



**SPRING MEETING
Summary**

**Tuesday, May 25, 2021
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Virtual ZOOM Meeting**

Members Present

Ralph Calvino, Jerry Caraviotis, Richard Chapin, Danielle Cioce, Charlotte Cisneros, Christine Cooper, Tom Douglas, Denise Ehrlich, Teague Harris, Andrew Isbell, Mac Martin, Scott Nichols, Becky Olive, Rachel Powers, Patrick Rightmyer, Linda Shead, Brian Schmaefsky, Shane Simpson, Michael Thornhill, , Scott Tuma

Sarah Bernhardt was represented by Paul Nelson
Catherine Elliot was represented by Robert Snoza
Carol LaBreche was represented by Lisa Montemayor
Michael Lee was represented by John Ellis

Members Absent

Ernest Bailes IV, Helen Lane, Cathy McCoy, Jack Murphy, Mitchell Page, Linda Pechacek, Jim Robertson, Scott Saenger, Leah Tarrant

Guests Present

Camila Biaggi, Faith Borak, Darla Branch, Rachel Craig, Rick Felan, Colleen Gilbert, Steve Hupp, Karen Kottke, Justin Klump, Jason Leifester, Avery Lewis, Celina Gauthier Lowry, Lisa Marshall, Carl Masterson, Mina McPhee, Jazmyn Milford, Jimmy Millican, Laura Patino, Tina Petersen, Sonia Phillips, Nicole Reed, Sarah Robinson, Liz Stone

H-GAC Staff

Daniel Albanese, Jessica Casillas, Kendall Guidroz, Steven Johnston, Todd Running, Andrea Tantillo, Rachel Windham, Jean Wright

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Mr. Steven Johnston of H-GAC welcomed all in attendance. Mr. Johnston provided instructions for features of the virtual meeting platform, Zoom. Mr. Johnston then proceeded to review the agenda with members of the BIG. Mr. Johnston asked if there were any changes or additions by

BIG members. Hearing no requests for changes and no call for discussion, the meeting proceeded.

Certification of Quorum

Mr. Johnston called role. Based on the number of BIG members and alternates in attendance, a quorum was certified.

Approval of the Proposed Members & Alternates

The BIG approved the following changes to the roster:

- New members proposed were as follows:
 - Robert Snoza, Harris County Flood Control (Urban County)
 - Sonia Phillips, City of League City (Small City)
 - Tina Petersen, Bayou Preservation Association (Conservation)
- New alternates were proposed as follows:
 - Robert Vega, Harris County Flood Control District (Urban County)
 - Steve Hupp, Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition (Conservation)

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

Approval of the December 1, 2020 Meeting Summary

BIG members unanimously approved the December 1, 2020 meeting summary without corrections.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Item One: I-Plan Revision Update

Mr. Johnston, H-GAC, provided an update on revising the BIG Implementation Plan. The topic included a review of actions and activities taken so far to revise the I-plan.

Mr. Johnston stated that the updated maps and data tables that would be included in the revision would focus on 2013 thru 2020 period. When and where possible, data comparisons will be made between the beginning implementation year, 2013, with that of 2020. The data and analysis will also look at AU and Segment level. The goal is to get the programmatic data analysis down to the AU level where the environmental analysis is generated. This will allow a more granular look at the data.

Mr. Johnston reviewed the upcoming timeline which focuses on work groups in July. Mr. Johnston noted that H-GAC had some staff turnover that has effect the data analysis output timing. This has delayed providing the draft plan to the BIG for review. The workgroups that meet in July will initiate the review of the plan and data. Any changes and comments will be incorporated before presenting the revised plan to the Coordination and Policy work group in

August. Following the Coordination and Policy workgroup review, the revised plan will then be provided to the BIG for a first reading in September. Comments will be taken and addressed prior to the Coordination and Policy workgroup review in early October. A second and final reading by the BIG will happen in October, should the Coordination and Policy feel it is appropriate. If the revision is in good order, the document will be presented at the Fall BIG meeting for approval.

Item Two: 2021 Annual Report Update

Mr. Johnston provided an update on the draft 2021 Annual Report. He noted that the delay with the data analysis mentioned under the Item 1 also has affected the timing of the Annual Report and the ability to present early data to the BIG. Mr. Johnston stated that he is asking for Success Stories to include in the report. Current Success Stories include:

- City of Houston Green Stormwater Program,
- Targeted Monitoring Projects, and
- Exploration Green.

