FALL MEETING
Agenda

Tuesday, October 27, 2026
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

(Note: This is a hybrid meeting. Participation can be in-person at H-GAC, 3555 Timmons Lane 2nd Floor, Houston TX, 77072 or virtual. Instructions to attend this meeting in-person or virtual via ZOOM can be found at the bottom of this Agenda)

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions
Welcome by H-GAC
Introductions of BIG members & staff
Review Agenda. Each agenda item shall provide time for discussion by the BIG followed by comments from the audience.

Certification of Quorum

Approval of the Proposed Members & Alternates
BIG members will review the Bacteria Implementation Group Roster and approve as appropriate.

Approval of the June 2, 2026, Meeting Summary
BIG members will review, comment, and approve as appropriate.

Public Comment
The public may sign up at the beginning of the meeting to make an informal comment of no more than three minutes.

Item One: I-Plan Revision Update
H-GAC staff will provide an update on revising the BIG Implementation Plan.

Item Two: 2025 Draft Annual Report
H-GAC staff will review the draft 2025 Annual Report. BIG members will review and comment as appropriate.

Item Three: 2026 Annual Report Update
H-GAC staff will review progress on the 2026 Annual Report.

Item Four: TMDL Program Update
Ms. Sophia Staska, TCEQ TMDL Program, will provide an update to ongoing TMDLs within the BIG project area.
Mr. Jimmy Millican, Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research, will present on the Kennedy Gully TMDL and Technical Support Document preparation.

Item Five: Implementation Projects
Partner Spotlight
City of Houston – Review City of Houston's Phase I Stormwater Permit - Ms. Jesuina Chipindula and Mr. Funsho Sekoni

H-GAC Projects
Ms. Rachel Windham – WISE Awards 2026
Mr. Cornell Evans Jr. – Brays and Sims Bayou Watershed Protection Plan

Item Six: Other Business/Roundtable/Discussion/Questions
As time permits, H-GAC, BIG members, and stakeholders are encouraged to discuss implementation activities, related projects, and announcements.

Next Meeting Date
Tuesday, May 25, 2027
Adjourn

BIG Meeting Hybrid Meeting instructions: ***(You must Register for the meeting to participate.)***

In-Person and Virtual: Please register in advance for this meeting:

Register at **Bacteria Implementation Group Meeting Materials | Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)**

BIG Roster: 06/2/2026

First	Last	Representing	Organization	Alternate1	Alternate 2
Roger	Brookes	Rural Small City	City of Cleveland	Cody Arnold	
Todd	Burrer	Utility District	Inframark		
Ralph	Calvino	Business / Industry	Terracon	Liz Stone	Paola Belloni
Jesuina	Chipindula	Large City	City of Houston	Nahid Mohammadi	
Eric	Combs	Small City	City of League City	Jody Hooks	
Gordon	Cranner	Utility District	Schwartz, Page, & Harding, LLP	Mitchell Page	
Tom	Douglas	Conservation	Houston Sierra Club	Jim Williams	
Joe	Garcia	Agriculture	Harris County Soil and Water Conservation District		
Colleen	Gilbert	Conservation	Greens Bayou Coalition	Robert Fiederlein	
Morgan	Henske	Urban County	Harris County	Jeff Lu	
Sam	Hill	Agriculture	Texas Forest Service	Julia Schmidt	
Andrew	Isbell	Rural County	Walker County		
Courtney	Klaus	Urban County	Harris County Pollution Control Services	Nuguent Cotton	Wade Guy
Michael	Lee	Resource Agency / Academia	US Geological Survey	Zulimar Lucena	Jonathan D. Mills
Keith	Miles	Rural County	Montgomery County	Leeanne Kincer	
Lisa	Montemayor	Large City	City of Houston	Forrest Hartmann	
Bob	Naeger	Recreation	Houston Canoe Club		
Paul	Nelson	Conservation	Bayou Preservation Association	Rose Sobel	Brittani Flowers
Becky	Olive	Business / Industry	AECOM		
Linda	Pechacek	Public	Citizen, Civil Engineer	Tom Douglas	
Jim	Robertson	Conservation	Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition	Steve Hupp	
Scott	Saenger	Business / Industry	Quiddity Engineering	Michael Gurka	Arnelle Gonzalez
Christine	Santiny	Small City	City of Conroe	Greg Hall	
Jamie	Shakar	Large City	City of Houston	Desta Takie	Sergio Cisneros
Linda	Shead	Conservation	Texas Coastal Partners	Carl Masterson	
Brian	Shmaefsky	Resource Agency / Academia	Lone Star College, Kingwood		
Shane	Simpson	Business / Industry	San Jacinto River Authority	Aaron Schindewolf	
Robert	Snoza	Urban County	Harris County Flood Control District	Avery Lewis	
Michael	Thornhill	Utility District	SI Environmental	Kameron Pugh**	
Scott	Tuma	Business / Industry (Boating)	Boater		
Joanna	Wilson	Business / Industry	Gulf Coast Authority	Shaun Austin	
Natasha	Zarnstorff	Conservation	Galveston Bay Foundation	Haile Leija	Rachel Thorne
Vacant		Agriculture (County)			
Line 35	Working on AgriLife Extension - Montgomery County				

