

Meeting Summary Notes
H-GAC's Clean Rivers Program
Basin Steering Committee Meeting
Hybrid (remote participation via ZOOM)
Tuesday, April 29, 2025

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Basin Steering Committee (BSC) met Tuesday, April 29, 2025. The meeting was hybrid with in-person attendance in Room 2D at the Houston Galveston Area Council's offices at 3555 Timmons Ln, Houston, TX 77027. Remote attendance was facilitated via the ZOOM virtual meeting platform. Todd Running, Water Resources Program Manager, conducted the meeting. Jenny Oakley and Kendall Guidroz facilitated the meeting with support from staff covering various topics. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Attendance List:

Attendance	Name	Affiliation
In-Person	Jessie Casillas	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Tom Douglas	Bayou Preservation Association Concerned Citizen
	Bill Ervin	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Cornell Evans	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Kendall Guidroz	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Jenny Oakley	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Todd Running	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Erica Underwood	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Rachel Windham	Houston-Galveston Area Council
Remote	Laurence Bantum	Harris County
	Matt Barrett	San Jacinto River Authority
	Lauren Boggs	Harris County
	Sergio Cisneros	City of Houston Public Works
	Molly Eskelson	Houston-Galveston Area Council
	Brittani Flowers	Bayou Preservation Association
	Monserrat Gomez	Harris County Pollution Control
	Ericka Jackson	Harris County Pollution Control
	Leanne Kincer	Montgomery County
	Jay Knight	Liberty County
	Elizabeth Kompanik	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Jeff Lu	Harris County
	Lisa Marshall	Galveston Bay Estuary Program
	Sherah McDaniel	Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake
	Helmi Merghi	Harris County Pollution Control Service
	Jack Newton	San Jacinto River Authority
	Melanie Rogers	Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake
	Linda Shead	Shead Conservation
	Brian Shmaefsky	Lone Star College
	Shane Simpson	San Jacinto River Authority
	Sharri Sims	Harris County Pollution Control
	Aubrey Spear	San Jacinto River Authority
	Desta Takie	City of Houston Public Works
	Darryl Tate	City of Houston
	Scott Tuma	City of League City
	Jenna Wadman	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
	Kyle Wright	United States Department of Agriculture, NRCS

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

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions
Public Comment
Draft Basin Highlights Report
Coordinated Monitoring Meeting Summary
Texas Stream Team
River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayou Trash Bash
Targeted Bacteria Monitoring – Halls Bayou
Other Business and Upcoming Events

Welcome and Introductions

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

Public Comment

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

Draft Basin Highlights Report

Jenny Oakley, H-GAC Clean Rivers Program Coordinator and Quality Assurance Officer, with the help of Molly Eskelson presented the Draft Basin Highlights Report Story Map. The Structure of the report was discussed, a basic viewing of the Story Map followed Oakley's description of the topics included in the report. The Frog Chart was shared and particular focus on the Watershed Characterization and Segment Data Review was made. Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions or make recommendations/suggestions.

- Tom Douglas inquired if there is a draft available for review on-line? Jenny Oakley responded that the story map is not publicly accessible at this time, but the report as a .pdf has been reviewed by TCEQ and upon approval from the project manager with TCEQ could be made available to committee members. She will follow up on this with Tom and the committee as a whole.

FY25 Coordinated Monitoring Meetings Summary

Jenny Oakley presented a summary of the annual Coordinated Monitoring Meetings which were held on April 7 and 8. 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.

- Tom Douglas inquired if the source pie diagram that was shown on the San Antonio River Authority site would be something that H-GAC would include in the WRIM? Jenny Oakley responded No, not currently included in our plan for the initial version

of the updated site, but we do have this type of data (using SELECT models) for certain watersheds and could look into gathering this data for other watersheds and add this feature in the future if this of interest to the group.

Texas Stream Team

Kendall Guidroz, H-GAC Senior Planner, presented on the Texas Stream Team program.

River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayou Trash Bash

Kendall Guidroz, H-GAC Senior Planner, presented on the recent Trash Bash event summarizing the sites, number of volunteers, and trash collected. The date for next year's event was shared with the Committee.

- Tom Douglas noted that it was good to see that trash was picked up in 2021 and mentioned that he enjoyed Trash Bash this year at Armond Bayou.

Targeted Bacteria Monitoring – Halls Bayou

Cornell Evans, H-GAC Planner, presented on the targeted bacteria monitoring project on Halls Bayou. A summary of the project background, design, and preliminary results were presented.

- Tom Douglas noted that it was difficult for him to find the North arrow on the maps included. Also requested that a arrow showing the flow direction of the waterbody is added to the on google earth maps included in the referral report to make it easier to understand which way water flows. Cornell Evans responded confirming that those recommended changes will be made.
- Desta Takie inquired if the samples just instant grab samples or monitored through time? Cornell responded that they are direct grab samples from outfall pipes and only sampled one time. Jenny Oakley added that our hope is that the responsible jurisdiction will follow up and conduct additional sampling if needed.
- Linda Shead recommended that the referral report section to not say "responsible parties" and instead say "responsible jurisdictions". Cornell Evans responded confirming that the recommended change will be made.
- Tom Douglas recommended that in the report an initial map is included that shows where this watershed is located within the greater Houston area to easily show the public where this waterbody is located Cornell Evans responded confirming that the recommended change will be made.

Other Business and Upcoming Events

Jenny Oakley presented on several upcoming meetings and events including:

- Contacting Basin Steering Committee Members – Participation and Interest Survey
 - An effort to personally connect with all committee members will occur over the next several months. The goal is to determine interest in continued participation, collect recommendations for meeting structure/format/topics, determine if there are any unrepresented groups in the region, and develop an

engagement plan. Amanda Ashcroft, Senior Planner with H-GAC will be assisting with this effort.

- Natural Resource Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday May 1, 2025 from 1:30-3:30pm at H-GAC or remote (Zoom)
- Wastewater Infrastructure Funding and Assistance Workshop – Thursday May 1, 2025 from 2-4pm in Angleton, TX or remote (Zoom)
- Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) Spring Meeting – Tuesday June 3, 2025 from 2-4pm at H-GAC
- Next CRP Regional Water Quality Monitoring Meeting – Tuesday June 10, 2025 from 10-12 – remote
- June 30, 2025 Basin Highlights Report Story Map will be published. <https://www.h-gac.com/clean-rivers-program/basin-highlights-summary-reports>
- Tom Douglas mentioned an event this Thursday morning (May 1st): Greens Bayou Coalition fundraising breakfast 8am and another event this Friday May 2nd 10-12 Bayou Preservation Symposium: soil quality, resiliency and restoration
- Jeff Lu mentioned the Harris County On-site Wastewater seminar on May 15th
- Tom Douglas mentioned an annual Galveston Bay Foundation meeting Wednesday 14th 5-7pm

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 11:11 AM.