

MEETING SUMMARY
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 2, 2024

The May 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 (18 voting, 3 advisory*):

Bill Balboa	Deborah January-Bevers	Ken Barnadyn
Bob Stokes	Denae King	Latrice Babin
Brian Koch	Gabriela Sosa*	Richard Zahn
Brian Shmaefsky	Jin Ye*	Tom Douglas
Carolyn White (for Scott Jeansonne)	Jonathan Holley	Scott Saenger
Christopher Hunniford	Katie Wilson	William Hajdik
Claudia Sandoval	Kelli Gallagher	
	Kelli Ondracek*	

**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 (17 voting, 3 advisory*):

Adeel Malik	Christina Moore	Mac Martin*
Andrew Isbell	Dennis Cote	Phyllis Frank
Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud	Ellis Pickett	Robert Pechukas
Brittani Flowers*	Glenda Callaway	Shane Porter
Carol Guess	Leroy Cerny	Troy Harrison
Cathy Rogers-McCoy	Lisa Marshall*	Upendra Sahu
Charles "Chuck" Rogers	Mel Vargas	

Current Vacancies:

Current vacancies include:

- Vice Chair
- Power Generation or Transmission Utility

H-GAC Staff Present (12):

H-GAC staff present included Bill Ervin, Cornell Evans, Jr., Elling Mann, Jessica Casillas, Justin Bower, Kendall Guidroz, Rachel Windham, Steven Johnston, Todd Running, and Wendy Almanzan.

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, Ms. January-Bevers called for review and comment on the February 1st Meeting Minutes. After noting that the spelling of Mr. Scott Jeanson's name needs to be corrected, Ms. January-Bevers moved to approve the Meeting Minutes, and Tom Douglas 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 Ms. Windham at rachel.windham@h-gac.com.

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**
On behalf of Erin Livingston, 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

- **Trash Bash 2024**

Kendall Guidroz shared highlights from the 30th annual River, Lakes, Bays 'n Bayous Trash Bash held on Saturday, March 23rd, 2024. More information can be found on the [website](#).

- **On-Site Sewage Facilities**

Bill Ervin gave an update on H-GAC's work with facilitating financial assistance to qualifying homeowners for the purpose of addressing failing on-site sewage facilities in the Houston-Galveston Area region.

- **Clean Rivers Program**

Todd Running gave an update on H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for May 28 and topics will include progress with the annual Basin Highlights Report, results of coordinated monitoring meetings, and watershed-based plans.

- **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Projects**

Steven Johnston gave an update on TMDL projects in the Houston-Galveston Area region and invited members to attend upcoming public meetings. More information can be found on the H-GAC [website](#).

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

On behalf of Andrea Tantillo, Ms. Windham shared that the PNA field trip to Chrysalis Lake in Bridgeland would take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 and invited everyone to attend. For additional information, visit the [PNA website](#).

- **Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs)**

Ms. 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 public meetings 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. Information on other 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).

- **Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP)**

Ms. Windham provided an overview of elements to be included in the annual update of the WQMP for the Houston-Galveston region. She shared the projected timeline for completion of the first draft,

submission for public comment, close of public comment, request of NRAC approval, request of H-GAC Board of Directors approval, and final submission. As the NRAC's approval of the draft WQMP will be requested at the August 1st meeting, Ms. Windham encouraged attendance at the next meeting to assure quorum.

Subcommittees

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

Ms. Windham shared that the 2024 WISE awards received nine applications and that the period for judging had been extended. Judges scores will be assessed and delivered to the NRAC for approval via email in mid-May. The 2024 WISE award ceremony is tentatively scheduled for July 2024. For additional information on this subcommittee and awards program, visit the [WISE award website](#).

Topic of the Day

Ashley Morgan-Olvera, Director of Research and Education/Outreach with the Texas Invasive Species Institute at Sam Houston State University, provided an overview of her work with the institute, how invasive species impact our natural resources, and how her program works with other partners to make a bigger impact.

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, August 1, 2024 from 1:30–3:30 p.m.**

Adjourn

Ms. January-Bevers adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.