



**Jarbo Bayou Bacteria TMDL:
ROUND3 - Public Outreach Report**

Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting

February 27, 2014

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I. OVERVIEW

Per Umbrella Contract 582-12-13254, 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 December 12, 2013 (Round 1), H-GAC conducted a single public meeting in Clear Lake Shores. On January 23, 2014 (Round 2), H-GAC conducted a second public meeting in fulfillment of its contractual obligation.

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.

Following the success of the December 2013 and January 2014 Public Meetings, TCEQ and H-GAC convened the nominated Coordination Committee Members in order to:

1. Establish Ground Rules for the Coordination Committee
2. Make a Final Decision on Coordination Committee Size
3. Accept Additional Recommendations for Coordination Committee
4. Discuss Types of Workgroups Needed & General Composition

IV. APPROACH

For Round 3 of this effort, a single meeting was conducted in the City of Clear Lake Shores with nominated Coordination Committee members.

V. NOTIFICATION

Nominated Coordination Committee members were contacted via phone to determine preferred dates / times for the kickoff meeting, and received subsequent email invitations and reminders notifying them of meeting details.



VI. MATERIALS

The following materials were made available for the Round 3 meeting:

1. Sign-In Sheet(s)
2. Coordination Committee Meeting Agenda
3. Watershed Map / BIG Map
4. Copies of BIG I-Plan
5. Executive Summary
6. Basin Highlights Report - 2013

VII. MEETING SYNOPSIS

Location

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

Date & Time

Thursday, February 27, 2014
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Attendees

Committee Member	Organization / Interest Represented
Angie Galvan	City of Clear Lake Shores
Councilwoman Wanda Zimmer	City of Kemah
Odie T. Mallett	City of Kemah
Brian Craig	City of League City
Charlene Bohanon	Galveston Bay Foundation (Alternating)
Katie McCann	Galveston Bay Foundation (Alternating)
Tyler Drummond	Galveston County
Diane Humes	GBAC - TMN
Allison Putnam	Lazy Bend HOA
Jay Johnson	Lazy Bend HOA (Alternate)
Autie McVicker	Maritime Sanitation
Paul Williams	Maritime Sanitation
Ken Hutchinson	Maritime Sanitation (Alternate)
Philip Buck	Maritime Sanitation (Alternate)
Helle Brown	Master Naturalist



Bud Solmonsson	Resident
Skyler Carey	Texas Stream Team
Ed Linck	WCID 12
Linda Merryman	WCID 12 (Alternate)

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

Information Requests:

- Send Coordination Committee membership list around.
- Send out data link to Coordination Committee.
- Contact Maritime Sanitation about local marinas / how to involve them.
- Send links to BIG I-Plan / reference materials.
- Send draft pros / cons list about joining the BIG

Questions:

1. Has Jarbo ever met the standard?
 - o Yes, prior to 2002.
2. Why is there a gap between the time when data is collected and when the information becomes public?
 - o For quality assurance / quality control purposes.
3. What if something major happens – will it be more than a year before folks hear about it (in reference to question 2)?
 - o The seven-year monitoring period that determines whether or not a watershed is added to the 303(d) list helps to weed out anomalies.
4. What were the trends for Jarbo in previous years?
 - o When reviewing bacteria data, we do not generally talk about a trend rather we look at the geometric mean of the bacteria data and how it relates to the State’s water quality standard.
5. How does data account for major events – such as Hurricane Ike?
 - o Yes, the seven-year monitoring period that determines whether or not a watershed is added to the 303(d) list helps to weed out anomalies.
6. What is a geo mean?
 - o The geometric mean is a mathematical calculation similar to an arithmetic mean but calculated by multiplying all of the numbers together and taking the nth root of the product. Where ‘n’ is the count of the numbers in the

Comment [klj1]: Steve – please provide answers where necessary.



- dataset. Used in exponential type of numbers like population growth.
7. What is the definition of enterococcus?
 - o A type of bacteria found commonly in the intestines of warm blooded animals. Used as an indicator bacteria in saline waters due to a greater salinity tolerance.
 8. What is an I-Plan?
 - o An I-Plan is the plan of action for how to reduce a particular pollutant in a water body.
 9. Are marinas dumping in the bayou?
 - o It is possible; however, it is difficult to assign specific bacteria sources at this time.
 10. What are the pros / cons of having the marinas involved?
 - o Pros – one potential source of bacteria in Jarbo could be from toilets on boats that discharge in or near Jarbo bayou. Marinas are a valuable source for boater education when dealing with boaters.
 - o Cons – no real cons but as they are a business it is sometimes difficult to get participation.
 11. What impact does this committee actually have?
 - o By discussion and through the development of an implementation plan, the group is defining measures, voluntary and involuntary, that could be taken to improve water quality. With broad involvement, including those entities that hold permits with the state, there is a higher likelihood of actions being taken.
 12. What is the area of influence for this committee? Does the Clear Creek Channel mouth have a monitoring station?
 - o The actions taken by the committee are strictly focused on Jarbo Bayou. However, there are opportunities for entities with greater scope to take action more broadly through lessons learned. Also, this is one of many watershed actions plans being developed that can have a large and lasting effect on water quality.
 13. Are we talking about joining the BIG or not?
 - o This will be discussed at the following Coordination Committee meeting in April.

Meeting Outcomes

- By general consensus (show of 14 hands), the committee decided to pursue a vote-structure.
- On important issues, there must be a show of hands.



- Potential workgroups:
 - Boater / Marina
 - Permitted Sources
 - Residential & Nonpoint Source
 - Outreach & Communications
- This watershed is not eligible to join the Oyster Waters I-Plan.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 10th
2:00 to 3:30 PM

Club House
931 Cedar
Clear Lake Shores, TX