

MEETING SUMMARY
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 6, 2026

The August 6th meeting of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee was held as a hybrid event at 3555 Timmons Lane in Houston, Texas. The meeting began at approximately 1:30 PM.

NRAC members present (12 voting, 3 advisory*):

Alicia Fontenot (for	Gabriela Sosa*	Richard Zahn
Scott Jeansonne)	Jin Ye*	Robert Snoza (for
Andrew Isbell	Joe Garcia	Jonathan Holley)
Bill Balboa	Katie Wilson	Scott Saenger
Brian Koch	Lisa Marshall*	Tom Douglas
Deborah January-	Natasha Zarnstorff	
Beyers	(for Bob Stokes)	

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 (4 voting, 2 advisory*):

Brittani Flowers*	Kelli Ondracek*
Claudia Sandoval	Ken Barnadyn
Hien Pham	Robert Pechukas

Current Vacancies:

Current vacancies include:

NRAC Appointed
Academia
Chambers of Commerce
Chambers of Commerce
City of Houston Water Resources
Conservation
Consulting
Gulf Coast Authority
Harris County Pollution Control Services Department
Industry
Power Generation or Transmission Utility
Private Citizens
Professional Organizations
River Authority
Small Cities Less than 25,000

Board Appointed
Austin County
Colorado County
Fort Bend County
Galveston County
Liberty County
Montgomery County

H-GAC Staff Present (9):

H-GAC staff present included Amanda Ashcroft, Andrea Tantillo, Bill Ervin, Cornell Evans, Jr., Erin Livingston, Jessica Casillas, Reynaldo Raya, Todd Running, and Rachel Windham.

Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Tom Douglas welcomed those present for the official start of the meeting.

Warm-Up

Tom Douglas shared a presentation tracing the history of Houston area waterways and why our streams flow from west to east.

Introductions and Certify Quorum

Roll was called for both in-person and online participants. Quorum was confirmed.

Approve Meeting Report

Mr. Douglas called for review and comment on the February 5th Meeting Minutes and the May 7th Meeting Minutes for comments.

Brian Koch moved to approve the February 5th minutes, and Robert Snoza seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

Robert Snoza moved to approve the May 7th minutes, and Brian Koch seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

Membership

The majority of both county and NRAC appointed member terms have lapsed. Staff liaison Rachel Windham is coordinating with the governmental affairs department at H-GAC to coordinate county appointed positions. The Nomination Subcommittee is currently meeting to fill the vacant NRAC appointed member positions. Other suggestions to fill vacancies or recommend replacements for current positions can be brought forward by members of the NRAC to Ms. Windham at rachel.windham@h-gac.com.

Environmental Committee Highlights

- **Regional Flood Management Committee**
Amanda Ashcroft provided information on activities and updates from the past quarter. 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. 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](#).

Environmental Program Highlights

- **Tamina Community Assistance**
Todd Running shared progress with using watershed protection plan implementation dollars to assist the City of Shenandoah in their efforts to convert the Tamina community from on-site sewage to sanitary sewer.
- **Parks & Natural Areas (PNA) Roundtable**
Andrea Tantillo shared information about the Parks and Natural Areas roundtable and the next meeting date. See Attachment A for flyer. She also shared that the application portal for the next round of PNA awards will open on September 1st. For additional information, visit the [PNA website](#).
- **Watershed-Based Plan Project Updates**
Cornell Evans, Jr. and Ms. Windham gave an update on Total Maximum Daily Load and Watershed Protection Plan projects in the region and invited members to attend upcoming public meetings. See Attachments B and C for study area maps. More information on these projects can be found on H-GAC's watershed-based plan [project website](#).

Subcommittees

- **Nomination Subcommittee**
Ms. Windham shared the subcommittee's progress with reviewing vacancies in the membership list and recommending new contacts to fill the positions. A shortlist of candidates for the open positions was shared at the meeting.
- **Bylaws Subcommittee**
Ms. Windham shared the subcommittee's progress with reviewing and recommending edits to the bylaws. All suggested edits were reviewed by the committee at large.
- **Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence (WISE) Awards**
Ms. Windham shared the timeline for the 2026 WISE awards. For additional information on this subcommittee and awards program, visit the [WISE award website](#).

Topic of the Day

Bill Ervin, Senior Planner at the Houston-Galveston Area Council, provided an overview of the Draft 2026 Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Update which involved the collection and analysis of water quality and locational data related to wastewater sources (see Attachments D and E for summary and fact sheets). A copy of the document was provided digitally to members prior to the meeting.

Representatives were asked to consider and take action on a recommendation to the H-GAC Board of Directors to accept the Water Quality Management Plan Update. Brian Koch moved to recommend that the H-GAC Board should approve the Draft 2026 WQMP Update, and Joe Garcia and Deborah January-Bevers simultaneously seconded the motion. The action passed unanimously.

