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**SPRING MEETING  
AGENDA**

**Tuesday, May 23, 2017  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor  
3555 Timmons Lane**

**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 October 25, 2016 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 1: Review Progress on 2017 Annual Report**

Staff shall lead the BIG in a review of data that will be used in the 2017 Annual Report. BIG members will review, comment and discuss as appropriate.

## **Item 2: TCEQ TMDL Program Update**

TCEQ staff will provide an update to the TMDL program and topics related to BIG implementation.

## **Item 3: Draft Letter to the TCEQ**

H-GAC staff will provide the letter to the BIG for review, comment, and approve as appropriate.

## **Item 4: Presentations**

- Top 5/Least 5 Project Final Report, Ms. Paniz Miesen – Houston-Galveston Area Council
- Brazoria – Galveston County Coalition, Ms. Charriss York – Texas Coastal Watershed Program
- West Fork Watershed Protection Plan, Mr. Justin Bower – Houston – Galveston Area Council

## **Item 5: Other Business/Roundtable**

As time permits, H-GAC, BIG members, and stakeholders are encouraged to discuss implementation activities, related projects, and announcements.

## **Next Meeting Date**

October 25, 2017

## **Adjourn**

### **BIG Meeting instructions for call-in:**

To call in, dial 713-481-0090 (or 800-240-3895). You will be asked to enter your pass code, followed by the # sign. The pass code is 1084242. If you dial in before H-GAC, you will hear "music on hold". Once H-GAC dials in, the music will cease and the conference call will begin. Remember--if you do press hold, everyone will hear your hold music.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, H-GAC provides for reasonable accommodation for persons attending H-GAC functions. Requests should be received by H-GAC 24 hours prior to the function.

H-GAC encourages meeting attendees to bring their own mug or cup to all meetings.

<b>BACTERIA IMPLEMENTATION GROUP ROSTER (5-23-17)</b>					
<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Alternate1</b>	<b>Alternate 2</b>
Bloom	Michael	Business / Industry	RG Miller Engineers	Jason Maldonado	
Brown	David	Resource Agency / Academia	US Geological Survey	Michael Lee	
Chapin	Richard	Large City	City of Houston	Zafar Ahmed	
Christian	Marilyn	Urban County	Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services	Jennifer Wheeler	Denise Hall
Cioce	Danielle	Urban County	Harris County	Camila Biaggi	Nick Russo
Ehrlich	Denise	Business / Industry	Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority	Shaun Austin	
Elliott	Catherine	Urban County	Harris County Flood Control District	Robert Snoza	
Hall	Greg	Small City	City of Conroe		
Harris	Teague	Utility District	IDS Engineering		
Iken	Jason	Large City	City of Houston	Carol LaBreche	Richard Chapin
Ivy	Tom	Conservation	Texas Stream Team	Jim Williams	
Johnson	Nate	Conservation	Galveston Bay Foundation	Scott Jones	
Hupp	Steve	Conservation	Bayou Preservation Association	James "Ty" Kelly	
Lane	Helen	Conservation	Houston Audubon Society	Bethany Foshee	
Lindsey	Mike	Rural County	Montgomery County	Frank Green	Scott Nichols
Maske	Craig	Business / Industry	IDS Engineering	Scott Saenger	
McCoy	Cathy	Agriculture	Harris County SWCDistrict #442		
Olive	Becky	Business / Industry	AECOM	Ralph Calvino	Patty Matthews
Olson	Anne	Conservation	Buffalo Bayou Partnership	Jessalyn Giacona	Linda Shead
Page	Mitchell	Utility District	Schwartz, Page, & Harding, LLP	Michael Page	
Parkhill	David	Business / Industry	San Jacinto River Authority		
Pavlovich	Raymond	Utility District	Nottingham Country Municipal Utility District	Michael Thornhill	Matt Carpenter
Pechacek	Linda	Public	Citizen, Civil Engineer	Rachel Powers	
Robertson	Jim	Conservation	Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition	Richard Smith	
Shead	Shead	Conservation	Texas Coastal Partners	Mary Ellen Whitworth	
Shmaefsky	Brian	Resource Agency / Academia	Lone Star College, Kingwood	Jon Connolly	
Murphy*	Jack	Small City	City of League City	Susie Blake	Jody Hooks
Wieczorek	Aaron	Large City	City of Houston		
<b>VACANT</b>		Rural Small City			
Bailes IV**	Rep. Ernest	Agriculture (County)	San Jacinto County	Dale Everitt**	
Isbell**	Andrew	Rural County	Walker County		
<b>VACANT</b>		Business / Industry (Boating)			
Cruce**	Hannah	Agriculture	Texas Forest Service	Hughs Simpson**	

\* Requires BIG Approval

\*\*Recommendation of the East and West Fork Stakeholders, requires BIG Approval.



