

MEETING SUMMARY
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 6, 2025

The February 6th 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 (16 voting, 3 advisory*):

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Isbell | Claudia Sandoval | Kelli Gallagher |
| Bill Balboa | Deborah January- | Latrice Babin |
| Bob Stokes | Bevers | Lisa Marshall* |
| Brian Koch | Gabriela Sosa* | Richard Zahn |
| Brian Shmaefsky | Hien Pham | Scott Jeansonne |
| Christopher | Jin Ye* | Scott Saenger |
| Hunniford | Jonathan Holley | Tom Douglas |

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, 3 advisory*):

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Adeel Malik | Denae King | Mel Vargas |
| Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud | Dennis Cote | Mac Martin* |
| Brittani Flowers* | Ellis Pickett | Phyllis Frank |
| Carol Guess | Glenda Callaway | Robert Pechukas |
| Cathy Rogers-McCoy | Katie Wilson | Shane Porter |
| Charles "Chuck" Rogers | Kelli Ondracek* | Troy Harrison |
| Christina Moore | Ken Barnadyn | Upendra Sahu |
| | Leroy Cerny | William Hajdik |

Current Vacancies:

Current vacancies include:

- Power Generation or Transmission Utility

H-GAC Staff Present (12):

H-GAC staff present included Andrea Tantillo, Bill Ervin, Cornell Evans, Jr., Erica Underwood, Jenny Oakley, Jessica Casillas, Justin Bower, Kendall Guidroz, Rachel Windham, Steven Johnston, Todd Running, and Wendy Almanzan.

Welcome and Roll Call

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, Ms. January-Bevers called for review and comment on the August 1st and November 7th Meeting Minutes. Ms. January-Bevers moved to approve the August and November Meeting Minutes, and Brian Koch seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

Membership

The majority of both county and NRAC appointed member terms have lapsed. Ms. Windham is coordinating with the governmental affairs department at H-GAC to coordinate county appointed positions. Two county appointed positions are currently vacant and will also require coordination with the governmental affairs department to be filled. Ms. Windham will reach out to current NRAC appointed members to assess interest in term renewal. One NRAC appointed position (Power Generation or Transmission Utility) also remains to be filled. Suggestions for this position or replacements for current positions can be brought forward by members of the NRAC to Ms. Windham at rachel.windham@h-gac.com.

Committee member Tom Douglas representing Private Citizens volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. Mr Koch moved that the committee approve this appointment, and Ms. January-Bevers seconded the motion. Mr. Douglas was approved unanimously.

Environmental Committee Highlights

- **Regional Flood Management Committee**
On behalf of Amanda Ashcroft, Ms. Windham 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**
Wendy Almanzan 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

- **Clean Rivers Program**

Todd Running gave an update on H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program events including:

- Coordinated Monitoring Meetings - scheduled for the week of April 7th; contact Jenny Oakley (jenny.oakley@h-gac.com) for meeting attendance information or to share ideas for new site locations.
- Basin Steering Committee Meeting - will be scheduled for Tuesday, April 29th from 10:00 am to noon. Visit the Basin Steering Committee webpage: <https://www.h-gac.com/clean-rivers-program/committees> to register.
- 2025 Basin Highlights Report - document in early draft phase and delivered to TCEQ for comment.

- **Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs)**

Ms. Windham provided updates on projects including the East Fork San Jacinto River WPP, the Greens Bayou 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 public meetings on a project developing a WPP for the Brays and Sims Bayou watersheds in the early winter. Lastly, Ms. Windham shared that a proposal for WPP development in the Lake Conroe watershed was selected for funding. H-GAC expects to receive the contract for this work in fall 2025.

Information on WPP projects can be found at the East Fork San Jacinto River WPP [project website](#), and Greens Bayou WPP [project website](#), and more information can be provided by Ms. Windham (rachel.windham@h-gac.com).

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

Andrea Tantillo shared information on activities and updates from the PNA roundtable including information on the upcoming Parks and Natural Areas Awards ceremony scheduled for February 21 and a field trip to Willow Waterhole on March 20. For additional information, visit the [PNA website](#).

Subcommittees

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

Ms. Windham invited the committee to consider any changes they would like to see regarding the 2025 WISE awards. The 2025 program will be discussed in greater detail at the February 2025 meeting of the NRAC. Ms. Windham also called for committee members to volunteer as or recommend judges for the 2025 program. For additional information on this subcommittee and awards program, visit the [WISE award website](#).

Topic of the Day

- 1) Bill Ervin, Senior Planner at the Houston-Galveston Area Council, presented an overview of the Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program and discussed progress with implementing on-site sewage facility remediation throughout the region.
- 2) Staff coordinator, Rachel Windham, will provided the results of the Needs Assessment survey and facilitated discussion for ways to improve committee engagement.

Roundtable Discussion

Members shared updates about upcoming events.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Next Meeting Date

Unless otherwise notified, the next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, May 1, 2025 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

Adjourn

Ms. January-Bevers adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.