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## **FALL MEETING Agenda**

**Tuesday, October 28, 2025  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

***(Note: This is a hybrid meeting. Participation can be in-person at H-GAC, 3555 Timmons Lane 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 June 3, 2025, 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 Update**

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

**Item Five: New Microbial Source Tracking Methods**

Dr. Michael LaMontagne, University of Houston at Clear Lake

**Item Six: Implementation Projects****Partner Spotlight**

Ms. Sam Hill, Texas A&M Forest Service

**H-GAC Projects**

Ms. Jessica Casillas – Watershed Delineation in Support of the BIG

Ms. Rachel Windham – WISE Awards 2025

Mr. Todd Running – Wastewater Operators Training and Employment Website

**Item Seven: 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, June 2, 2026

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: 10/28/2025

| First                      | Last       | Representing                  | Organization                             | Alternate1        | Alternate 2       |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Morgan                     | Henske**   | 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 |
| Keith                      | Miles      | Rural County                  | Montgomery County                        | Leeanne Kincer    |                   |
| Lisa                       | Montemayor | Large City                    | City of Houston                          | Forrest Hartmann  |                   |
| Bob                        | Naeger     | Recreation                    | Houston Canoe Club                       |                   |                   |
| Paul                       | Nelson     | Conservation                  | Bayou Preservation Association           | Rose Sobel        | Brittani Flowers  |
| Becky                      | Olive      | Business / Industry           | AECOM                                    | Karen Kottke      |                   |
| Linda                      | Pechacek   | Public                        | Citizen, Civil Engineer                  | Tom Douglas       |                   |
|                            |            | 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       | Sergio Cisneros** |
| 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                     |            | Agriculture                   |                                          |                   |                   |
| Vacant                     |            | Agriculture (County)          |                                          |                   |                   |
| **Apon approval of the BIG |            |                               |                                          |                   |                   |

Line 33 Working on AgriLife Extension - Montgomery County



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## **SPRING MEETING Summary**

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

**In-person and Virtual (ZOOM) Meeting**

### **Members Present<sup>1</sup>**

Lauren Boggs, Jesuina Chipindula, Tom Douglas, Colleen Gilbert, Sam Hill, Lisa Montemayor, Scott Nichols, Becky Olive, Linda Pechacek, Jim Robertson, Linda Shead, Brian Shmaefsky, Robert Snoza, Liz Stone, Michael Thornhill, Scott Tuma, Natasha Zarnstorff

Ralph Calvino was represented by Paola Belloni  
Harris County was represented by Nuguent Cotton  
Michael Lee was represented by Jonathan Mills  
Paul Nelson was represented by Rose Sobel  
Jamie Shakar was represented by Desta Takie

### **Members Absent**

Ralph Calvino, Teague Harris, Andrew Isbell, Michael Lee, Paul Nelson, Christine Santiny, Jamie Shakar, Shane Simpson, Jo Wilson

### **Guests Present**

Angela Albright, Cody Arnold, Alyana Baptiste, Paola Belloni, Rodger Brooks, Nuguent Cotton, Gordon Cranner, Jessica Esclovon, Robert Fiederlein, Brittani Flowers, Arnelle Gonzalez, Forrest Hartmann, Jonathan Holley, Isham Khan, Lianne Kincer, Courtney Klaus, Avery Lewis, Jeff Lu, Lisa Marshall, Keith Miles, Jonathan Mills, Jazmyn Milford, Bob Naeger, Michael Niebuhr, Patrick Rightmyer, Megan Rose, Pat Shevlin, Rose Sobel, Abigail Stanhouse, Sophia Staska, Desta Takie, Rachel Thorne, Katie Wilson, David Villarreal

### **H-GAC Staff**

Jessica Casillas, Jacob Eckhardt, Bill Ervin, Cornell Evans Jr., Kendall Guidroz, Steven Johnston, Jenny Oakley, Erica Underwood, Rachel Windham, Daniel Yoo

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<sup>1</sup> BIG Meeting attendance attached.

## **Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions**

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

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:
  - Roger Brookes, City of Cleveland (Rural Small City)
  - Gordon Cranner, Schwartz, Page & Harding (Utility Districts)
  - Courtney Klaus, Harris County Pollution Control Services (Urban County)
  - Keith Miles, Montgomery County (Rural County)
- New alternates proposed were as follows:
  - Cody Arnold, City of Cleveland (Rural Small City)
  - Mitchell Page, Schwartz, Page & Harding (Utility Districts)
  - Arnelle Gonzalez, Quiddity Engineering (Business/Industry)
  - Rachel Thorne, Galveston Bay Foundation (Conservation)
  - Leeanne Kincer, Montgomery County – Environmental Health Services (Rural County)

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

## **Approval of the October 29, 2024, Meeting Summary**

The BIG was asked to consider the October meeting summary. The BIG discussed reviewed the summary. The October 29, 2024, meeting summary was approved.

## **Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

## **Item One: I-Plan Update**

Mr. Johnston reviewed progress to date. He noted that the work groups would be scheduled in July and August. The groups will be asked for final edits and comments. The document will then be reviewed by the Coordination and Policy work group for final review.

## **Item Two: 2024 Annual Report**

Mr. Johnston reviewed progress the 2024 report. He mentioned that he still needed input from the BIG, to identify implementation success stories and other related information. Current

potential stories include targeted monitoring efforts and a green infrastructure efficacy study. The work groups will be asked to provide additional information for the report.

### **Item Three: 2025 Annual Report**

Mr. Johnston reviewed progress in gathering implementation data for the 2025 report. He noted that H-GAC had completed the annual data analysis. He mentioned that he will be seeking information from the work groups.