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**FALL MEETING  
Summary**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2016  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor  
3555 Timmons Lane**

**Members Present**

Richard Chapin, Marilyn Christian, Catherine Elliott, Teague Harris, Jason Iken, Becky Olive, David Parkhill, Raymond Pavlovich, Linda Pechacek, Jim Robertson, Linda Shead, Brian Shmaefsky (Phone), Aaron Wiczorek (Phone)

Rick Felan was represented by Denise Ehrlich\*  
Bruce Heiberg was represented by Steve Hupp  
Scott Jones was represented by Nate Johnson\*  
Michael Lindsey was represented by Reuben Martinez\*  
Alisa Max was represented by Danielle Cioce  
Anne Olson was represented by Linda Shead  
*\*A non-voting representative*

**Members Absent**

Michael Bloom, Tom Ivy, Michael Lee, Greg Hall, Helen Lane, Craig Maske, Cathy McCoy, Mitchell Page, Earl Smith

**Guests Present**

Zafar Ahmed, Camila Biaggi, Linda Broach, Lawrence Childress, Tom Douglas, Denise Hall, Diane Humes, Janice Keeven, Jason Leifester, Jared McNabb, Chip Morris, Rod Penhero, Rachel Powers, Nick Russo, Richard Smith, Robert Snoza, Roberto Vega, Jennifer Wheeler, Carolyn White

**H-GAC Staff Present**

Justin Bower, Steven Johnston, Paniz Miesen, Todd Running, Jean Wright

## **Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions**

Steven Johnston welcomed those in attendance. Members of the BIG and guests were asked to introduce themselves. The agenda was reviewed and the BIG was provided an opportunity to discuss.

## **Certification of Quorum**

A quorum was certified during the meeting.

## **Item 1: Approval of Proposed Members & Alternates**

The following changes were approved by the BIG:

- Danielle Cioce replaces Alisa Max in representing Urban County
- Denise Ehrlich replaces Rich Felan in representing Business/Industry
- Steve Hupp replaces Bruce Heiberg in representing Conservation
- Nate Johnston replaces Scott Jones in representing Conservation
- Camila Biaggi will become Danielle Cioce's alternate
- James Kelly will become Steve Hupp's alternate

## **Item 2: Approval of May 24, 2016 Meeting Summary**

The BIG was provided the opportunity to review and give comment to the draft May meeting summary. No changes were requested and the item was approved.

## **Item 3: Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

## **Item 4: Approval of the 2016 Annual Report**

A draft of the 2016 Annual Report was provided to members and guest. H-GAC reviewed the draft document with members of the BIG. Comments and suggested edits were made. Members of the BIG we provided the opportunity to approve the report. A motion was made to extend additional time to review the document to ensure that those present and members absent have sufficient time to review the document. H-GAC agreed to extend the time, address any comments or edits received and to conduct a conference call with the BIG to finalize the document. The BIG approved the motion.

## **Item 5: Approval of Implementation Plan Updates**

H-GAC provided a copy of Addendum #3 to the BIG I-Plan for review by the BIG. H-GAC noted that the addendum was presented at the Spring Meeting in May. The addendum adds seven AUs to the BIG Project Area from the East and West Fork TMDL project. By approving the addendum, the BIG completed the process of adding the East and West Fork of the San Jacinto River to the project area as the Commissioners for the TCEQ approved the East and West Fork TMDL at their August 24, 2016 Agenda meeting. Mr. Johnston noted that Jarbo Bayou's addition to the BIG has been delayed. The delay is due to changes with the waste load allocation as the result of a WWTF permit request in the watershed.

## **Item 6: Draft Letter to the TCEQ**

A draft letter to the TCEQ was provided to the BIG. The letter, which would be authored by H-GAC on behalf of the BIG, requests a response by the TCEQ regarding implementation actions carried out by the TCEQ that support implementation of the BIG I-Plan. The BIG discussed the information contained within the letter, the tone of the letter and whom at TCEQ the letter should be sent. H-GAC noted that the letter is still a draft and that the comments received would be incorporated and the letter provided to the Coordination and Policy work group for a final review prior to seeking final approval from the BIG.

## **Item 7: H-GAC Staff Project Updates**

H-GAC staff were present to provide select H-GAC project updates.

- Upper Oyster Creek TMDL and I-Plan

Mr. Justin Bower present the update on Upper Oyster Creek TMDL annual report. Mr. Bower stated that Upper Oyster Creek is impaired for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. The I-Plan was completed and approved in 2014. The I-Plan focuses on voluntary efforts rather than regulatory compliance. Challenges to implementation include a lack of consistent sampling data, sources of bacteria that lack controls, e.g. wildlife and increasing development. The stakeholders have been active through MS4 implementation, improved utility management, development of pet parks, strong educational focus and agriculture programs.

