



BACTERIA IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

**On-Site Sewage Facilities Workgroup
Meeting Summary
Thursday, February 13, 2014
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor**

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Lewis Bergman (Liberty County), Justin Bower (H-GAC), Richard Chapin (City of Houston), Danielle Cioce (Harris County), Bryan Easthar (TCEQ), Frank Green (Montgomery County), Andrew Isbell (Walker County), Alisa Max (Harris County), Will Merrell (H-GAC)

Review Notes from Last Year's Meeting

Attendees reviewed the notes from last year to assist with the meeting's discussion.

Presentation: Update on ongoing H-GAC OSSF efforts by Will Merrell.

Mr. Merrell presented OSSF work that has transpired in 2012-2013. An additional 11,051 permit locations were added to the database bringing the total to 84,921 covering the H-GAC service area, including the BIG. In the BIG project area there are a total of 31,517 permitted OSSF or 37% of H-GAC's service area. Mr. Merrell stated that H-GAC was able to secure GPS units for Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton Counties. The GPS units are being used to pinpoint OSSFs when inspectors are out. The data is then sent to H-GAC. This data is important as it assists in documenting probable unpermitted, grandfathered and/or undocumented systems.

Mr. Merrell proceeded to describe other efforts ongoing at H-GAC. He provided a demonstration of the OSSF Information System, an on-line geographic data system available through the H-GAC website. Mr. Merrell then reviewed a CEU course that was created to assist real estate inspectors for Point of Sale Inspections, reviewing OSSFs optional systems and address new homeowner education.

In the future, the OSSF program will be looking at collecting OSSF violation data, commercial and industrial analysis and developing an OSSF SEP program.

Discussion: Preparing BIG 2014 Annual Report – I-Plan Strategy 3.0 On-Site Sewage Facilities Workgroup reviewed data source availability and past year BIG implementation activities related to I-Plan Strategy 3.0:

Implementation Activity 3.1: Identify and Address Failing Systems

3.1.1: Map permitted and unpermitted OSSFs in the H-GAC and BIG Regions
Will Merrell provided an update on current efforts.

3.1.2: Identify target areas, timelines, and costs

The group discussed the SEP program and discussed how to best approach counties to encourage participation. It was noted that in many cases there was very little wiggle room with low income areas and that in most case the counties are just trying to bring systems up to code rather than carrying out enforcement cases. As source of funds, like the SEP, to help bring these systems up to code would be beneficial. Developing an equitable priority and scoring process to select project that will use SEP funds is key for participation and ideal for using local fines within the county.

3.1.3: Address target areas and pursue funding

In addition to the SEP discussion, the group also discussed the use of 319 program, Housing and Urban Development grants, and State Revolving Funds. A priority system for targeting failing systems was brought up.

3.1.4: Reevaluate plan

As the plan is in its infancy, the group suggested that it was too early to discuss this action.

Implementation Activity 3.2: Address Inadequate Maintenance of OSSFs

3.2.1: Homeowner education

The group noted that Texas AgriLife and TEEX put on a homeowner workshop in the region.

3.2.2: Encourage repair and pump-out logs be kept by homeowners and/or maintenance providers

Harris County noted that in April 2013, they held a successful CEC OSSF workshop for maintenance and authorized agents. There will be another one on May 13, 2014. Montgomery County will also be putting on an OSSF workshop this year.

3.2.3: Coordinate with real estate industry

H-GAC has created a continue education credit program and will look put on a workshop during the next year.

3.2.4: Additional actions

Implementation Activity 3.3: Legislation and Other Regulatory Actions

3.3.1: Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council Fee
No updates were provided.

3.3.2: Model Order, Ordinance, or Resolution

Harris County will host its third annual waste water seminar on May 13, 2014.

3.3.3: Biennial Review

Discussion: Review I-Plan Strategy 3.0 OSSF Language

Workgroup reviewed and approved the current I-Plan wording.

Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

May 27, 2014: BIG Annual Meeting

February 20, 2014: Stormwater System | Construction & Land Development

March 11, 2014: Watershed Outreach

March 20, 2014: Monitoring and Plan Revision | Research

March 25, 2014: Coordination and Policy



**Illicit Discharges Workgroup
Meeting Summary
Thursday, February 13, 2014
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor**

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Ted Aplace (HPARD), Richard Chapin (City of Houston), Jesse Espinoza (City of Webster), Frank Green (Montgomery County), Denise Hall (HCPC), Steve Hupp (BPA), Tom Ivy (Citizen), N. Sam Okonkwo (TCEQ), Robert Snoza (HCFCD)

Review Notes from Last Year's Meeting

Attendees reviewed the notes from last year to assist with the meeting's discussion.

Presentation: Bayou Preservation Association "Top Ten Most Wanted" Study, presented by Steve Hupp.

Mr. Hupp stated that the objectives were to use the BIG's "Top 10 Most Wanted" streams as a basis for collaborating with the BIG in implementation and to search out potential non-point and point sources of pollution. BPA collected during the study, E. coli, temperature, DO, salinity, conductivity, pH, nitrate, chlorine (total), depth, and turbidity. BPA also collected observable parameters: weather, flow, conditions, algae cover, color, clarity, and odor.

BPA studied in 2012 and 2013 three watersheds: Schramm Gully in the Huntington Bayou watershed; Greens Bayou watershed; and Mimosa and Bintliff Ditches in the Brays Bayou watershed. BPA found three potential sources in Schramm Gully in 2012 that were reported to the City of Houston. Schramm Gully went from #2 on the "Most Wanted List" to #8 in 2013. A follow-up found that one of the pipes was leaking in 2013. Greens Bayou will require further study as elevated bacteria levels were detected but no discernible sources were found. Mimosa Ditch source was reported to the TCEQ. A source was identified in Bintliff Ditch which was reported and resolved by the city of Houston.

Discussion: Preparing BIG 2014 Annual Report – I-Plan Strategy 6.0 Illicit Discharges and Dumping Sources

Workgroup will review data source availability and past year BIG implementation activities related to I-Plan Strategy 6.0:

Implementation Activity 6.1: Detect and Eliminate Illicit Discharges

Richard Chapin noted that COH has an active program to look for and track illicit discharges. H-GAC had a CWI on detecting illicit discharges during the course of the year. The City of Houston was going forward with its Bacteria Source Tracking study to identify the source organisms for bacteria. The annual report will reflect BPA's source identification study and early successes at removing sources in concert with the City of Houston. The group noted that the 'At a Glance' and the Annual Report should reflect 'In Progress' rather than 'Initiated.'

Implementation Activity 6.2: Improve Regulation and Enforcement of Illicit Discharges

The representatives from the City of Houston and the City of Webster stated that they both have regulations and actively enforce the codes. Webster noted that they have regulations on 'mop

water' and have conducted nighttime inspections and found businesses pouring out mop water rather than into the grease trap. The City of Houston reviews waste hauler receipts at WWTP during inspections. Group suggested that this activity should be moved from the 'Initiated' to 'In Progress' in the Annual Report.

~~Implementation Activity 6.3: Monitor and Control Waste Hauler Activities~~

6.3.1: Develop regulations pertaining to waste hauler activities

City of Houston tried to develop a source tracking program that would require local businesses to maintain receipts of waste hauler pick-ups. It was also noted that in addition to grease haulers that there are other potential waste haulers that are required to dump appropriately, e.g. carpet cleaners, landscapers, and commercial pressure washers.

6.3.2: Waste Hauler Fleet Tracking Program

The group suggested that H-GAC should look into the Pasadena 'tag system' to verify its success and to potential use it as a pilot program for the region.

Discussion: Review I-Plan Strategy 6.0 Illicit Discharges and Dumping Language

Workgroup reviewed and approved the current I-Plan wording.

Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

May 27, 2014: BIG Annual Meeting

February 13, 2014: Illicit Discharges & Dumping, Onsite Sanitary Sewage Facilities

February 20, 2014: Stormwater System | Construction & Land Development

March 11, 2014: Watershed Outreach

March 20, 2014: Monitoring and Plan Revision | Research

March 25, 2014: Coordination and Policy