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## SPRING MEETING Agenda

Tuesday, June 2, 2026  
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 October 28, 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: 2025 Draft Annual Report**

H-GAC staff will review the draft 2025 Annual Report. BIG members will review and comment as appropriate.

**Item Three: 2026 Annual Report Update**

H-GAC staff will review acquisition of 2025 implementation data and progress on the 2026 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: Onsite Sewage Remediation within the BIG Project Area**

- Mr. Scott Bean, East Aldine District
- Ms. Susan Santos, Harris County
- Mr. Todd Running, H-GAC
- Ms. Kendall Guidroz, H-GAC

**Item Six: Implementation Projects**

**Partner Spotlight**

Ms. Sam Hill, Texas A&M Forest Service

**H-GAC Projects**

Ms. Rachel Windham – WISE Awards 2026

Mr. Cornell Evans Jr. – Watershed Protection Plans within the BIG Project Area

**Item Seven: Other Business/Roundtable/Discussion/Questions**

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

**Next Meeting Date**

Tuesday, October 27, 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: 06/2/2026

First	Last	Representing	Organization	Alternate 1	Alternate 2
Roger	Brookes	Rural Small City	City of Cleveland	Cody Arnold	
Todd	Burrer**	Utility District	Inframark		
Ralph	Calvino	Business / Industry	Terracon	Liz Stone**	Paola Belloni
Jesuina	Chipindula	Large City	City of Houston	Lam Tran	
Eric	Combs**	Small City	City of League City	Jody Hooks	
Gordon	Cranmer	Utility District	Schwartz, Page, & Harding, LLP	Mitchell Page	
Tom	Douglas	Conservation	Houston Sierra Club	Jim Williams	
Joe	Garcia**	Agriculture	Harris County Soil and Water Conservation District		
Colleen	Gilbert	Conservation	Greens Bayou Coalition	Robert Fiederlein	
Morgan	Henske	Urban County	Harris County	Jeff Lu	
Sam	Hill	Agriculture	Texas Forest Service	Julia Schmidt	
Andrew	Isbell	Rural County	Walker County		
Courtney	Klaus	Urban County	Harris County Pollution Control Services	Nugent 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		
Linda	Pechacek	Public	Citizen, Civil Engineer	Tom Douglas	
Jim	Robertson	Conservation	Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition	Steve Hupp	
Scott	Saenger**	Business / Industry	Quiddity Engineering	Michael Gurka**	Amelle Gonzalez
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	Soza	Urban County	Harris County Flood Control District	Avery Lewis	
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 (County)			
Line 35	Working on AgriLife Extension - Montgomery County				

\*\*Apon approval of the BIG



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## FALL MEETING Summary

**Tuesday, October 28, 2025  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
In-person and Virtual (ZOOM) Meeting**

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

Jesaina Chipindula, Tom Douglas, Colleen Gilbert, Courtney Klaus, Lisa Montemayor, Bob Naeger, Paul Nelson, Becky Olive, Linda Pechacek, Jim Robertson, Christine Santiny, Linda Shead, Brian Shmaefsky, Robert Snoza, Liz Stone, Michael Thornhill, Scott Tuma, Jo Wilson  
Natasha Zarnstorff

Sam Hill was represented by Julia Schmidt  
Harris County was represented by Jeff Lu  
Keith Mills was represented by LeeAnne Kincer  
Jamie Shakar was represented by Desta Takie

### **Members Absent**

Roger Brookes, Ralph Calvino, Gordon Cranner, Teague Harris, Sam Hill, Andrew Isbell,  
Michael Lee, Keith Mills, Jamie Shakar, Shane Simpson

### **Guests Present**

Eric Combs, Jessica Esclovon, Forrest, Hartman, Jonathan Holley, LeeAnne Kincer, Brian Koch,  
Michael LaMontagne, Avery Lewis, Jeff Lu, Lisa Marshall, Pat O'Donnell, Christian Rines,  
Michael Roberts, Julia Schmidt, Patrick Shevlin, Sophia Staska, Desta Takie, Carolyn White,  
Katie Wilson

