



SPRING MEETING Agenda

**Tuesday, June 3, 2025
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

(Note: This is a hybrid meeting. Participation can be in-person at H-GAC, 3555 Timmons Lane 2nd Floor, Houston TX, 77072 or virtual. Instructions to attend this meeting in-person or virtual via ZOOM can be found at the bottom of this Agenda)

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Welcome by H-GAC

Introductions of BIG members & staff

Review Agenda. Each agenda item shall provide time for discussion by the BIG followed by comments from the audience.

Certification of Quorum

Approval of the Proposed Members & Alternates

BIG members will review the Bacteria Implementation Group Roster and approve as appropriate.

Approval of the October 29, 2024, Meeting Summary

BIG members will review, comment, and approve as appropriate.

Public Comment

The public may sign up at the beginning of the meeting to make an informal comment of no more than three minutes.

Item One: I-Plan Revision Update

H-GAC staff will provide an update on revising the BIG Implementation Plan.

Item Two: 2024 Draft Annual Report

H-GAC staff will review the draft 2024 Annual Report. BIG members will review and comment as appropriate.

Item Three: 2025 Annual Report Update

H-GAC staff will review acquisition of 2024 implementation data and progress on the 2025 Annual Report.

Item Four: TMDL Program Updates

Ms. Sophia Staska, TCEQ TMDL Program, will provide an update to ongoing TMDLs within the BIG project area.

Item Five: Texas Watershed Coordinators Roundtable (May 20th) Report Out

Members that attended the roundtable will report out on information presented and the BIG will have the opportunity to discuss.

Item Six: Green Infrastructure for Texas (GIFT)

Mr. Michael Niebuhr, Green Infrastructure Program Coordinator, Texas Community Watershed Partnership, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Item Seven: Implementation Projects**Partner Spotlight**

None

H-GAC Projects

Mr. Cornell Evans and Ms. Erica Underwood – will provide a review of targeted monitoring in 2025.

Dr. Jenny Oakley – will provide a review of the Basin Highlights Report and the Luce Bayou watershed.

Item Eight: Other Business/Roundtable

As time permits, H-GAC, BIG members, and stakeholders are encouraged to discuss implementation activities, related projects, and announcements.

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Adjourn

BIG Meeting Hybrid Meeting instructions: *(You must Register for the meeting to participate.)*

In-Person and Virtual: Please register in advance for this meeting:

Register at [Bacteria Implementation Group Meeting Materials | Houston-Galveston Area Council \(H-GAC\)](#)