**Apon approval of the BIG

SPRING MEETING
Summary

Tuesday, June 2, 2026
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

(Note: This was a hybrid meeting. Participation was in-person at H-GAC, 3555 Timmons Lane 2nd Floor, Houston TX, 77072 or virtual.)

Members Present[1]

Jesuina Chipindula, Tom Douglas, Colleen Gilbert, Morgan Henske, Sam Hill, Courtney Klaus, Lisa Montemayor, Keith Miles, Bob Naeger, Becky Olive, Linda Pechacek, Jim Robertson, Brian Shmaefsky, Robert Snoza, Michael Thornhill, Scott Tuma, Natasha Zarnstorff

Micheal Lee was represented by Jonathan Mills
Jamie Shakar was represented by Desta Takie

Members Absent

Roger Brookes, Ralph Calvino, Gordon Cranner, Teague Harris, Sam Hill, Andrew Isbell, Michael Lee, Paul Nelson, Christine Santiny, Jamie Shakar, Linda Shead, Liz Stone, Shane Simpson, Jo Wilson

Guests Present

Kayla Ardoin, Scott Bean, Todd Burrer, Kat Christensen, Danielle Cioce, Sergio Cisneros, Eric Combs, Joy Douglas, Steven Frederich, Joe Garcia, Briley Garrett, Forrest Hartman, Jonathan Holley, Michael Jimenez, Jaden Kelley, Brian Koch, Martha Laguan, Michael LaMontagne, Jeff Lu, Lisa Marshall, Jari McCoy, Emma McMillian, Jonathan Mills, Nahid Mohammadi, Terrell Moore, Tiernan Pytlak, William Rackley, Christian Rines, Scott Saenger, Susan Santos, Patrick Shevlin, Sophia Staska, Liz Stone, Desta Takie, Christi Upton, David Villarreal

H-GAC Staff

Murad Alnajjar, Sandra Capetillo, Jessica Casillas, Jacob Eckhardt, Bill Ervin, Cornell Evans Jr., Kendall Guidroz, Steven Johnston, Antonio Neri, Jenny Oakley, Reynaldo Raya, Todd Running, Andrea Tantillo, Erica Underwood, Rachel Windham

[1] BIG Meeting attendance attached.

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions
Mr. Steven Johnston of H-GAC welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Johnston reviewed the agenda with members of the BIG. He noted that the agenda was reviewed by the Coordination and Policy Work Group held on October 16, 2025. He asked if there were any changes or additions to the Agenda by BIG members. Hearing no requests for changes and no call for discussion, the meeting proceeded.

Certification of Quorum
Mr. Johnston called roll. The number of BIG members and alternates in attendance sufficed and a quorum was certified.

