

Ag/Wildlife/Habitat/Feral Hogs

Work Group Meeting Summary

Armand Bayou I-Plan

May 2, 2013

H-GAC: Aubin Phillips

TCEQ: Lauren Oertel, Jason Leifester

Meeting Attendees: Steven Mitchell (TPW), Danielle Cioce (Harris County), George Guillen (EIH), Diana Foss (TPW), Brian Koch (TSSWCB)

This meeting was held at EIH. Participants made self introductions before getting started with the meeting.

The group talked about the issues that had been brought up at the last Coordination Committee meeting: large lots with livestock and horses, waterfowl, cattle leases, deer over population and bats and birds living under bridges. There are a lot of large acre lots in the upper part of the watershed as well as a number of pasture lands in the middle part of the watershed. There were some questions about deer overpopulation – this is just a statement, not based on numbers, participants were curious about how populations could actually be assessed. It was pointed out that predators of deer such as bobcats and coyotes. As far as the bridges, the management measures presented in the other I-Plans were to include exclusionary devices for birds and bats, not to kill them. The group could discuss the pros and cons of these practices: removing bacteria vs. mosquito control. Feral hogs were discussed briefly, they are not a major problem in the watershed, but have been seen in the area, it would be interesting to get counts of how many there are. The Pasadena Fairgrounds were brought up again, it would be interesting to see some studies done there when the grounds are being used. Precinct 3 in Harris County has been working on hog removal, they are setting up some really large trap areas, however the hogs cannot be shot in federal lands. The hogs are being transported alive to processing facilities and the meat is being donated.

Steven Mitchell from Texas Parks and Wildlife gave a presentation of all of the wildlife, flora and fauna of the Armand Bayou Watershed. This area is very unique to Texas, and for this reason, this work group through it would be more important to have a separate I-Plan for Armand Bayou rather than join the BIG. The presentation with the full narrative is posted to the Armand Bayou I-Plan website.

The group discussed who else may need to be involved in this work group” Armand Bayou Nature Center, Houston City Parks, people knowledgeable about feral hogs, cattle grazers, land owners adjacent to the Nature Center, oil lease owners, Pasadena Fairgrounds.

The group has requested a better map to look at when identifying hot spot areas. H-GAC will produce one. More detailed information from other I-Plans will be sent to work group members for review

The next workgroup meeting will be in mid-June, hopefully Brian Koch will be available to come and give a presentation on the types of programs the Soil Board offers.