Mr. Johnston reviewed the timeline with the BIG. He said it would follow a similar timeline with that of Item 1. BIG workgroups will meet in July. Initial data and content will be shared with the Coordination and Policy workgroup in August. A draft 2021 Annual Report will then be reviewed by the Coordination and Policy workgroup in early October.

Item Three: TMDL Program Updates

Mr. Jimmy Millican, Tarleton State University presented on new Total Maximum Daily Load efforts within the BIG and in the region – *“Status of Addition to Indicator Bacteria TMDLs in the Lake Houston Watershed.”* Mr. Millican reviewed the history of previous TMDLs developed within the Lake Houston watershed. The new TMDL project is for the Caney Creek assessment unit 1010_03. Flow duration curve/load duration curve approach is being used for the project. TCEQ Integrated Reports consistently show the waterbody above the contact recreation standard. Mr. Millican reviewed data analysis for the waterbody. He stated that the Technical Support Document would be completed in August and expect the TCEQ will use the document to develop an addendum to the state’s Water Quality Management Plan.

Item Four: Implementation Project Presentations (PDF versions available via H-GAC.com)

1. Ms. Laura Patino, City of Houston, will present on the city’s incentives for Green Stormwater Infrastructure program – *“Houston Green Infrastructure Program.”* Ms. Patino reviewed the program with the BIG. She noted the basis for the city to incentivize the use of green infrastructure. Specifically, she stated that for a resilient Houston, the city needed to encourage green infrastructure to assist the city’s handling of future storms and hurricanes, temperature increase, land use and urban sprawl, environmental degradation and poor water quality. The city has supported green infrastructure use in the past but is seeking greater private sector participation. The incentive program is looking at the following:
 - a. Property Tax Abatements,
 - b. Integrated GSI Development Rules,

- c. Award and Recognition Program, and
 - d. Increased Permitting Process.
2. Ms. Kendal Guidroz, H-GAC, will present on the Trash Free Texas project and provide an update on the Targeted Monitoring project with the Bayou Preservation Association – “*Targeted Monitoring and Trash Free Texas Updates.*” Ms. Guidroz provided a brief update to the Targeted Monitoring project with the Bayou Preservation Association. She said the initial phase of the project was completed late last year. This new phase is just getting under way. The Bayou Preservation Association has hired new interns for the project and will start early this summer. Mrs. Guidroz then reviewed the Trash Free Texas Project. H-GAC is collaborating with the North Texas Central Council of Governments on the project. She noted that the focus of the project is on organizations and communities adopting locations to pick up trash, working with restaurants to eliminate or limit single use plastics, and highlighting voluntary challenge to mayors encouraging trash free waters competition.
 3. Ms. Jenny Oakley, Environmental Institute of Houston, will present on the Targeted Monitoring project in the Houston-Galveston Area – “*Targeted Bacteria Monitoring in the Houston-Galveston Area.*” This was a video presentation as Ms. Oakley was unable to present at the meeting. Ms. Oakley’s video presentation highlighted the waterbodies that the university was sampling for H-GAC. They were seeking to identify potential sources of bacteria to report to local jurisdictions for potential correction. The university monitored nine watersheds from urban, suburban and rural areas. The surveys included a windshield survey and field reconnaissance to reveal a spatial snapshot of potential sources. Identified sources would then be followed up by monitoring to determine actual bacterial concentrations. The waterbodies studied included:
 - a. Bintliff Ditch,
 - b. Unnamed Tributary to White Oak Bayou,
 - c. Mimosa Ditch,
 - d. Unnamed Tributary to Greens Bayou,
 - e. Unnamed Tributary to Gum Bayou,
 - f. Mustang Bayou,
 - g. Robinson Bayou,
 - h. Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal, and
 - i. Cedar Creek.

Ms. Oakley stated that the sampling is wrapped up and they are documenting their findings and sharing with local jurisdictions. After sharing and follow up with the authorities, the university will conduct secondary investigations to see if any corrective actions have improved the levels of bacteria.

Item Five: Other Business/Roundtable

H-GAC provided a slide on upcoming meetings and workshops. Mr. Johnston encouraged attendees to add to the list of upcoming events.

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Adjourn

DRAFT