

**MEETING SUMMARY  
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 3, 2023**

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The August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee was held as a hybrid event both in-person at 3555 Timmons Lane in Houston, Texas and virtually via Zoom. The meeting began at approximately 1:30 PM.

**NRAC members present (14 voting, 4 advisory\*):**

Andrew Isbell	Gabriela Sosa*	Natasha Zarnstorff (for
Bill Balboa	Jin Ye*	Bob Stokes)
Brian Koch	Jonathan Holley	Richard Zahn
Brittani Flowers*	Katie Wilson	Robert Pechukas
Christopher Hunniford	Ken Barnadyn	Scott Saenger
Claudia Sandoval	Lisa Marshall*	Tom Douglas
Deborah January-Bevers		

*\*Phone numbers not connected to a Committee Member weren't counted as present. Apologies for any inconvenience. If you were present via call-in and it isn't marked here, [please let Rachel Windham know.](#)*

**NRAC members not present (21 voting, 2 advisory\*):**

Adeel Malik	Denae King	Mac Martin*
Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud	Ellis Pickett	Phyllis Frank
Brian Shmaefsky	Glenda Callaway	Scott Jeansonne
Carol Guess	Kelli Gallagher	Shane Porter
Cathy Rogers-McCoy	Kelli Ondracek*	Troy Harrison
Charles "Chuck" Rogers	Latrice Babin	Upendra Sahu
Christina Moore	Leroy Cerny	William Hajdik
Dennis Cote	Mel Vargas	

**Current Vacancies:**

Current vacancies include:

- Power Generation or Transmission Utility

**H-GAC Staff Present (9):**

H-GAC staff present included Andrea Tantillo, Elling Mann, Erin Livingston, Kendall Guidroz, Rachel Windham, Steven Johnston, Todd Running, and Wendy Almanzan.

### **Welcome and Roll Call**

Staff coordinator Rachel Windham welcomed those present for the official start of the meeting and roll was called.

### **Certify Quorum**

Quorum was not reached until after the Environmental Committee Highlights concluded.

### **Membership**

Rachel Windham will follow up with the governmental affairs department at H-GAC to coordinate county appointed positions approaching the ends of their terms. Two county appointed positions are currently vacant and will also require coordination with the governmental affairs department to be filled. One NRAC appointed position (Power Generation or Transmission Utility) also remains to be filled. Suggestions for this position can be brought forward by members of the NRAC to Rachel Windham at [rachel.windham@h-gac.com](mailto:rachel.windham@h-gac.com).

### **Environmental Committee Highlights**

- **Regional Flood Management Committee**

On behalf of Amanda Ashcroft, Rachel Windham provided information on activities and updates from the past quarter. At the most recent committee meeting on July 19, members heard updates on the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Cedar Bayou Bond

Implementation Program & Crosby Eastgate Mitigation Bank as well as the San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group Regional Flood Plan. The committee heard from speakers from the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the team working on the Buffalo Bayou Community Plan. The committee voted in favor of drafting a support letter for a proposal from HCFCD and other regional partners for a feasibility study of the flood management improvements on the Addicks and Barker Reservoirs.

Meetings of the Regional Flood Management Committee are scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in the months of January, April, July, and October. Meetings are held at the H-GAC offices. Learn more by visiting the committee's [website](#).

- **Solid Waste Management Committee**

Erin Livingston provided information on activities and updates from the past quarter. Ms. Livingston announced that the Solid Waste Management Grants application period opens on September 5<sup>th</sup> and closes on October 17<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found on the H-GAC website [here](#). She also shared that the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan was officially approved and adopted by the Texas Commission on Environmental

Quality on July 19<sup>th</sup>. View the plan on the H-GAC website [here](#). Previous plans can be viewed [here](#).

Solid Waste Management Committee meetings are scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the months of January, April, July, and October. Meetings are held at the H-GAC offices. Learn more by visiting the committee's [website](#).