### **Item Four: TMDL Updates**

Ms. Sophia Staska, 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 Five: Texas Watershed Coordinators Roundtable Report**

The roundtable presented bacteria identification and health risk information and research. A few stakeholders attended the meeting, and one wished to present a review of the roundtable and information that might be important for the BIG. Due to illness, the report was not presented, but a follow up report will be made. The topic will be continued as the BIG looks to narrow focus towards greater targeted bacteria reduction in the region.

### **Item Six: Green Infrastructure for Texas**

Mr. Michael Niebuhr is a Green Infrastructure Coordinator for the Texas Coastal Partners - Texas AgriLife. He reviewed the Green Infrastructure for Texas or GIFT program. The program's focus is to increase the use of Green Infrastructure through education via workshops, online resources, and demonstrations. Their target audiences include local governments, master naturalists, and high schools. They have an online course that introduces the topic through a self-paced program. They have created an internship program with local high schools. The GIFT program provides technical assistance for on the ground projects. Mr. Niebuhr announced an upcoming workshop on August 29, 2025 in Mont Belvieu.

### **Item Seven: Implementation Project Presentations**

Two presentations were given to the BIG.

#### **H-GAC Staff Presentations**

##### *2025 Targeted Monitoring – Mr. Cornell Evens Jr. and Ms. Erica Underwood*

Mr. Cornell Evans Jr. and Ms. Erica Underwood reported that the Halls Bayou watershed was the focus of the 2025 Targeted Monitoring. The watershed was picked due to the elevated levels of bacteria and that it supports the developing Greens Bayou watershed protection plan. The purpose of the project is to identify illicit discharges and other possible sources of bacteria and report those sources to the proper jurisdictions for removal. Over 122 samples were collected with most coming from a 6-mile target area. Nineteen referrals were made from the target area from four tributaries. Many of the results were above the detection limit of 242,000.

*Clean Rivers Program Basin Highlights Report on the Tarkington and Luce Bayou Watershed – Dr. Jenny Oakley*

Dr. Jenny Oakley reviewed the report prepared for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The Tarkington and Luce Bayou watershed was chosen as that watershed is being investigated for a total maximum daily load project due to elevated levels of bacteria impacting contact recreation. Dr. Oakley noted that the document is available via the H-GAC website and that all data used in the report can be found on H-GAC's Water Resources Information Map. She reviewed highlights of the report and noted that the report will be available on June 30, 2025.

**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, October 28, 2025

## Meeting Attendance

| Name (original name) | Online/In-person | Member/Alternate |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Arnelle Gonzalez     | In-person        |                  |
| Bill Ervin           | In-person        |                  |
| Bob Naeger           | In-person        | Member           |
| Cornell Evans Jr     | In-person        |                  |
| Erica Underwood      | In-person        |                  |
| Jazmyn Milford       | In-person        |                  |
| Jenny Oakley         | In-person        |                  |
| Jessica Casillas     | In-person        |                  |
| Kendall Guidroz      | In-person        |                  |
| Linda Shead          | In-person        | Member           |
| Natasha Zarnstorff   | In-person        | Member           |
| Paola Belloni        | In-person        | Alternate        |
| Rachel Thorne        | In-person        | Alternate        |
| Rachel Windham       | In-person        |                  |
| Sam Hill             | In-person        | Member           |
| Sophia Staska        | In-person        |                  |
| Michael Niebuhr      | In-person        |                  |
| Abigail Stanhouse    | Online           |                  |
| Aiyana Baptiste      | Online           |                  |
| Angela Albright      | Online           |                  |
| Avery Lewis          | Online           | Alternate        |
| Becky Olive          | Online           | Member           |
| Brian Shmaefsky      | Online           | Member           |
| Brittani Flowers     | Online           | Alternate        |
| Cody Arnold          | Online           | Alternate        |
| Colleen Gilbert      | Online           | Member           |
| Courtney Klaus       | Online           | Member           |
| David Villarreal     | Online           |                  |

| Name (original name)  | Online/In-person | Member/Alternate |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Desta Takie           | Online           | Alternate        |
| Forrest Hartmann      | Online           | Alternate        |
| Gordon Cranner        | Online           | Member           |
| HGAC (Jacob Eckhardt) | Online           |                  |
| Isham Khan            | Online           |                  |
| Jeff Lu               | Online           | Alternate        |
| Jessica Esclovon      | Online           |                  |
| Jesuina Chipindula    | Online           | Member           |
| Jim Robertson         | Online           | Member           |
| Jonathan Holley       | Online           |                  |
| Jonathan Mills        | Online           | Alternate        |
| Katie Wilson          | Online           |                  |
| Keith Miles           | Online           | Member           |
| Lauren Boggs          | Online           | Member           |
| Leeanne Kincer        | Online           | Alternate        |
| LINDA PECHACEK        | Online           | Member           |
| Lisa Marshall         | Online           |                  |
| Lisa Montemayor       | Online           | Member           |
| Megan Rose            | Online           |                  |
| Michael Thornhill     | Online           | Member           |
| Nuguent Cotton        | Online           | Alternate        |
| Patrick Rightmyer     | Online           |                  |
| Patrick Shevlin       | Online           |                  |
| Robert Fiederlein     | Online           | Alternate        |
| Robert Snoza          | Online           | Member           |
| Rose Sobel            | Online           | Alternate        |
| Scott Tuma            | Online           | Member           |
| Steven Johnston       | Online           |                  |
| Tom Douglas           | Online           | Member           |