, the group would like to see a workshop on feral hogs with the topic of what is working to control populations.

Discussion: Review I-Plan Strategy 7.0 Animals and Agriculture Language

The work group did not make any recommendations to change the I-Plan.

Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

May 12, 2015: BIG Annual Meeting

December 15, 2014: Waste Water Treatment Facilities and Sanitary Sewer Systems – 1:00 PM at H-GAC