Approval of the Proposed Members & Alternates
The BIG was asked to consider the following changes to the roster:

- New members proposed were as follows:
  - Todd Burrer, Inframark (Utility Districts)
  - Eric Combs, City of League City (Small Cities)
  - Joe Garcia, Harris County Soil and Water Conservation District (Agriculture)
  - Scott Saenger, Quiddity Engineering (Business/Industry)
- New alternates proposed were as follows:
  - Liz Stone, Terracon Inc. (Business/Industry)
  - Michael Gurka, Quiddity Engineering (Business/Industry)
  - Nahid Mohammadi, City of Houston (Large Cities)[2]
  - Jaden Kelly, Texas A&M Forest Service (Agriculture)[3]

All changes to member and alternate nominees were approved unanimously by the members present.

Approval of the October 28, 2025, Meeting Summary
BIG was asked to consider the October meeting summary. The BIG discussed and reviewed the summery. Two edits were suggested. Accepting the changes, the BIG approved the summary.

Public Comment
No attendees wished to provide a public comment. Mr. Johnston acknowledged special guests were present in the room. He asked Mr. Steven Frederich of Texas AgriLife Extension to introduce his guests. Mr. Frederich noted that the attendees were interns with Texas AgriLife and gave each the opportunity to introduce themselves. Ms. Emma McMillan, Ms. Briley Garrett, Ms. Martha Laguan, Mr. Terrell Moore, and Mr. Michael Jimenez provide introductions before the BIG.

Item One: I-Plan Revision Update
Members of the BIG and attendees were provided draft copies of the I-Plan revision. Mr. Johnston reviewed progress with the draft document. He noted that H-GAC hosted BIG work

[2] Added during the meeting at the request of Jesuina Chipindula
[3] Added during the meeting at the request of Sam Hill

groups at H-GAC to review the document and initiate comments and edits. He asked members that attended the meetings to discuss the process and salient points from the meetings. Mr. Johnston noted that the review will be conducted through the month of June. Mr. Conell Evans Jr. and he would then compile final comments after June 30th. Final figures, tables, and appendices will be added during that time. Mr. Johnston then noted that the document will go through final review with either the work groups and/or the Coordination and Policy work group prior to the October meeting.

Item Two: 2025 Draft Annual Report

Members of the BIG and attendees were provided copies of the 2025 Annual Report Status Table. This table is new to the group. Mr. Johnston reviewed the table with the attendees. He stated that the table was based on the draft I-Plan revision. He asked the BIG to review the document along with the draft I-Plan and to make edits. He called out the column for Responsible Parties and asked each organization to consider if their organization has a role in that action/activity. Mr. Johnston asked the group to return comments and edits by June 30th. He said that the table will replace the table in the annual report. Mr. Johnston reviewed other information that will be included in the annual report, which will be completed this summer. As members reviewed the table, he asked each member to consider implementation activities they have carried out in the 2024 calendar year and share with H-GAC.

Item Three: 2026 Annual Report Update

Mr. Johnston reviewed the effort to capture implementation data and next steps. He said that H-GAC is still seeking implementation efforts from the BIG and potential spotlight projects to highlight. Finally, Mr. Johnston presented wastewater treatment facility discharge monitoring report data tables. The tables showed declines in compliance in the last couple of years. He stated that H-GAC reviewed its analysis to determine if there were errors in the process. No errors were found. Mr. Johnston stated that the next step will likely be to reach out to TCEQ to continue searching for a cause.

Item Four: TMDL Program Update

Ms. Sophia Staska, TCEQ TMDL Program, provided an update to ongoing TMDLs within the BIG project area. Ms. Staska reported that the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research will likely attend the October meeting and present on the Kennedy Gully TMDL. She also noted that the Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies is continuing to monitor Tarkington Bayou. For the contact recreation impairment found in Tarkington Bayou, H-GAC is preparing a technical support document for TCEQ. The next Tarkington Bayou watershed meeting will likely take place on August 20th.

