

# Brazos – Colorado Coastal Basin: Public Outreach Report

# **Basin 13 Leadership Forum**

March 21, 2019

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# I. <u>OVERVIEW</u>

Per Umbrella Contract 582-18-81222, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requested Public Outreach support from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) for Basin 13, 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 March 21, 2019 (Basin 13 Leadership Forum #1), H-GAC conducted a meeting for Basin 13 to review water quality and other bacteria related source data and watershed-based planning in the basin with elected officials, county and city staff and permittees.

## II. <u>PURPOSE</u>

The water body discussed during the meeting was the watersheds of Basin 13, including Caney Creek, a small coastal watershed which originates in southeast Wharton County and traverses Matagorda County. Linville Bayou is a small tributary to Caney Creek and serves as a portion of the border between Matagorda and Brazoria County before joining Caney Creek Tidal and traveling the final path before entering the Gulf of Mexico by way of the Gulf Coast Intracoastal Waterway and East Matagorda Bay.

The Purpose of this meeting was to discuss the following:

- 1. Review the need to host a Leadership Forum,
- 2. Present water quality data and management opportunities,
- 3. Review what is happening in Caney Creek to address impairments, and



4. Discuss how to coordinate implementation across the basin.

#### III. APPROACH and NOTIFICATION

A list of elected officials, county and city staff and permittees was assembled. Meeting announcement letters were sent out with a brief onepage basin summary included. Personal email and/or phone calls were carried out with select stakeholders form the Caney and Linnville Bayou watershed to encourage attendance.

### IV. <u>MATERIALS</u>

The following materials were made available for the meeting:

- 1. Sign-In Sheet(s)
- 2. Copies of relevant approved watershed-based plans
- 3. NPS Success One-Page Success Stories

### V. <u>MEETING SYNOPSIS</u>

Location Wharton City Civic Center 1924 N Fulton St. Wharton, TX 77488

When Thursday, March 21, 2019 10 AM – 12 PM



### Attendees

NAME	ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED	ASSUMED COUNTY?
Richard Zahn	Wharton County	Wharton
Kent Pollard	Matagorda County Commissioner	Matagorda
Audrey Scearce	City of East Bernard	Wharton
Marvin Holub	Mayor, City of East Bernard	Wharton
Royce Macha	City of Eagle Lake	Colorado
Mark Pulos	City of Sealy	Austin
Gwyneth Teves	City of Wharton	Wharton
Phillip Spenrath	Wharton County Commissioner	Wharton
Kathy Janhsen	H-GAC	Harris
Jeff Taebel	H-GAC	Harris
Jason Leifester	TCEQ	Travis

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



#### **Meeting Summary**

Mr. Jeff Taebel from H-GAC provided opening remarks and asked for introductions. Ms. Kathy Janhsen from H-GAC reviewed the meeting agenda and set the meetings goals. Mr. Steven Johnston from H-GAC provided a presentation that provided a review of Basin 13 water quality impairments, presented watershed-based planning initiative in the basin, including the San Bernard Watershed Protection Plan and efforts that have begun in Caney Creek and Linnville Bayou. Mr. Johnston also reviewed implementation management measures that are used typically to address bacteria impairments. Ms. Janhsen the facilitated a discussion on what the Leadership Forum could do to support watershed-based planning in the six counties that make up Basin 13 and asked attendees what that thought they could get out of participating in future meetings. The group particularly discussed how to address failing onsite sewage facilities. Participants left the impression that future Forums could be a benefit for the area.

#### VI. <u>NEXT MEETING</u>

To Be Determined.