

MEETING SUMMARY
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 6, 2025

The November 6th 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 (14 voting, 5 advisory*):

Bill Balboa	Claudia Sandoval	Katie Wilson
Brian Koch	Deborah January-	Kelli Ondracek*
Brian Shmaefsky	Bevers	Latrice Babin
Brittani Flowers*	Gabriela Sosa*	Parul Pillai (for Scott
Christian Rines (for	Hien Pham	Jeansonne)
Lisa Marshall*)	Joe Garcia (for Cathy	Richard Zahn
Christopher	Rogers-McCoy)	Tom Douglas
Hunniford	Jin Ye*	
	Jonathan Holley	

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 (22 voting, 1 advisory*):

Andrew Isbell	Dennis Cote	Phyllis Frank
Adeel Malik	Ellis Pickett	Robert Pechukas
Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud	Glenda Callaway	Scott Saenger
Bob Stokes	Kelli Gallagher	Shane Porter
Carol Guess	Ken Barnadyn	Troy Harrison
Charles "Chuck" Rogers	Leroy Cerny	Upendra Sahu
Christina Moore	Mel Vargas	William Hajdik
Denae King	Mac Martin*	

Current Vacancies:

Current vacancies include:

- Power Generation or Transmission Utility

H-GAC Staff Present (7):

H-GAC staff present included Bill Ervin, Erin Livingston, Jenny Oakley, Jessica Casillas, Steven Johnston, Todd Running, and Rachel Windham.

Welcome and Roll Call

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 August 7th Meeting Minutes. Ms. January-Bevers moved to approve the May Meeting Minutes, and Latrice Babin seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

Membership

The majority of both county and NRAC appointed member terms have lapsed. Ms. Windham is coordinating with the governmental affairs department at H-GAC to coordinate county appointed positions. Two county appointed positions are currently vacant and will also require coordination with the governmental affairs department to be filled. Ms. Windham will reach out to current NRAC appointed members to assess interest in term renewal. One NRAC appointed position (Power Generation or Transmission Utility) also remains to be filled. H-GAC will reach out to internal contacts for leads. Other suggestions to fill vacancies or recommend replacements for current positions 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**
Ms. Windham spoke on behalf of Amanda Ashcroft to provide 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

- **Wastewater Workforce Initiatives**

Todd Running gave an update on progress with H-GAC's wastewater workforce initiative and the development of the initiative's website. More information can be found at <https://texaswatercareers.com/>.

- **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Projects**

Steven Johnston gave an update on TMDL and EPA 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](#).

- **Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs)**

Ms. Windham provided updates on projects including the Greens Bayou 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 the Brays and Sims Bayou watersheds in January. Lastly, Ms. Windham shared that H-GAC received the contract for WPP development in the Lake Conroe watershed.

Information on WPP projects can be found on H-GAC's watershed-based plan [project website](#), and more information can be provided by Ms. Windham (rachel.windham@h-gac.com).

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

Andrea Tantillo shared information on activities and updates from the PNA roundtable including at timeline for the Parks and Natural Areas Awards judging. The next field trip will be held in Kemah on December 10, 2025. For additional information, visit the [PNA website](#).

- **Post-Flood Monitoring Discussion**

Jenny Oakley led a discussion seeking input and information from committee members about needs and existing resources for capturing data after flooding events.

Subcommittees

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

Ms. Windham shared the finalists selected by the judges and briefly described their projects. The awards ceremony will be held in late September. For additional information on this subcommittee and awards program, visit the [WISE award website](#).

Topic of the Day

Ms. Windham led a discussion with NRAC members to discuss ways to improve the impact and appeal of the committee for future meetings. Participants shared the following comments and ideas:

- Meetings may be better attended if shorter.
 - To save time, meeting content could be summarized in the agenda for attendees to review prior to the meeting in order to be better informed.
 - Where possible, include visuals as attachments to the agenda.
- Members are especially interested in hearing about funding sources.
 - H-GAC can coordinate a discussion with the newly established grant coordination program to explain how H-GAC can assist small member governments with funding development.
- Engagement may improve with regular NRAC member spotlights.
 - If there is concern about the meeting going long with this addition, a written spotlight included in the agenda may also work.
- In person attendance may improve if the hybrid option is removed for select meetings.
 - Consider holding two hybrid meetings and two in person only meetings each year.
- Members suggested including features of previous WISE award winners.
 - If possible, consider field trips to winners' sites.
- To better prepare for the discussion of the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) that the committee is tasked with reviewing each summer to approve for recommendation to the H-GAC Board of Directors, members suggested section spotlights.
 - Brief overview of important points regarding things like discharge monitoring report analysis, importance and causes of sanitary sewer overflows, etc.
 - Highlight any changes that will take place between the current draft and drafts in previous years.

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, February 5, 2026 from 1:30–3:30 p.m.**

Adjourn

Ms. January-Bevers adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.