BIG Roster: 06/03/2025

First	Last	Representing	Organization	Alternate1	Alternate 2
Lauren	Boggs	Urban County	Harris County	Jeff Lu	
Roger	Brookes**	Rural Small City	City of Cleveland	Cody Arnold**	
Ralph	Calvino	Business / Industry	Terracon	Libby Decker	Paola Belloni
Jesuina	Chipindula	Large City	City of Houston	Lam Tran	
Gordon	Cranner**	Utility District	Schwartz, Page, & Harding, LLP	Mitchell Page**	
Tom	Douglas	Conservation	Houston Sierra Club	Jim Williams	
Colleen	Gilbert	Conservation	Greens Bayou Coalition	Robert Fiederlein	
Teague	Harris	Utility District	IDS Engineering		
Sam	Hill	Agriculture	Texas Forest Service	Julia Schmidt	
Andrew	Isbell	Rural County	Walker County		
Courtney	Klaus**	Urban County	Harris County Pollution Control Services	Nuguent Cotton	Wade Guy**
Michael	Lee	Resource Agency / Academia	US Geological Survey	Zulimar Lucena	Jonathan D. Mills
Lisa	Montemayor	Large City	City of Houston	Forrest Hartmann	
Paul	Nelson	Conservation	Bayou Preservation Association	Rose Sobel	Brittani Flowers
Keith	Miles**	Rural County	Montgomery County	Leeanne Kincer**	
Becky	Olive	Business / Industry	AECOM	Karen Kottke	
Linda	Pechacek	Public	Citizen, Civil Engineer	Tom Douglas	
Sonia	Phillips	Small City	City of League City	Jody Hooks	
Jim	Robertson	Conservation	Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition	Steve Hupp	
Christine	Santiny	Small City	City of Conroe	Greg Hall	
Jamie	Shakar	Large City	City of Houston	Desta Takie	
Linda	Shead	Conservation	Texas Coastal Partners	Carl Masterson	
Brian	Shmaefsky	Resource Agency / Academia	Lone Star College, Kingwood		
Shane	Simpson	Business / Industry	San Jacinto River Authority	Aaron Schindewolf	
Robert	Snoza	Urban County	Harris County Flood Control District	Avery Lewis	
Liz	Stone	Business / Industry	Quiddity Engineering	Camila Biaggi	Arnelle Gonzalez**
Michael	Thornhill	Utility District	SI Environmental	Matt Carpenter	
Scott	Tuma	Business / Industry (Boating)	Boater		
Joanna	Wilson	Business / Industry	Gulf Coast Authority	Shaun Austin	
Natasha	Zarnstorff	Conservation	Galveston Bay Foundation	Haile Leija	Rachel Thorne**
Vacant		Recreation			
Vacant		Agriculture			
Vacant		Agriculture (County)			
**Apon approval of the BIG					

Line 33 Working on AgriLife Extension - Montgomery County



FALL MEETING Summary

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

In-person and Virtual (ZOOM) Meeting

Members Present¹

Lauren Boggs, Ralph Calvino, Jesuina Chipindula, Tom Douglas, Colleen Gilbert, Sam Hill, Lisa Montemayor, Paul Nelson, Becky Olive, Linda Pechacek, Christine Santiny, Jamie Shakar, Linda Shead, Brian Shmaefsky, Shane Simpson, Robert Snoza, Liz Stone, Natasha Zarnstorff

Michael Lee was represented by Jonathan Mills

Jim Robertson was represented by Steve Hupp

Members Absent

Chris Baecke, Teague Harris, Andrew Isbell, Michael Lee, Scott Nichols, Mitchell Page, Sonia Phillips, Jim Robertson, Michael Thornhill, Scott Tuma, Jo Wilson

Guests Present

Rodger Brooks, Danielle Cioce, Sergio Cisneros, Eric Combs, Robert Fiederlein, Larry Goldberg, Arnelle Gonzalez, Forrest Hartmann, Jonathan Holley, Steve Hupp, Karen Kottke, Avery Lewis, Jeff Lu, Lisa Marshall, Joseph Majdalani, Daniela Mejia, Jonathan Mills, Paul Nguyen, Daniel Oefner, Jason Pinchback, Nicole Reed, Herman Rogers, Pat Shevlin, Darryl Tate, Roshan Thapa, Aby Varghese

H-GAC Staff

Jessica Casillas, Jacob Eckhardt, Cornell Evans, Steven Johnston, Todd Running, Andrea Tantillo, Rachel Windham, Daniel Yoo

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Mr. Steven Johnston of H-GAC welcomed all in attendance.

¹ BIG attendance attached.

Mr. Johnston reviewed the agenda with members of the BIG. He asked if there were any changes or additions to the Agenda by BIG members. Hearing no requests for changes and no call for discussion, the meeting proceeded.

Certification of Quorum

Mr. Johnston called roll. The number of BIG members and alternates in attendance sufficed and a quorum was certified.