### **Approve Meeting Report**

After quorum was confirmed, Jonathan Holley moved to approve the Meeting Minutes, and Tom Douglas seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

### **Environmental Program Highlights**

- **Targeted Monitoring**

Sreven Johnston and Kendall Guidroz gave an update on progress with targeted monitoring projects in Greens Bayou, White Oak Creek, and other Houston area streams.

- **Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs)**

Rachel Windham provided updates on projects including the Clear Creek WPP, East Fork San Jacinto River WPP, and the West Lake Houston WPP Implementation project which will cover the watershed areas of Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, Lake Creek, and the West Fork of the San Jacinto River. Additionally, H-GAC expects to begin work on a project developing a WPP for Greens Bayou in the late fall or early winter.

More information on the Clear Creek WPP can be found on the [project website](#) or by contacting Justin Bower ([justin.bower@h-gac.com](mailto:justin.bower@h-gac.com)) directly. The East Fork San Jacinto River WPP project also has a [project website](#), and more information can be provided by Rachel Windham ([rachel.windham@h-gac.com](mailto:rachel.windham@h-gac.com)).

- **Parks & Natural Areas (PNA) Roundtable**

Andrea Tantillo gave an update on the PNA roundtable activities the previous quarter. She also offered an invitation to submit applications for the Parks and Natural Areas Awards beginning on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The next roundtable meeting will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> and the next field trip is planned for November 17<sup>th</sup> in Galveston. For additional information, visit the [PNA website](#).

## **Subcommittees**

- **Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence (WISE) Awards**  
Rachel Windham provided an update on the WISE Awards. After confirming score results with subcommittee members, five awards and one special recognition were delivered to recipients at a ceremony on July 14<sup>th</sup>. For additional information on this subcommittee and awards program, visit the [WISE award website](#).
- **Conservation Subcommittee**  
Rachel Windham presented an update to the Priority Projects List. A copy of the list was provided digitally to members prior to the meeting. For more information on how to recommend projects to add to the list, visit the [Priority Project List website](#). Tom Douglas moved to accept the updated list and Brittani Flowers seconded. The NRAC voted to accept these updates unanimously.

## **Topic of the Day**

Rachel Windham provided a review of the FY 2023 Water Quality Management Plan Update. This report covered six major objectives including:

- Wastewater Data Update and Coordination
- Conformance Review for Clean Water State Revolving Fund Projects
- Support Watershed Planning
- On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Planning, Support, and Outreach Activities
- OSSF Mapping Tool Expansion
- Water Quality Management Plan Update Report

Ms. Windham requested the NRAC to advise the H-GAC Board of Directors to accept the Final Report for the FY 2023 Water Quality Management Plan Update as amended based upon comments received from NRAC and the public during the public comment period. Brian Koch moved to accept the report and Jonathan Holley seconded. The NRAC voted to accept the report unanimously.

## **Roundtable Discussion**

Tom Douglas shared information on the following:

- A webinar titled “Lessons Learned Addressing Coastal Water Quality Concerns” offered by the Texas Water Resources Institute on July 20<sup>th</sup> is now available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj4x7bitlwU>)
- The Bayou Preservation Association will host its annual symposium on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> via Zoom. Registration information can be found at: <https://www.bayoupreservation.org/symposium>
- A “Walk for the Wild” 5k will be hosted at Champion Lake on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Registration will open on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Brian Koch shared that the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will accept applications for Clean Water Act Section 319 Agriculture Nonpoint Source projects from August 11<sup>th</sup> through September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Contact Brian Koch for more information at [bkoch@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:bkoch@tsswcb.texas.gov).

Lisa Marshall shared that applications for the Galveston Bay Estuary Section 320 grant funding will be due on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Applications for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding administered by the Galveston Bay Estuary Program will be due on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, proposals for the 2024 State of the Bay Symposium will be due on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Lisa Marshall for more information at [lisa.marshall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:lisa.marshall@tceq.texas.gov).

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Unless otherwise notified, the next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, November 2, 2023 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

### **Adjourn**

After a motion by Andrew Isbell and a second by Johnathan Holley, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.