- Top Five/Least Five

Ms. Paniz Miesen presented an update on the BIG's Top Five Most & Top Five Least impaired water bodies project. The purpose of the project is to identify potential bacteria source discharges and seek to eliminate them from selected segments from the ten, five of the most impaired and five of the least, impaired waters in the BIG.

Ms. Miesen noted that they had completed the screen phase of the project. During this first phase, H-GAC prioritized the ten water bodies and surveyed four of them. Screening bacteria samples were collected from suspected sources for bacteria analysis. Ms. Miesen reported the results of this initial screening.

The project is currently in phase II which will follow up any high screening samples found. New samples will be sent to a NELAC certified lab to verify the level. All information, including watershed surveys and identified potential sources will be shared, as part of phase III, with the local regulatory jurisdiction for possible follow-up action to eliminate any sources found. Additional sample collection will take place after any actions to eliminate sources to verify any changes in bacteria concentrations.

- Clean Waters Initiative (CWI)

Mr. Steven Johnston reviewed the CWI efforts in 2016. Mr. Johnston noted that H-GAC uses the CWI platform to highlight BIG efforts and to bring information and technical workshop topics that implementing portions of the BIG I-Plan. Planning for 2017 CWI workshops were being planned and Mr. Johnston note that H-GAC would appreciate any suggested topics from members of the BIG.

**Item 8: Other Business/Roundtable**

As time permits, H-GAC, BIG members, and stakeholders are encouraged to discuss implementation activities, related projects, and announcements.

**Next Meeting Date**

May 23, 2016  
H-GAC Conference Room B (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**Adjourn**

DRAFT

May 23, 2017

Mr. Chris Loft, Program Lead  
Total Maximum Daily Load Program  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
MC-203  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Subject: TCEQ Implementation of the Implementation Plan for Seventy-Two Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in the Houston-Galveston Region (I-Plan).

Dear Mr. Loft,

The Houston-Galveston Area Council, on behalf of the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG), is writing this letter to request information from the TCEQ in support actions taken to implement the I-Plan. The BIG notes appreciatively, that staff at TCEQ's Region 12 have contributed greatly toward documenting TCEQ's implementation efforts and in development of the annual reports.

The BIG created the I-Plan to address bacteria impairments and improve water quality in the region. A copy of the I-Plan can be found at: <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/BIG/reports.aspx>. As part of the I-Plan, BIG stakeholders are required to draft an annual report that chronicles projects carried out during the year to assist in tracking implementation of the plan, highlight impactful projects, and to determine if stakeholder efforts are meeting plan goals.

The BIG respectfully requests TCEQ provide any additional information covering I-Plan strategies and activities that directly reference contributions by TCEQ, data to support tracking or areas where TCEQ might have additional information.

The BIG is specifically interested in the following:

- **I-Plan Activity 1.1: Impose More Rigorous Bacteria Monitoring Requirements**  
The BIG proposed in the I-Plan, monitoring at wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) at greater frequency than current state permit requirements (Table 6, page 52). The BIG has found since the approval of the I-Plan that the present frequency at larger permitted flow WWTFs has helped improve plant function.



*The BIG recommends that TCEQ consider increasing the frequency at the smaller permitted flow WWTFs.*

- **I-Plan Activity 1.3: Increase Compliance and Enforcement by the TCEQ.** Activity 1.3 on page 54, Increase Compliance and Enforcement recommends increased ‘no notice’ inspections, allowing TCEQ to utilize focused sampling investigations, and to increase staffing if necessary.

*The BIG requests any information on implementation efforts or data that addresses increased compliance and enforcement by the TCEQ.*

- **I-Plan Activity 2.5: Strengthen Controls on Subscriber Systems.** Activity 2.5 found on page 62 recommends identifying subscriber systems and recommends the TCEQ consider rulemaking to require registration of subscriber systems. Sanitary sewer overflows have been identified as a contributor to the bacteria concentrations in the project area.

*The BIG requests any information on implementation efforts or data that strengthens controls on subscriber systems.*

- **I-Plan Activity 4.6: Petition the TCEQ to Facilitate Reimbursement of Bacteria Reduction Measures.** Activity 4.6 on page 75, the BIG is concerned that the lack of a concrete policy to facilitate MUD reimbursement to developers for stormwater quality features instills risk and inhibits their broad use due to the risk-adverse nature of the development process.

*The BIG recommends the TCEQ develop a guidance document that includes criteria that will assist in determining the eligibility of a water quality feature for reimbursement.*

The BIG respectfully requests a written response or presentation that addresses the content of this letter within thirty (30) days. Thank you for the opportunity to work together on improving water quality in the greater Houston area. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you need any follow up information or have any questions, at [todd.running@h-gac.com](mailto:todd.running@h-gac.com) or 713.993.4549.

Sincerely,

Todd Running  
Water Resources Program Manager  
Community and Environmental Planning  
Houston-Galveston Area Council

Cc: Members of the BIG  
Jason Leifester  
Lauren Oertel

Enclosure