Roundtable Discussion

Members shared updates about upcoming events.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Next Meeting Date

Unless otherwise notified, the next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, November 5, 2026 from 1:30–3:30 p.m.** This will be a **hybrid** meeting.

Adjourn

Mr. Douglas adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.



PARKS & NATURAL AREAS

The Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable serves as a forum for discussion of parks and natural areas across the region.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, contact Andrea Tantillo at andrea.tantillo@h-gac.com

www.h-gac.com/parks



SHARE IDEAS

We meet the second Monday of March, July, and September from 2 to 4 p.m. at H-GAC.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

We visit parks around the region for guided tours in the spring and fall.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

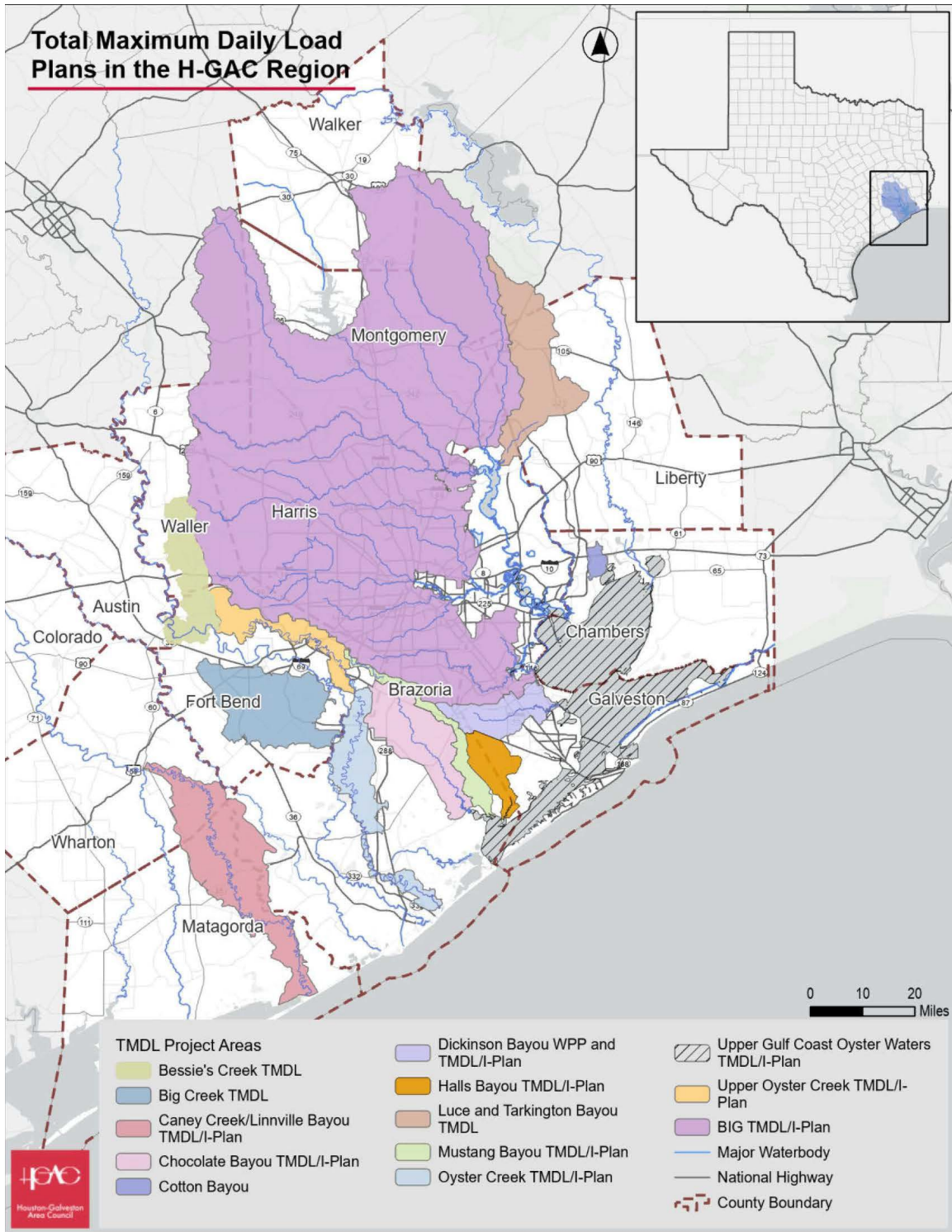
We honor projects that serve as models on how parks and natural areas can improve water quality, habitat, and quality of life.



