



**East and West Fork of the San Jacinto River (E&W) Bacteria
TMDL:
Workgroup Report**

Monitoring and Research

August 22, 2014

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I. **OVERVIEW**

Per Umbrella Contract 582-12-13254, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requested Public Outreach support from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) for E&W Bacteria TMDL project, with activities for all elements of Public Outreach including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Identifying and Reserving Facilities for Meetings and / or Events;
- Providing a Facilitator for Any Meetings (As Needed);
- Providing Support for Organizing and Advertising Meetings and / or Events;
- Distribution and Posting of Meeting Agenda(s);
- Preparation of Meeting and / or Event Summaries;
- Preparation of Printed or Other Presentation Materials in Support of a Meeting and / or Event;
- Use of the H-GAC Website for Posting Meeting and / or Event Information; and
- Any Other Necessary Support Activities.

On August 22, 2014 H-GAC facilitated the Monitoring and Research Workgroup meeting to review and discuss implementation plans, consider joining the BIG and discuss next steps.

II. **PURPOSE**

The water bodies included in this analysis are all within the Lake Houston watershed, which originates in Walker, San Jacinto and Grimes and run through Montgomery, Liberty, and Harris counties.

The Purpose of this workgroup meeting was to discuss the following:

1. Discuss the Process for Developing an I-Plan
2. Review Two Examples of I-Plans and One Watershed Protection Plan Specific for Subject Area
3. Discuss the Benefits and Challenges for Either Joining the BIG or Developing an I-Plan, and
4. Vote to Join the BIG or Develop an I-Plan
5. Discuss Next Steps.



III. **APPROACH**

Stakeholders who attended the previous work group meeting or showed interest in the work group were invited to participate in a Doodle Poll sent via email to identify the best date/time for the next meeting. Once the date and time were selected, the work group was notified via email to provide them with the meeting details. A second email was sent to remind the potential attendees of the upcoming meeting.

IV. **NOTIFICATION**

Notification of the workgroup meeting took place via phone and e-mail. Additionally, H-GAC posted the meeting details to the project webpage (<http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/san-jacinto-river-east-west-forks.aspx>).

V. **MATERIALS**

The following materials were made available for the meeting:

1. Sign-In Sheet(s)
2. Monitoring and Research Meeting Agenda
3. Monitoring and Research Meeting Summary (June 26, 2014)
4. Sections of the BIG I-Plan, Dickinson Bayou I-Plan, and Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan related to topic area.

VI. **MEETING SYNOPSIS**

Location

Houston Advanced Research Center
4800 Research Forest Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77381

When

Friday, August 22, 2014
10 AM – 12 PM



Attendees

NAME	ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED	ASSUMED COUNTY?
Brandt Mannchen	Houston Sierra Club	
Brian Shmaefsky	Lone Star College	
Tom Douglas	Galveston Bay Foundation	
Glenda Callaway	Self	Harris

To view the sign-in sheet in its entirety, please see Attachment A.

Meeting Outcomes:

- Group reviewed sample TMDL I-Plans and Watershed Protection Plans. Group discussed the need for protection strategies, particularly for riparian areas that is not currently a focus for the BIG. Need targeted monitoring in areas that are under surveyed like rural and agricultural producing areas to clarify bacteria contribution from the region. Additionally, there needs to be a one page summary document created to assist stakeholders in explaining the TMDL study and implementation plan strategy to affiliated organization and other stakeholders.
- Group discussed whether to join the BIG or to create a standalone I-Plan. While the group identified the need for expanded monitoring and additional research in undeveloped and agriculture producing areas of the watershed, the BIG I-Plan has strategies that recognize the need for additional monitoring for bacteria in areas where the source is poorly understood. Group recommended the need to develop a monitoring strategy for these areas. To assist with this element, the group recommended that either the Coordination Committee request a position on the BIG or that time be devoted during BIG meetings for rural issues.
- Additional areas of interest included using the Mitchell Property in the West Fork for access site for monitoring contributions from undeveloped land, early monitoring of areas prior to development to characterized bacteria contributions, and monitor the watershed to determine the level of recreational use.
- Group voted unanimously to recommend that the Coordination Committee vote to join the BIG.

**VII. NEXT MEETING
To Be Determined**