

Meeting Summary Notes  
**H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program**  
**Basin Steering Committee Meeting**  
 Hybrid (remote participation via MicrosoftTeams)  
 Tuesday, April 7, 2026

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Basin Steering Committee (BSC) met Tuesday, April 7, 2026. The meeting was hybrid with in-person attendance in the Bumblebee Conference Room at the Houston Galveston Area Council's offices at 3555 Timmons Ln, Houston, TX 77027. Remote attendance was facilitated via the Microsoft Teams virtual meeting platform. Jenny Oakley, Water Resources Senior Planner, conducted the meeting. Todd Running, Erica Underwood, and Kendall Guidroz helped to facilitate the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

**Attendance List:**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
In-Person	Jessie Casillas	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Jesuina Chipindula	City of Houston
	Cornell Evans	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Celina Gauthier Lowry	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
	Mandi Gordon	University of Houston-Clear Lake
	Kendall Guidroz	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Tony Neri	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Jenny Oakley	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Melanie Rogers	University of Houston-Clear Lake
	Erica Underwood	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Natasha Zarnstorff	Galveston Bay Foundation
Remote	Amanda Ashcroft	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Bill Balboa	Matagorda Bay Foundation
	Ida Battise-Sepeda	Waller County
	Ashley Bennis	Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies
	Todd Burrer	Inframark
	Colt Christian	Walker County
	Eric Combs	City of League City
	Terri Dedhia	Texas Department of Transportation
	Bill Ervin	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Brittani Flowers	Bayou Preservation Association, Inc.
	George Guillen	University of Houston-Clear Lake
	Tiffany Harrison	Eastex Environmental Laboratory
	Morgan Henske	Harris County
	Ericka Jackson	Harris County
	Kari Jordan	Eastex Environmental Laboratory
	Courtney Klaus	Harris County
	Kelley Kowal	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
	Jeff Lu	Harris County
	Lisa Marshall	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Rick Masters	City of Pasadena
	Jessica McKeehan	Texas General Land Office
	Geoffery McKeel	Harris County
	Michael Morfin	City of Houston
Ashley Morgan-Olvera	Sam Houston State University	
Jack Newton	San Jacinto River Authority	

Attendance	Name	Affiliation
	Tiernan Pytlak	Bayou Preservation Association
	Christian Rines	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Todd Running	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Brian Shmaefsky	Lone Star College
	Shane Simpson	San Jacinto River Authority
	Desta Takie	City of Houston
	Scott Tuma	City of League City
	Jenna Wadman	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Katie Wilson	Galveston County Health District
	Rachel Windham	Houston-Galveston Area Council

Presentation available at: <https://www.h-gac.com/clean-rivers-program/committees>

### **Meeting Agenda**

Welcome and Introductions  
Public Comment  
CRP Basin Steering Committee Objectives & Membership  
Coordinated Monitoring Meeting Summary  
Water Resources Information Map  
Group Discussion-Monitoring Needs  
Draft Basin Highlights Report  
Other Business and Upcoming Events

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Todd Running, opened the meeting at 10:00 AM with a welcome and gave a brief outline of the agenda for the meeting. Jenny Oakley (Host/Facilitator) then gave instructions on how the meeting would be conducted, and how individuals could ask questions and participate. Oakley conducted a roll call for in-person participants. Erica Underwood (hybrid meeting facilitator) conducted a roll call for those who were visible in the meeting's Teams participant window.

### **Public Comment**

Oakley asked if there were any public comments, there were none.

### **CRP Basin Steering Committee Objectives and Membership**

Jenny Oakley, conducted a poll of the participants to see how many in attendance were participating in their first basin steering committee meeting. Twelve people were attending for the first time. Due to the number of new members Oakley started the meeting with a brief introduction to the Clean Rivers Program, the objectives of the basin steering committee and the membership structure of the committee. Oakley also mentioned that a follow-up survey will be sent to all committee members after this meeting, which will provide an opportunity for members to recommend anyone that may be interested in serving the committee, with emphasis in one of the underrepresented categories of membership.

### **Coordinated Monitoring Meetings Summary**

Jenny Oakley introduced the coordinated meeting schedule, discussed the mechanisms that inform the schedule, and provided a brief summary of the annual Coordinated Monitoring Meetings which were held on March 9-10, 2026.

Dr. George Guillen asked if interest had been expressed in using H-GAC population growth forecasts to determine if areas projected to see growth need to have more monitoring, suggesting it could be useful. Oakley and Running mentioned some examples of how H-GAC uses the population growth forecasts within the Water Resources department.

### **Water Resources Information Map**

Jenny Oakley provided a brief summary and demonstration of the updated Water Resources Information Map (WRIM) data dashboard to the committee. The WRIM was utilized to support the group discussion. Jenny also noted that presentations on the WRIM can be provided to interested stakeholder groups.

Desta Takie asked if a mobile app version is available for public use. Oakley replied that the WRIM is not currently optimized for mobile device viewing, so it is not recommended at this time, and there is not an app version.