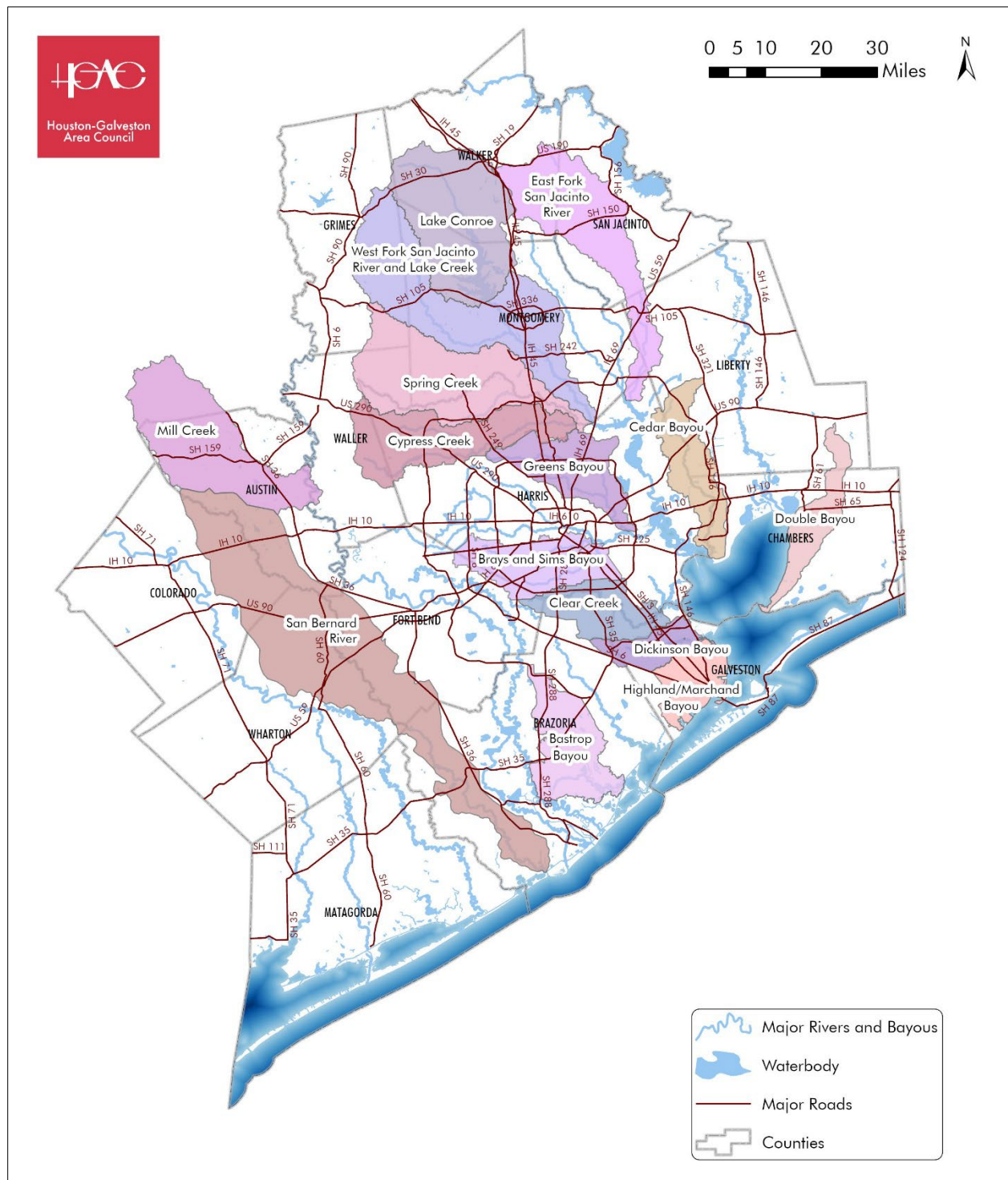
The Houston-Galveston Area Council is the regional organization through which local governments consider issues and cooperate in solving area-wide problems. The 13 counties in H-GAC's service region are Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton. The Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable meets at 3555 Timmons Lane, Houston.

CE0226

Attachment E: Parks and Natural Areas Flyer



Attachment B: TMDL and EPA Projects Study Area



Attachment C: WPP Projects Study Area

2026 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

About the Update

The Water Quality Management Plan Update is completed annually by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This report provides an overview of regional wastewater infrastructure and discharge activities from the previous calendar year that impact water quality in our region. Data collected through this annual update are used by numerous planning efforts that H-GAC conducts in collaboration with local government partners, including the Bacteria Implementation Group, Clean Rivers Program, Watershed-Based Plans, and Urban Forestry Efforts.

To view the full draft of the latest Water Quality Management Plan Update, please visit:
<https://www.h-gac.com/water-quality-management-planning>

Regional Wastewater Infrastructure



H-GAC updated the regional database for permitted wastewater treatment facilities, service area boundaries, and outfall locations for 1,524 facilities. Collaborating with the Association of Water Board Directors, H-GAC published a new [TexasWaterCareers.com](https://www.texaswatercareers.com) website to share water and wastewater operator training and employment information to attract new talent to the water workforce.

