



**Watershed Outreach Work Group
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, August 29, 2012
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor**

Participants

Linda Broach (TCEQ), Diana Jones (HCPID), Marty Kelly (TCEQ), Alisa Max (HCPID), Linda Pechacek (LDP), Rachel Powers (H-GAC), Mary Purzer (AECOM), Thushara Ranatunga (H-GAC), Jim Robertson (CCFCC)

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Rachel Powers welcomed participants, initiated self-introduction, and reviewed the agenda.

Discussion

- **Overview**

Rachel explained that the TCEQ is still coordinating internally with other staff to prepare the plan for consideration by the Commission for approval. Many stakeholders are implementing activities described in the plan.

The implementation strategy developed by the Watershed Outreach Work Group consists of a framework of criteria that can be used by various stakeholders as appropriate to their situation. Criteria fall into five categories: bacteria level, accessibility, use level, implementation opportunities, and future land use changes.

A full-scale model for using all of the criteria has not been developed, although some of the criteria have been more-fully defined and used by various stakeholders. In particular, the draft annual report for the BIG includes two lists: "Most Wanted" & "Most Likely to Succeed." The most wanted list describes the assessment units with the monitoring stations with the highest reported bacteria levels, which range from 5807 cfu/100ml to 2178 cfu/100ml (the state standard is 126 cfu/100ml). The most wanted list represents opportunities to make big changes in bacteria levels. The most likely to succeed list includes the assessment units with the monitoring stations with the lowest reported bacteria levels that are still impaired, which range from 127 cfu/100ml to 185 cfu/100ml (the state standard is 126 cfu/100ml). H-GAC has been and will continue to use those lists to target outreach efforts.

A draft annual report was presented to the BIG at its annual meeting in May. The BIG asked H-GAC to revise the annual plan format in coordination with an ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee met in July and revisions to the plan are being made in response to discussions at that meeting. A revised report will be shared at the BIG mid-year meeting in October.

- **Harris County Prioritization Plan**



Alisa Max gave a brief presentation about how Harris County might use the framework to prioritize areas where they might undertake location-specific implementation activities. Harris County has preliminarily identified drinking water supply, 5-year geometric mean bacteria level, physical characteristics, downstream stream segments, and source of bacteria as criteria of concern that could be scored to prioritize locations. Each of these criteria can be incorporated in GIS to develop comparative scores for various locations. The project is still conceptual and will need to undergo testing prior to use. Harris County is open to receiving comments on their methodology.

- **Most Wanted/Most Likely to Succeed lists**

Rachel briefly described how interns at the Bayou Preservation Association looked at assessment units on the most wanted and most likely to succeed lists. In particular, they examined monitoring data and conducted visual inspections at sites along Buffalo Bayou, Schramm Gully, and Hunting Bayou (and continued studies started last year of Cypress Creek and Little Cypress Creek). They identified potential sources of bacteria loading and are following up with appropriate authorities to see if the sources can be confirmed and addressed.

- **Identify Priorities & Discuss Next Steps**

The group did not identify any changes to the plan section to recommend to the BIG.

While the group expressed interest in trying to develop a model in GIS that could be used by stakeholders to develop their own priorities, participants also indicated that the two lists were good tools for directing efforts towards areas of concern. H-GAC will continue to focus on involving stakeholders in addressing assessment units on the two lists, and will continue to provide support for local efforts to set geographic priorities.

Wrap-up

BIG Mid-Year Meeting: October 16, 2012, 1:30 to 3:30

Next work group meeting will be in 2013.

Adjourn