Approval of the Proposed Members & Alternates

The BIG was asked to consider the following changes to the roster:

- New members proposed were as follows:
 - No new members were reviewed.
- New alternates proposed were as follows:
 - Avery Lewis, Harris County Flood Control District (Large County)

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

Approval of the June 11, 2024, Meeting Summary

The BIG was asked to consider the June meeting summary. The BIG discussed minor edits to the summary. The June 11, 2024 meeting summary was approved.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Item One: Review BIG Ground Rules Revision

The revised ground rules were provided to the BIG. Mr. Johnston reviewed the reason for the revisions. The revisions were a result of the Coordination and Policy work groups review of memberships and the BIG makeup. The BIG reviewed the changes to the ground rules and approved them.

Item Two: I-Plan Update

Mr. Johnston provided an update on I-Plan revision. He noted that he has not made much progress. He will coordinate with the BIG and its work groups to move this item forward.

Item Three: 2023 Annual Report

The document was provided to the BIG. Mr. Johnston reviewed the draft 2023 Annual Report and noted the changes since the document was last reviewed by the BIG. He stated that the document was reviewed by the Coordination and Policy work group and no additional edits were put forward. The annual report was approved.

Item Four: 2024 Draft Annual Report

Mr. Johnston reviewed progress in gathering implementation data for the 2024 report. He noted that H-GAC had completed the annual data analysis. He mentioned that there was still a need to identify implementation success stories and other related information. Current potential stories include targeted monitoring efforts and a green infrastructure efficacy study.

Item Five: TMDL Updates

Ms. Daniela Mejia, TCEQ TMDL Program, provided the update. She stated H-GAC is collecting new water quality data within the Tarkington and Luce Bayou watersheds. The project is in response to a new contact recreation 303(d) listing for Tarkington Bayou.

Item Six: Pathogen Indicator Workshop

Mr. Johnston announced the upcoming Pathogen Indicator Workshop scheduled for November 20, 2024, at H-GAC. He reviewed the draft agenda and speakers slated to present. Mr. Johnston offered members the opportunity to discuss the workshop.

Item Seven: Implementation Project Presentations

Three presentations were given to the BIG.

Partners Spotlight: City of Houston – Dr. Joseph Majdalani, P.E., Dan Oefner, P.E., and Lisa Montemayor

Dr. Joseph Majdalani began the presentation titled – “Houston is Investing in Wastewater Infrastructure – Wastewater Consent Decree Update.” The City of Houston’s separate sanitary sewer system is the largest and most complicated system in the nation. It operates 38 wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) treating 564 million gallons per day. Additionally, there are two wet weather facilities. With these facilities comes 374 lift stations, 5,791 miles of gravity sewer, 304 miles of force mains, 134,772 manholes and 500,000 service connections. With this infrastructure comes many challenges to its efficiency from unstable soils, high precipitation, and minimal topography to backlot sewers, substandard pipe depth and slope, and structure locations within the floodplain. These challenges increase the likelihood of failures.

The city and the EPA initiated the consent decree process in 2010, with the court approval of the decree entered in 2021 between the parties. The city is in year four of implementing the decree with a target of 2036 for fulfillment.

The plan includes:

- Upgrading and improving the wastewater collection and treatment system
- Fix aging infrastructure
- Early action projects
- Capacity Assessment and Remediation
- Capacity Maintenance Operations and Maintenance (CMOM)
- Advanced Sewer System Monitoring

Some key implementation features include piloting new treatment technologies to address wet weather flow treatment and installing 3,000 new “smart” manhole monitors. Results from these two initiatives prevented 665 sanitary sewer overflows and 41% reduction in dry weather overflows on gravity mains. The results include savings to the city through fewer inspections and avoided cleanup actions realizing nearly \$500 thousand in savings.

Challenges remain, particularly with the number of private laterals that are beyond direct management. Additional challenges include workforce shortages, supply chain disruptions, and lines that run through private property where access is difficult.