Item Five: Onsite Sewage Remediation within the BIG Project Area[4]

Harris County, the East Aldine Management District, and H-GAC have been working to remediate failing onsite sewage facilities (OSSFs) in Harris County and the BIG project area. The BIG invited Ms. Susan Santos, Harris County's Office of Compliance and Enforcement, Mr. Scott

[4] Presentation slides can be found under the 2026 Spring Meeting drop down tab at: Bacteria Implementation Group Meeting Materials | Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

Bean, East Aldine Management District, Mr. Todd Running, H-GAC, and Kendall Guidroz, H-GAC to present on the topic.

Ms. Santos provided a map of 65 target low to moderate income population areas within Harris County. Of those 65-target areas, there are 43 project areas where drinking water and/or wastewater are a concern. The average cost for each project was estimated to be $18 million with a range between $5-$50 million. She noted that Harris County does not have the authority to directly address failing OSSF systems. Ms. Santos noted that the East Aldine Management District falls into the heart of the 43 project areas and is a perfect collaborative partner. Ms. Santos also reviewed similar work with the adjacent Airline Improvement District.

Mr. Bean described the East Aldine Management District, explaining the area's history and current challenges. These challenges include properties that have been subdivided with systems that are outdated or too small, lacking sufficient area in some cases to function correctly. A study completed by the district found many communities within the district with septic failure rates above 50%. Many properties rely on groundwater for drinking water, with wells sometimes near their septic systems. Mr. Bean noted that while Harris County could not directly address the situation, the district was able to serve as the lead applicant for Harris County Community Development Block Grants, Texas Water Development State Revolving Funds, and is able to acquire bond debt, using district fees for grant matching or to pay down loans.

To date, Ms. Santos and Mr. Bean reported expending over $50 million to decommission 2,834 septic tanks and plug 980 water wells, while completing 1,301 public drinking water and 1,943 wastewater sewer connections. Ms. Santos reported in the Airline Improvement District over $20 million has been spent to decommission 818 septic tanks and plug 365 wells, while completing 442 public drinking water and 480 wastewater sewer connections.

Mr. Todd Running stated that the Tamina community is a historic unincorporated community in Montgomery County founded by freed slaves. Working with the City of Shenandoah, the community was able to find the resources to complete connections to the city's wastewater plant. However, residents in the community lacked the resources to completely abandon their tanks. Mr. Running reported that H-GAC was able to take some savings from the cost of pet waste stations used in a TCEQ 319 project to implement the West Fork project to assist the community of Tamina to fill in the septic tanks.

Ms. Kendall Guidroz provided a comprehensive presentation on three initiatives within the East Aldine Management District area, specifically in the Greens and Halls bayou watersheds. One of these efforts included two targeted monitoring projects, one in state fiscal year (FY) 23 and FY 25. Results of the FY 23 project on a tributary of Greens Bayou identified a key source of elevated levels *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli)* from an apartment complex that repeatedly had identified issues. In FY 25 a Halls Bayou study found six miles on five tributaries with high *E. coli* values. Nineteen of 94 samples were reported to local jurisdictions. Fecal bacteria sources included discharges from pipes directly from residential properties, domesticated animals on hobby farms, a flea market, and possible homeless encampments.

This led to a second follow-up project to look at efforts to address failing OSSFs to see if this best management practice can result in reportable improvements. According to Ms. Guidroz, funding in FY 26 was secured to complete additional monitoring in the community of Demi John Island and in an unnamed tributary to Halls Bayou in the East Aldine Management District. The Brazoria County community of Demi John, after a scare with *Vibrio cholera* in the early 2000s, was eventually connected to sanitary sewer. As noted previously, the East Aldine Management District and Harris County have been working to address failing OSSFs. This project completed three monitoring events of eight to nine sample sites within each community and compared those results to historic samples collected prior to implementation. Ms. Guidroz reported on preliminary data and there is evidence that the work has locally improved water quality, particularly following a dry period in the East Aldine Management District sites.