### **H-GAC Staff**

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

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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 noted that the agenda was reviewed by the Coordination and Policy Work Group held on October 16, 2025. 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:
  - Morgan Henske, Harris County (Urban County)
- New alternates proposed were as follows:
  - Sergio Cisneros, City of Houston (Large City)

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

## **Approval of the June 3, 2025, Meeting Summary**

The BIG was asked to consider the June meeting summary. The BIG discussed and reviewed the summary. The meeting summary was approved.

## **Public Comment**

Micheal Roberts with The Coastal Trust was invited to speak. Mr. Roberts stated that The Coastal Trust was a new trust established to partner funding resources with opportunities for land conservation trusts and wastewater infrastructure improvements. He noted he was in attendance to better understand the BIG's mission and pursue partnership opportunities.

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

Mr. Johnston reviewed progress to date. He noted that I-Plan work groups met in July and August 2025 to review and provide comments to sections of the I-Plan. The Coordination and Policy work group met on September 22, 2025, to review the progress of the work groups and discuss next steps. Mr. Johnston stated the work groups would again be convened in December or January to review final changes and prepare the document for review by the BIG in preparation for June 2, 2026 Spring meeting.

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

Mr. Johnston reviewed the 2024 report covering edits made by members of the Coordination and Policy work group. The attendees were offered the opportunity to review and comment. Several suggested comments and edits were made. The BIG decided to approve the document with the edits on the condition that H-GAC send out the revised document with the incorporated edits via email to the BIG.

### **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. Mr. Johnston reviewed wastewater treatment plant compliance data and that there is a recent downward trend in compliance. H-GAC is reviewing the data to determine if there is a reason for this new trend.

### **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 and Bessie's Creek. The projects are in response to contact recreation 303(d) listings. Future work will include development of TMDLs for the waterbodies and eventual development of reduction strategies.

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

Dr. Michael G. LaMontagne presented the work of his and Mr. Christopher Howard at the University of Houston – Clear Lake and Dr. Michael S. Allen the University of North Texas Health Science Center. Their efforts include the use of library dependent and independent methods to identify sources of fecal bacteria to better inform watershed stakeholders. New and improved methods applied here are seeking to demonstrate faster response time and cost effectiveness so microbial source tracking adoption and use is expanded. Results of the methodology studies have shown promise. Their work continues locally with a project in Mustang Bayou and within the Chocolate Bay watershed/West Galveston Bay.

### **Item Six: Implementation Projects**

#### **Partner Spotlight**

Sam Hill, Texas A&M Forest Service – Ms. Hill was unexpectedly unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Hill agreed to present at the next opportunity.

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

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

Ms. Casillas completed a watershed delineation project funded by the TCEQ. The goal of the project was to delineate assessment unit level watersheds throughout the BIG project area. At the time of TMDL development, only segment level watersheds were prepared. While sufficient for developing reduction values, the large size of these watersheds limit targeting reduction strategies at a more granular level. Ms. Casillas successfully completed 184 new delineations. H-GAC will begin to process data with assessments catered toward the new watersheds.

##### *Water Innovation Strategies of Excellent Awards – Ms. Rachel Windham*

Ms. Windham presented on the 2025 WISE Awards. She stated the goal of the awards is to recognize projects, programs, or individuals that serve as models for improving and protecting the region's water quality. Award categories include Policy and Planning, Education and Public Awareness, Completed Effort (greater than \$200K), Completed Effort (less than \$200K), Research and Monitoring, Program Performance, and Individual Excellence. For 2025, there were seven awardees and two special recognitions. The winners were celebrated on September 29, 2025. For more information, visit - <https://www.h-gac.com/wise-awards>.