H-GAC Staff Presentations

Green Infrastructure Project

Ms. Jessica Casillas presented the project. Ms. Casillas noted that the project was funded through a grant given by the Galveston Bay Estuary Program. The goal of the project was to review efficacy data from local green infrastructure project within the context of other state and national datasets. She reviewed the available data from local projects and sources of state and national, including journal articles. A database was created, and the data analyzed. It was noted that while there were many projects to evaluate, when parsed into the actual treatment feature, the sparsity of data manifested. Ms. Casillas presented graphical results of the treatments analyzed. While the data was sparse, it was still clear that green infrastructure practices at the local level performed like their counterparts outside the region.

Recommendations included the need for more efficacy data from local projects and addition focus on constructed wetlands, floating wetlands, and multi-practice treatment practices.

Watershed Protection Plans (WPP)

Mr. Cornell Evans reported on the status of watershed protection plan (WPP) development and implementation within the BIG project area. He noted that the Clear Creek WPP was complete through the public comment period and has been handed off to the TCEQ for final review and eventual submittal to the EPA. The draft East Fork of the San Jacinto River WPP has completed the public review and comment and was submitted to the TCEQ. Mr. Evans said that H-GAC, through TCEQ Non-Point Source 319 funding, is implementing the Lake Creek/San Jacinto River, Spring Creek, and Cypress Creek WPPs. Staff is currently working with stakeholders to implement management strategies within each WPP. Mr. Evans said H-GAC is completing a QAPP and will begin work on the Greens Bayou WPP. He wrapped up noting that H-GAC is working on a contract for a new 319 funded watershed protection project on Brays and Sims Bayou.

Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence (WISE) Awards Program

Ms. Rachel Windham gave the update of the program. Eligible entities include: local governments, business & industry, non-profits organizations, universities and educational institutions, utility districts, and individual. There are seven categories:

1. Policy and Planning
2. Education and Public Awareness
3. Completed Effort (>\$200K)
4. Completed Effort (<200K)
5. Research and Monitoring
6. Program Performance
7. Individual Excellence

Ms. Windham provide a run down of all of the seven winners for 2024, and two recognitions.

Item Eight: 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, June 3, 2025

DRAFT



Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable

May 20, 2025 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Texas A&M University Hildebrand Equine Center
3240 F&B Rd, College Station, TX 77845

- 8:30 a.m.** **Event Sign In**
- 9:00 a.m.** **Welcome, Introductions and Roundtable Overview**
- Lucas Gregory, *Associate Director, TWRI*
- 9:15 a.m.** **Setting the Stage: History of the Texas Bacteria TMDL Task Force**
- Lucas Gregory, *Associate Director, TWRI*
- 9:30 a.m.** **Microbial Source Tracking: State of the Science, Approaches and Applications in Texas**
- Terry Gentry, *Professor, Department of Soil & Crop Sciences – Texas A&M University*
- 10:30 a.m.** **Networking Break**
- 11:00 am** **MST and Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessments in Texas**
- Anna Gitter, *Assistant Professor, Env. & Occupational Health Sciences – UT Health*
- 11:45 a.m.** **Networking Lunch Break**
- 12:45 p.m.** **MST Marker and QMRA Applications to Inform Local Water Quality Standards**
- Jeff Soller, *Founder and Principal Scientist, Soller Environmental LLC*
- 2:00 p.m.** **Networking Break**
- 2:15 p.m.** **Panel Discussion on Managing Risks In Recreational Waters**
- Terry Gentry, *Professor, Department of Soil & Crop Sciences – Texas A&M University*
- Anna Gitter, *Assistant Professor, Env. & Occupational Health Sciences – UT Health*
- Jeff Soller, *Founder and Principal Scientist, Soller Environmental LLC*
- Jason Pinchback, *Water Resources Manager, Texas General Land Office*
- 3:30 p.m.** **Brief Agency Updates**
- EPA, TCEQ, TSSWCB
- 3:50 p.m.** **Wrap-Up & Program Evaluation**
- Next Roundtable – Fall 2025

The Texas Watershed Planning Program is managed by the [Texas Water Resources Institute](#) and is funded through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.