Ms. Guidroz concluded with the third project by reviewing the Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program work within the district. She reported that H-GAC received Galveston Bay Estuary Program funding that expanded the reach above their primary source of funding. The program focuses on residents of need that meet the requirements of home ownership, residing within the home, income less than or equal to 80% of the County's median and even if the owner was under enforcement action, funding could apply. As part of the program, free workshops were given in the community to improve preventative maintenance. Those that seek to address malfunction systems were required to go through one of the homeowner workshops. The East Aldine Management District was a key partner in helping to bridge the language barrier and to lend credence to the program. A total of 50 residents attended one of the three workshops. Out of the workshops, 34 applicants were identified, and 15 residents currently qualify and are pending repairs or replacements.

Item Six: Implementation Projects[5]

Partner Spotlight

Ms. Sam Hill, Texas A&M Forest Service (Forest Service) provided the partner spotlight. Ms. Hill reported that Forest Service's goal is to steward Texas' forest by fostering partnerships and delivering technical assistance related to the forest-water relationship. This is done by conducting education and outreach, verifying the use of silviculture and timber harvest best management practices (BMPs), fire prevention BMPs, watershed planning, grants for water resources related to forestry practices, and restoration and recovery. She provided a history of the Forest Service from reauthorization of the Clean Water Act in 1987, establishment of Texas Silviculture BMPs, monitoring to eventual stream monitoring.

Ms. Hill noted that BMPs are non-regulatory and are described in the "Texas Forestry Best Management Practices" handbook, often referred to as "the Blue Book." The Forest Service encourages the use through education and assistance. Assistance includes providing continuing education courses, temporary bridge program, BMP demonstration areas, fact sheets, and the Texas Partnership for Forest and Water, a statewide collaboration used to increase communication and cooperation across the forest, water, corporate, and conservation sectors.

[5] Presentation slides can be found under the 2026 Spring Meeting drop down tab at: Bacteria Implementation Group Meeting Materials | Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

Forty-five state and federal agencies, water utilities, corporations, local governments, landowners, and conservation organizations currently participate in the partnership.

Ms. Hill wrapped up her presentation noting that the Forest Service has focused on urban and suburban forestry education and implementation efforts. Collaboration with local watershed groups and organizations has become important with fifteen $50,000 projects over five years implementing forestry components of watershed-based plans. This urban effort includes the Urban and Community Forestry Program that seeks to build local capacity to help communities develop sustainable programs that provide Texas with healthy trees and forests. This program has included working with local governments on tree ordinances, inventories and training, education and outreach, tree registries, community wood utilization, and urban forestry grants.

H-GAC Projects

Ms. Rachel Windham, H-GAC, provided an update on the WISE Awards 2026. She noted that the applications have been received and are being judged. This year, seven applications were submitted and at least one application was submitted for each category of the award. Once judging is completed, H-GAC will host the awards ceremony. Ms. Windham noted that she would be back in the fall to report on the winners.

Mr. Cornell Evans Jr., H-GAC gave the report on watershed protection planning (WPP) efforts within the BIG Project Area. He provided an update on the Greens Bayou WPP. He noted that the draft plan has been reviewed by stakeholders and is currently being reviewed by TCEQ. On the West Lake Houston Implementation Project, he noted that it is wrapping up, results have included several technical workshops, delivery of 60 pet waste stations, tree planting events, and the noted effort to assist the community of Tamina abandoned OSSFs. The Brays and Sims WPP project is nearing the midway and the stakeholders have begun reviewing watershed data. The draft WPP is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2026. Finally, Mr. Evans reported that the Lake Conroe WPP is just starting, with the QAPP being submitted to the TCEQ.

Item Seven: Other Business/Roundtable/Discussion/Questions

As time permits, H-GAC, BIG members, and stakeholders were encouraged to discuss implementation activities, related projects, and announcements. Mr. Johnston shared a slide on upcoming meetings, workshops, and events.