Kari Jordan asked if the data used in the WRIM is available for the general public to download. Oakley replied that the data are available publicly and can be downloaded from the CRP website. However, there is a delay as all data are sourced from the state and are only added after going through the entire review process. The data can also be confusing when downloaded, so if a specific data need exists, you can contact the H-GAC data manager, Jessica Casillas for assistance.

### **Group Discussion**

A request was made for committee members to share any water quality or monitoring concerns they have within the region to be considered for additional monitoring within the next fiscal year. Oakley also mentioned that H-GAC is always looking for opportunities to get the word out about the Clean Rivers Program, and if members have engagement events, or collaboration opportunities to keep us in mind.

Dr. Geroge Guillen asked if there are currently any plans at the state-level to add new parameters of interest, such as microplastics. Oakley replied that no plans are known at the state-level to develop standards for microplastics nor plans roll out large-scale monitoring, but local special projects are in development. H-GAC will be partnering with Harris County Flood Control District and University of Houston Clear-Lake to investigate microplastic loading and impacts of nature-based stormwater infrastructure on capturing microplastics. Additionally, efforts are being made to increase the sites that collect TKN data so Total Nitrogen can be determined, ensuring data are available when the state finalizes nutrient criteria.

Natasha Zarnstorff at Galveston Bay Foundation shared that they have received reports from community members about Pine Gully in Seabrook. A new treatment plant upstream was added and residents have noted the water has been much more green lately. There is a Region 12 site on Pine Gully at Toddville Rd, but the data on the WRIM right now only goes to July 2025, and the plant came online January 2025.

Jenny Oakley shared that the City of Houston Regulatory Compliance Utility Development team noticed high conductivity readings for a prolonged period on Stewart's Creek and were able to identify a source as a new permitted outfall. A data review followed that also showed an increase in nutrient parameters. It was noted that due to a lack of nutrient standards, the plants are not permitted for specific nutrient parameters.

Dr. George Guillen asked if there was any monitoring around the proposed desalination plant. Two Texas Stream Team sites seem to bracket the location, and a Region 12 bay site is located nearby.

Mandi Gordon shared that stakeholders in Bastrop Bayou are concerned about a proposed treatment plant and desalination plant and there is interest in knowing how they can access the water quality data themselves. H-GAC staff mentioned that a Watershed-protection plan was completed for Bastrop Bayou in 2016. Celina Gauthier also mentioned that Bastrop Bayou watershed is included in the Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds.

Scott Tuma noted that the Region 12 bay site discussed near the desalination plant is also near a new oyster reef off Bacliff. Mandi Gordon noted that TPWD also collects data from near this site when they check on the oysters, but they do not collect nutrients or bacteria, and often collect near the bottom to pair the data with the oysters.

### **Draft Basin Highlights Report**

Jenny Oakley presented on the 2026 Draft Basin Highlights Report, a watershed characterization of the Brays and Sims Bayou Watersheds. A map of the watersheds was provided, the 2026 Frog Chart was displayed and discussed, and the report's contents were summarized. The draft report will be shared with all committee members for review and comments following the meeting.

Cornell Evans shared an update on the status of the Brays and Sims Bayou Watershed Protection Plan process currently underway.

### **Upcoming Events and Announcements**

Jenny Oakley presented on several upcoming meetings and events including:

- Next CRP Regional Water Quality Monitoring Meeting – Tuesday June 9, 2026 from 10-12 – remote (Microsoft Teams).
- June 30, 2026 Basin Highlights Report Story Map will be published. <https://www.h-gac.com/clean-rivers-program/basin-highlights-summary-reports>

- Our next CRP Basin Steering Committee meeting will be held in early 2027
- Legislative Appropriations Request
- New project “Microplastics in major Houston watersheds and treatment efficiency of Nature-based stormwater infrastructure to remove microplastics” funded by the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), began in November 2025.
- New project “How’s the Water” funded by (GBEP), estimated to begin in September 2026.
- Regional Flood Management Committee (RFMC) quarterly meeting, Wednesday April 15 from 1:30-3:30 at H-GAC (Hybrid)
- Brays and Sims Bayou Watershed Partnership Meeting, Wednesday April 15 from 5-7PM at the Johnson Neighborhood Library (Hybrid)
- Natural Resource Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday May 7 from 1:30-3:30PM at H-GAC (Hybrid)
- Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds Meeting – Tuesday May 12 from 10:00-11:30 at Galv. County Extension Office, La Marque, TX (In-person)
- Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) Spring Meeting – Tuesday June 2 from 1:30-3:30 at H-GAC (Hybrid)

Several committee members also mentioned upcoming events verbally or in the chat.

Contact information was provided for Todd Running, Jenny Oakley, and Jessie Casillas, H-GAC Senior Planner and CRP Data Manager.

Jenny Oakley closed the meeting with a request for any additional questions or comments. There were none.

### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 AM.