

MEETING SUMMARY
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 2, 2023

The November 2nd 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	Deborah January-Bevers	Natasha Zarnstorff (for
Bill Balboa	Gabriela Sosa*	Bob Stokes)
Brian Koch	Jonathan Holley	Scott Jeansonne
Brian Shmaefsky	Katie Wilson	Scott Saenger
Brittani Flowers*	Kelli Gallagher	Tom Douglas
Christopher Hunniford	Kelli Ondracek*	William Hajdik
Claudia Sandoval	Latrice Babin	

**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 (19 voting, 3 advisory*):

Adeel Malik	Ellis Pickett	Phyllis Frank
Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud	Glenda Callaway	Richard Zahn
Carol Guess	Jin Ye*	Robert Pechukas
Cathy Rogers-McCoy	Ken Barnadyn	Shane Porter
Charles "Chuck" Rogers	Leroy Cerny	Troy Harrison
Christina Moore	Lisa Marshall*	Upendra Sahu
Dennis Cote	Mel Vargas	
Denae King	Mac Martin*	

Current Vacancies:

Current vacancies include:

- Power Generation or Transmission Utility

H-GAC Staff Present (9):

H-GAC staff present included Amanda Ashcroft, Andrea Tantillo, Bill Ervin, Cheryl Mergo, Erin Livingston, Jessica Casillas, Justin Bower, Kendall Guidroz, Rachel Windham, Todd Running, and Wendy Almanzan.

Welcome and Roll Call

Staff coordinator Rachel Windham welcomed those present for the official start of the meeting and roll was called.

Certify Quorum and Approve Meeting Report

After quorum was confirmed, Tom Douglas moved to approve the Meeting Minutes, and Christopher Hunniford 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. 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.

Additionally, Ms. Windham announced that this meeting would be the final meeting with Mr. Andrew Isbell serving as Chair. The current Vice Chair, Ms. Deborah January-Bevers, will begin her term as chair at the February 2024 meeting of the NRAC. Ms Windham thanked Mr. Isbell for his service in the role of Chair and asked the committee to consider who to nominate for the position of Vice Chair.

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 30th annual River, Lakes, Bays 'n Bayous Trash Bash scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd, 2024. More information can be found on the [website](#).

- **Coastal Communities**

Kendall Guidroz gave an update on 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. More information can be found on the [website](#).

- **On-site Sewage Facility Projects**

Todd Running gave an update on H-GAC's work with on-site sewage facility remediation and education. New Water Resources staff member, Bill Ervin, will be involved as a point of contact for many of these projects. For more information, visit the agency [website](#).

- **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) 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).

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

Andrea Tantillo gave an update on the PNA awards process in 2023. She reviewed the statistics on the applicants and invited everyone to attend the awards ceremony on February 9, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at H-GAC. Additionally, a field trip is planned for November 17, 2023 in Galveston. For additional information, visit the [PNA website](#).

Subcommittees

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

Rachel Windham recapped the summer awards program and invited committee members to consider any changes they might like to see in the program for 2024. Ms. Windham also asked any committee members interested in participating in a subcommittee for the WISE awards to contact her. For additional information on this subcommittee and awards program, visit the [WISE award website](#).

Topic of the Day

Sayena Marandi, Senior GIS Analyst at H-GAC, provided an overview of H-GAC's Regional Equity Application. Requirements for prioritizing environmental justice and detailing vulnerable population information are becoming more prevalent in grant applications for environmental projects. The tools demonstrated in this presentation can offer resources for agencies, organizations, and other regional entities to use in future applications for funding to support natural resource related projects.

Roundtable Discussion

Committee members shared information on upcoming events.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Next Meeting Date

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

Adjourn

After a motion by Latrice Babin and a second by Johnathan Holley, the meeting was adjourned.