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, October 27, 2026
Adjourn

DRAFT

Table 1. June 2, 2026, Attendee List, including those attending as members or alternates to the BIG

First Name	Last Name	Organization	County	Membership
Lisa	Montemayor	City of Houston	Harris	Member
Becky	Olive	AECOM	Harris	Member
Robert	Naeger	Houston Canoe Club	Harris	Member
Brian	Shmaefsky	Lone Star College	Harris	Member
Eric	Combs	City of League City	Galveston	Member
Scott	Saenger	Quiddity Engineering	Harris	Member
Natasha	Zarnstorff	Galveston Bay Foundation	Galveston	Member
Linda	Pechacek	Public BIG Representative - civil engineer	Harris	Member
Colleen	Gilbert	Greens Bayou Coalition	Harris	Member
Keith	Miles	Montgomery County Environmental Health	Montgomery	Member
Todd	Burrer	Inframark	Harris	Member
Jesuina	Chipindula	City of Houston Permitting Center - MS4	Harris	Member
Joe	Garcia	Harris County Soil Water Conservation District	Harris	Member
Sam	Hill	Texas A&M Forest Service	Harris	Member
Jim	Robertson	Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition	Harris	Member
Mike	Thornhill	Si Environmental	Harris	Member
Robert	Snoza	Harris County Flood Control District	Harris	Member
Morgan	Henske	Harris County Office of Compliance and Enforcement	Harris	Member
Courtney	Klaus	Harris County Pollution Control Service	Harris	Member
Scott	Tuma	City of League City	Galveston	Member
Tom	Douglas	Houston Sierra Club	Harris	Member
Desta	Takie	COH	Harris	Alternate
Nahid	Mohammadi	City of Houston	Harris	Alternate
Forrest	Hartmann	COH HPW	Harris	Alternate
Sergio	Cisneros	Houston Public Works - RCUD	Harris	Alternate
Jonathan	Mills	US Geological Survey	Montgomery	Alternate
Jaden	Kelley	Texas A&M Forest Service	Harris	Alternate
Liz	Stone	Terracon Inc.	Harris	Alternate
Jeff	Lu	Harris County	Harris	Alternate
Tiernan	Pytlak	Bayou Preservation Association	Harris	
Jari	McCoy	Bayou Preservation	Harris	
Danielle	Cioce	GFT Inc.	Harris	
Jonathan	Holley	Harris County Flood Control District	Harris	
MURAD	Alnajjar	H-GAC	Harris	
Christi	Upton	North Central Texas Council of Governments	Other	
William	Rackley	Baxter & Woodman Inc.	Harris	
Patrick	Shevlin	P&G Interests, LLC	Harris	
Kat	Christensen	Buffalo Bayou Partnership	Harris	
Joy	Douglas	North Central Texas Council of Governments	Other	
Michael	LaMontagne	University of Houston - Clear Lake	Harris	
Lisa	Marshall	Galveston Bay Estuary Program	Harris	

DRAFT

First Name	Last Name	Organization	County	Membership
David	Villarreal	Texas Department of Agriculture	Other	
Steven	Johnston	H-GAC	Fort Bend	
Jacob	Eckhardt	H-GAC	Harris	
Kayla	Ardoin	Harris County	Harris	
Jenny	Oakley	H-GAC	Harris	
Sophia	Staska	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Other	
Christian	Rines	Galveston Bay Estuary Program	Harris	
Scott	Bean	East Aldine Management District	Harris	
Susan	Santos	Harris County Office of Compliance and Enforcement	Harris	
Kendall	Guidroz	H-GAC	Fort Bend	
Rachel	Windham	H-GAC	Harris	
Erica	Underwood	H-GAC	Harris	
Emma	McMillian	Texas AgriLife	Harris	
Briley	Garrett	Texas AgriLife	Harris	
Martha	Laguan	Texas AgriLife	Harris	
Terrell	Moore	Texas AgriLife	Harris	
Michael	Jimenez	Texas AgriLife	Harris	
Steven	Frederich	Texas AgriLife	Harris	
Reynaldo	Raya	H-GAC	Harris	
Antonio	Neri	H-GAC	Harris	
Brian	Koch	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	Wharton	
Jessie	Casillas	H-GAC	Harris	
Sandra	Capetillo	H-GAC	Harris	
Todd	Running	H-GAC	Washington	
Cornell	Evans Jr.	H-GAC	Harris	

DRAFT