*Wastewater Operators Training and Employment Website – Mr. Todd Running*

Mr. Running reviewed a new website that focuses on wastewater treatment operator training and employment. He noted that with an aging cohort, there is a need to replace the workforce and an opportunity to get this career path before high school and college age recruits. For more information, visit - [TexasWaterCareers.com](https://www.texaswatercareers.com)

**Item Seven: 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 2, 2026



## Meeting Attendance

Last Name	First Name	Organization	City	County	Membership
Hartmann	Forrest	COH	Houston	Harris	Alternate
Takie	Desta	COH	Houston	Harris	Alternate
Lewis	Avery	HCFC	Houston	Harris	Alternate
Schmidt	Julia	Texas A&M Forest Service	Lufkin	Other	Alternate
Lu	Jeff	Harris County Engineer	Houston	Harris	Alternate
Kincer	LeeAnne	Montgomery County	Conroe	Montgomery	Alternate
Olive	Becky	AECOM	Houston	Harris	Member
Nelson	Paul	BPA	Kingwood	Montgomery	Member
Santiny	Christine	City of Conroe	Conroe	Montgomery	Member
Montemayor	Lisa	City of Houston / Houston Public Works	Houston	Harris	Member
Chipindula	Jesuina	City of Houston Permitting Center - MS4	Houston	Harris	Member
Tuma	Scott	City of League City	League City	Galveston	Member
Pechacek	Linda	Citizen	Houston	Harris	Member
Robertson	Jim	Cypress Creek Coalition	Cypress	Harris	Member
Zarnstorff	Natasha	Galveston Bay Foundation	Kemah	Galveston	Member
Wilson	Jo	GCA	Houston	Harris	Member
Gilbert	Colleen	Greens Bayou Coalition	Houston	Harris	Member
Henske	Morgan	Harris County Engineering	Houston	Harris	Member
Klaus	Courtney	Harris County Pollution Control Services	Pasadena	Harris	Member
Snoza	Robert	HCFC	Houston	Harris	Member
Douglas	Tom	Houston Canoe Club	Houston	Harris	Member
Naeger	Bob	Houston Canoe Club	Katy	Harris	Member
Shmaefsky	Brian	Lone Star College - Kingwood	Houston	Harris	Member
Stone	Liz	Quiddity Engineering	The Woodlands	Montgomery	Member

Shead	Linda	Shed Conservation Solutions / Texas Coastal Partners	Houston	Harris	Member
Thornhill	Michael	SI Environmental LLC	Rosenberg	Fort Bend	Member
Esciovon	Jessica	Baxter & Woodman, Inc.	Houston	Harris	
Rines	Christian	Galveston Bay Estuary Program	Houston	Harris	
Wilson	Katie	Galveston County Health District	Texas City	Galveston	
Marshall	Lisa	GBEP	Houston	Harris	
Holley	Jonathan	HCFC	Houston	Harris	
White	Carolyn	HCFC	Houston	Harris	
Eckhardt	Jacob	H-GAC	Houston	Harris	
Ervin	Bill	H-GAC	Houston	Harris	
Evans Jr.	Cornell	H-GAC	Houston	Harris	
Guidroz	Kendall	H-GAC	Houston	Harris	
Johnston	Steven	H-GAC	Stafford	Fort Bend	
Oakley	Jenny	H-GAC	Houston	Harris	
Tantillo	Andrea	H-GAC	Houston	Harris	
Windham	Rachel	H-GAC	Houston	Harris	
Casillas	Jessica	H-GAC	Houston	Harris	
Underwood	Erica	H-GAC	Houston	Harris	
Combs	Eric	League City	League City	Galveston	
Shevlin	Patrick	P&G Interests, LLC	Crosby, TX	Harris	
Staska	Sophia	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Austin	Other	
Roberts	Michael	The Coastal Trust	Houston	Harris	
LaMontagne	Michael	UHCL	Houston	Harris	
O'Donnell	Pat	Unabridged Technology LLC	West University Place	Harris	
Koch	Brian	Wharton	TSSWCB	Wharton	