

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**February 1, 2024**

---

The February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee was held as a hybrid event both in-person at 3555 Timmons Lane in Houston, Texas and virtually via Zoom. The meeting began at approximately 1:30 PM.

**NRAC members present (15 voting, 2 advisory\*):**

Andrew Isbell	Claudia Sandoval	Richard Zahn
Bill Balboa	Deborah January-Bevers	Robert Pechukas
Bob Stokes	Gabriela Sosa*	Scott Jeansonne
Brian Koch	Jonathan Holley	Scott Saenger
Brian Shmaefsky	Katie Wilson	William Hajdik
Christopher Hunniford	Lisa Marshall*	

*\*Phone numbers not connected to a Committee Member weren't counted as present. Apologies for any inconvenience. If you were present via call-in and it isn't marked here, [please let Rachel Windham know](#).*

**NRAC members not present (20 voting, 4 advisory\*):**

Adeel Malik	Denae King	Leroy Cerny
Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud	Ellis Pickett	Mel Vargas
Brittani Flowers*	Glenda Callaway	Mac Martin*
Carol Guess	Jin Ye*	Phyllis Frank
Cathy Rogers-McCoy	Kelli Gallagher	Shane Porter
Charles "Chuck" Rogers	Kelli Ondracek*	Tom Douglas
Christina Moore	Ken Barnadyn	Troy Harrison
Dennis Cote	Latrice Babin	Upendra Sahu

**Current Vacancies:**

Current vacancies include:

- Vice Chair
- Power Generation or Transmission Utility

**H-GAC Staff Present (12):**

H-GAC staff present included Amanda Ashcroft, Andrea Tantillo, Bill Ervin, Cornell Evans, Jr., Elling Mann, Erin Livingston, Jessica Casillas, Justin Bower, Kendall Guidroz, Rachel Windham, Steven Johnston, and Todd Running.

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Committee Chair Deborah January-Bevers welcomed those present for the official start of the meeting and roll was called.

### **Certify Quorum and Approve Meeting Report**

After quorum was confirmed, Brian Koch moved to approve the Meeting Minutes, and Andrew Isbell seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

### **Membership**

Rachel Windham will follow up with the governmental affairs department at H-GAC to coordinate county appointed positions approaching the ends of their terms. Two county appointed positions are currently vacant and will also require coordination with the governmental affairs department to be filled. Now that Ms. Deborah January-Bevers's term as Chair has started, nominations for Vice Chair are needed. One NRAC appointed position (Power Generation or Transmission Utility) also remains to be filled. Suggestions for this position can be brought forward by members of the NRAC to Rachel Windham at [rachel.windham@h-gac.com](mailto:rachel.windham@h-gac.com).

### **Environmental Committee Highlights**

- **Regional Flood Management Committee**  
Amanda Ashcroft provided information on activities and updates from the past quarter. Meetings of the Regional Flood Management Committee are scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in the months of January, April, July, and October. Meetings are held at the H-GAC offices. Learn more by visiting the committee's [website](#).
- **Solid Waste Management Committee**  
Erin Livingston provided information on activities and updates from the past quarter. Solid Waste Management Committee meetings are scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the months of January, April, July, and October. Meetings are held at the H-GAC offices. Learn more by visiting the committee's [website](#).

### **Environmental Program Highlights**

- **Trash Bash 2024**  
Kendall Guidroz shared plans for the 30<sup>th</sup> annual River, Lakes, Bays 'n Bayous Trash Bash scheduled for Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. More information can be found on the [website](#).
- **Green Infrastructure**  
Steven Johnston gave an update on a Galveston Bay Estuary Program funded project assessing green infrastructure data from international and local sources to determine best management practices for the Houston-Galveston Area region.

- **Clean Rivers Program**

On behalf of Todd Running, Rachel Windham gave an update on H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program events including:

- Coordinated Monitoring Meetings – scheduled for last week of March (25-27); contact Jean Wright ([jean.wright@h-gac.com](mailto:jean.wright@h-gac.com)) for meeting attendance information or to share ideas for new site locations.
- Basin Steering Committee Meeting – will be scheduled for late April/early May.
- 2024 Basin Highlights Report – document in early draft phase and on target to deliver to TCEQ for comment on February 15.

- **Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs)**

Rachel Windham provided updates on projects including the Clear Creek WPP, East Fork San Jacinto River WPP, and the West Lake Houston WPP Implementation project which will cover the watershed areas of Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, Lake Creek, and the West Fork of the San Jacinto River. Additionally, H-GAC expects to begin work on a project developing a WPP for Greens Bayou in the early winter.

More information on the Clear Creek WPP can be found on the [project website](#) or by contacting Justin Bower ([justin.bower@h-gac.com](mailto:justin.bower@h-gac.com)) directly. The East Fork San Jacinto River WPP project also has a [project website](#), and more information can be provided by Rachel Windham ([rachel.windham@h-gac.com](mailto:rachel.windham@h-gac.com)).

- **Parks & Natural Areas (PNA) Roundtable**

On behalf of Andrea Tantillo, Rachel Windham reminded the committee that the PNA Awards Ceremony will be hosted at H-GAC on Friday, February 9, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and invited everyone to attend. For additional information, visit the [PNA website](#).

## **Subcommittees**

- **Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence (WISE) Awards**

Rachel Windham provided an overview of the anticipated timeline for calling for applications, judging submissions and presenting the winners of the 2024 WISE awards for approval by the NRAC at the upcoming quarterly meeting in May. For additional information on this subcommittee and awards program, visit the [WISE award website](#).

## **Topic of the Day**

Kendall Guidroz, Senior Planner at H-GAC, provided an overview of H-GAC's work with the Coastal Communities program. The program is designed to help small, coastal communities prevent water pollution by providing resources that

evaluate nonpoint source reduction needs, locating funding opportunities, and promoting education and outreach. The program is designed to help small communities without municipal separate storm sewer system permits (MS4) in the coastal areas of Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Matagorda counties engage residents in behavior change to reduce the potential for water pollution.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

Andrew Isbell shared that resources from the previously sunset organization Texas On-site Wastewater Research Council may be available through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for continued research on OSSFs. The TCEQ and AgriLife websites may have more information.

Justin Bower shared news of H-GAC's involvement with forestry including a community planting at Aileef as part of the Green Futures Program and planned attendance at a national forestry conference in February.

Bob Stokes asked if any water quality data was being collected in light of recent state legislation to allow OSSFs on smaller lots in Bolivar. Katie Wilson shared that the Galveston County Health District collects data on the beach side. While impacts may not be seen immediately, the committee will continue to monitor any information related to this development.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Unless otherwise notified, the next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, May 2, 2024** from **1:30–3:30 p.m.**

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.