Analysis of Discharge Monitoring Data



H-GAC evaluated self-reported discharge monitoring report data from the region's domestic wastewater treatment facilities in 2025. Facilities ranged in size from <0.1 MGD to >10 MGD with the most common size (66%) being 0.5 MGD or smaller. Over 94% of all facilities reporting bacteria data were in compliance with single grab effluent limits.

Analysis of Sanitary Sewer Overflows Data



H-GAC examined the locations, frequency, and causes of the 1,484 reported unauthorized discharges from sanitary sewer collection systems or treatment facilities in the region in 2025. Rain/inflow/infiltration was the most common reported cause of events and contributed the highest volume of overflow.

On-Site Sewage Facility Database Update



H-GAC updated a regional database of 155,590 permitted on-site sewage facilities. Using 9-1-1 address data for improved spatial accuracy, H-GAC estimates there are over 196,875 additional unpermitted systems in the region, for an estimated total of 352,465 OSSFs within the H-GAC region.



Funding for this project was provided by the Environmental Protection Agency through a Clean Water Act Section 604(b) grant to the Houston-Galveston Area Council, administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

CONTRACTS 582-25-00048 and 582-26-00051

REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Each year, the Houston-Galveston Area Council prepares a Water Quality Management Plan Update in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This report provides an overview of regional wastewater infrastructure and discharge activities that impact water quality in our region. Data collected through this annual update are used by numerous planning efforts that H-GAC conducts in collaboration with local government partners, including the Bacteria Implementation Group, Clean Rivers Program, Total Maximum Daily Load projects, and Watershed Protection Plans.

WHAT'S IN THE UPDATE?

In the FY 2026 Water Quality Management Plan Update, H-GAC analyzed and updated the regional database for permitted wastewater treatment facilities based on data acquired from TCEQ and the United States Environmental Protection Agency between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. This included information on permits, service area boundaries, outfall locations, and discharge monitoring report (DMR) data for permitted wastewater treatment facilities in the region.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,524 Permitted Wastewater Outfalls in the Houston-Galveston Region

1,094 Permitted Wastewater Outfalls in the Houston-Galveston Region Reporting DMR Data

Wastewater Treatment Facilities by Size (Flow in Millions of Gallons Per Day (MGD))

Variable/Intermittent	12.8%
< 0.1 MGD	27.8%
0.1 to 0.5 MGD	26.2%
0.5 to 1 MGD	14.3%
1 to 5 MGD	14.2%
5 to 10 MGD	3.5%
> 10 MGD	2.1%

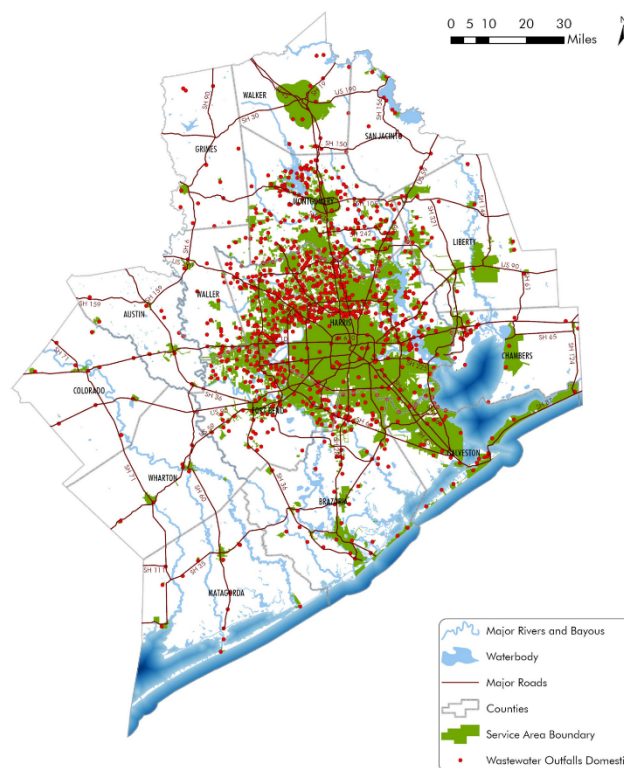
Total Daily Effluent Discharge (in Gallons)

621,000,000

Bacteria DMR Analysis

2025 Bacteria Single Grab Samples Collected	9,442	Compliance with Bacteria Single Grab Effluent Permit Limits
2025 Bacteria Single Grab Sample Permit Exceedances	505	

94.7%



Funding for this project was provided by the Environmental Protection Agency through Clean Water Act Section 604(b) grants to the Houston-Galveston Area Council, administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Contracts:
582-25-00048
582-26-00051

