



Jarbo Bayou Bacteria TMDL: Work Group Report

Public Outreach and Education

Sept. 9, 2014

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I. OVERVIEW

Per Umbrella Contract 582-14-42709, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requested Public Outreach support from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) for Jarbo Bayou Bacteria TMDL project, with activities for all elements of Public Outreach including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Identifying and Reserving Facilities for Meetings and / or Events;
- Providing a Facilitator for Any Meetings (As Needed);
- Providing Support for Organizing and Advertising Meetings and / or Events;
- Distribution and Posting of Meeting Agenda(s);
- Preparation of Meeting and / or Event Summaries;
- Preparation of Printed or Other Presentation Materials in Support of a Meeting and / or Event;
- Use of the H-GAC Website for Posting Meeting and / or Event Information; and
- Any Other Necessary Support Activities.

On September 9, 2014 H-GAC facilitated the Public Outreach and Education work group meeting to vote on whether to join the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) or to develop an implementation plan (I-Plan) and next steps.

II. LOCATION / GEOGRAPHY

According to the Texas State Historical Association, Jarbo Bayou, a part of the San Jacinto - Brazos basin, rises two miles northeast of League City in northern Galveston County and flows northeast for two miles to its mouth on Clear Lake, just east of Clear Lake Shores and west of Kemah.



III. **PURPOSE**

Since 2002, high concentrations of bacteria, which are found in both human and animal waste, have been observed in the bayou.

The presence of these bacteria may indicate a health risk to people who swim or wade in the bayou-activities referred to as "contact recreation" in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.

The Purpose of this work group meeting was to discuss the following:

- *Review progress to date - H-GAC will review progress to date with the work group,*
- *Vote to either join the BIG or develop an I-Plan - H-GAC will facilitate a discussion on whether to join the Bacteria Implementation Group or to develop an independent I-Plan. Work group will vote to either join the BIG or to develop an I-Plan,*
- *Develop and discuss recommendations that will be presented to the Coordination Committee that support the result of the vote. and*
- *Discuss next steps - The work group will discuss next steps.*

IV. **APPROACH**

Interested and invited individuals were contacted directly via e-mail and/or phone to verify interest in participating in the Public Outreach and Education work group meeting; identify best dates / times for the meeting; to notify them of meeting details; and to remind the attendees of the upcoming meeting.

V. **NOTIFICATION**

Notification of the work group meeting took place via e-mail and/or phone. Additionally, TCEQ asked H-GAC to post meeting details to the project webpage:

<http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/jarbo-bayou.aspx>.



VI. MATERIALS

The following materials were made available for the meeting:

- 1. Sign-In Sheet(s)
- 2. Public Outreach and Education Meeting Agenda
- 3. Watershed Map
- 4. Results of the work group's review of sections of the BIG I-Plan, Dickinson Bayou I-Plan, and Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan related to topic area.

VII. MEETING SYNOPSIS

Location

Clear Lake Shores Civic Club
931 Cedar
Clear Lake Shores, TX 77565

Date & Time

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Attendees

NAME	ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED
Skyler Carey	TX Stream Team
Katie McCann	Galveston Bay Foundation
Charriss York	TX AgriLife/TX SeaGrant

To view the sign-in sheet in its entirety, please see Attachment A.

Meeting Summary by Agenda Items:

- *Progress to Date – H-GAC staff reviewed the progress to date with the attendees. Staff noted that the group reviewed sections of I-Plans and watershed protection plans similar to their subject area. The group highlighted areas of each plan that they felt were important to any plan that would be developed for Jarbo Bayou. Staff then reviewed a spreadsheet that compared the highlighted areas from each stakeholder that looked at what was similar and for areas that were dissimilar.*
- *Vote if ready to Join the BIG or Develop an I-Plan – Attendees discussed the benefits and potential problems with joining the BIG.*



Attendees then proceeded to vote. All attendees noted that it was a difficult decision and that while not strongly recommending they all voted to develop an I-plan.

- Develop recommendations – Attendees reasons for leaning towards developing an I-plan include
 - *Strong local attitude and bay culture,*
 - *Issues differ, including Boaters and Marinas,*
 - *Affinity for Galveston County Watersheds, and*
 - *Would like to see a Galveston County Watershed Group develop.*

- *Discuss next steps - The work group discussed the next steps which will include taking the results of the vote to the Coordination Committee for their review and vote. Recommendations will document the decision and offer any comments that the Coordination Committee might consider deliberating the question to join the BIG prior to a vote.*

VIII. NEXT MEETING

To Be determined