



**Monitoring and Research Workgroups
Meeting Agenda
Friday, January 23, 2015
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Clayton Library: 5300 Caroline St. Houston, TX 77004**

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Review Notes from Mar. 20, 2014 (Mon) and Mar. 20, 2014 (Research) Meetings

Discussion: Preparing BIG 2015 Annual Report – I-Plan Strategy 9.0 Mon. and 10.0 Research

Workgroup will:

- review the 2014 Annual Report
- review the timeline for preparing the 2015 report
- report on implementation activities accomplished in the 2014 calendar year,
- discuss expectations for the 2015 Annual Report, and
- discuss focus and priorities for 2015 calendar year.

Discussion: Review I-Plan Strategy 9.0 Mon. and 10.0 Research Language

Workgroup will:

- review approved I-Plan wording
- discuss potential editorial changes
- agree on any updates, and
- develop recommendations, if necessary, that will be presented at the annual BIG meeting for approval.

Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

May 14, 2015: BIG Annual Meeting (Revised Date!)

January 29, 2015: BIG Geographic Framework Workgroup

January 29, 2015: BIG Residential Workgroup

February 2, 2014: Coordination and Policy



**Monitoring and Plan Review Workgroup
Meeting Summary
Thursday, March 20, 2014
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor**

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Linda Broach, Richard Chapin, Danielle Cioce, Steve Hupp, Tom Ivy, Robert Snoza

Review Notes from January 7, 2014 Meeting

The workgroup reviewed the notes from the January meeting.

Discussion: BIG 2014 Annual Report

Workgroup reviewed implementation activities in 2013 and the 2014 approach to the Annual Report for each strategy area:

1-Plan Strategies:

Implementation Activity 1.0: Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Effort over the past year saw activity covering permit review and analysis of DMR data. Education and training was provided to operators covering bacteria and Harris County initiated a WWTF design set review program. Additional work in 2014 should cover review of TCEQ compliance and enforcement data and track any effort of TCEQ to increase the number visits to WWTF.

Implementation Activity 2.0: Sanitary Sewer Systems

Stakeholders participated in review of chapter 217. It has been noted that the comment process has been extended till August 2014. There has been significant effort to increase FOG education. In 2014, the focus will be on gathering SSO data to better track activities, set a baseline and track any improvements.

Implementation Activity 3.0: On-site Sewage Facilities

H-GAC continues to gather OSSF data and refine mapping tools. H-GAC also collected OSSF compliance data. H-GAC will be using this information to establish target areas to distribute funding from an approved SEP.

Implementation Activity 4.0: Stormwater and Land Development

Efforts in 2013 focused on analysis of MS4 reports and tracking BMP implementation. Also, a draft recognition program was developed. Work in 2014 will include working with trade organizations and local governments to begin implementation of the recognition program; develop an online implementation tracking database to assist in coordination with local MS4; and gathering information on local government efforts to support LID through regulations and ordinance promulgation.

Implementation Activity 5.0: Construction

Much of the focus has been on providing education and training during inspections and through H-GAC's Clean Waters Initiative workshops.

Implementation Activity 6.0: Illicit Discharges and Dumping

Activities looked at eliminating illicit discharges using the top ten "Most Wanted List."

Implementation Activity 7.0: Agriculture and Animal Sources

Work under this activity has focused on education through existing programs towards landowners, particularly feral hog workshops.

Implementation Activity 8.0: Residential

Efforts over the past year centered on pet waste and FOG education. Additional education through CWI workshops targeted MS4 with bacteria specific education and training.

Implementation Activity 9.0: Monitoring and I-Plan Revision

During 2013, implementation effort continued through CRP ambient monitoring and increasing non-ambient water quality data. Effort will continue to complete a non-ambient water quality data quality assurance program in 2014. Additionally, some level of effort should be expended to determine the best means to track or capture partner implementation activities.

Implementation Activity 10.0: Research

H-GAC staff noted that the research workgroup would be meeting in the afternoon. The goals of the meeting would be to review current and planned research and to discuss avian and wildlife bacteria contributions.

Implementation Activity 11.0: Geographic Priority Framework

Current activities support full implementation with organizations using the top ten "Most Wanted" list to target segments for bacteria sources. In addition, Harris County has developed a model geographic framework for this workgroup to evaluate that considers recreational use, density and other factor

Discussion: Plan Review

Workgroup reviewed recommendations from BIG workgroups for changes to the I-Plan. Members did not suggest any changes to the list of recommendations.

Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

May 27, 2014: BIG Annual Meeting

March 20, 2014: Monitoring and Plan Revision | Research

March 25, 2014: Coordination and Policy



**Research Workgroup
Meeting Summary
Thursday, March 20, 2014
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor**

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Tom Beck, Linda Broach, Richard Chapin, Danielle Cioce, Jonathan Holley, Steve Hupp, Tom Ivy, Linda Pechacek, Christen Specht

Review Notes from Last Year's Meeting

The workgroup reviewed the notes from the previous meeting.

Discussion: Preparing BIG 2014 Annual Report – I-Plan Strategy 10.0 Research

Workgroup will review data source availability and past year BIG implementation activities related to I-Plan Strategy 10.0:

Research Priority 10.1: Evaluate the Effectiveness of Stormwater Implementation Activities

Workgroup reported that HCFCD developed a BMP database (bmpbase.org) that host HCFCD stormwater projects and will eventually include monitoring effectiveness data. HCFCD is interested in hosting other BMPs that include monitoring so long as the monitoring follows national guidelines.

Research Priority 10.2: Further Evaluate Bacteria Persistence and Regrowth

The city of Houston reported that they will be testing the accuracy of IDEXX method better understand false positives tests due to other bacteria species. Additionally, the city plans to conduct bacterial source tracking to quantify bacteria contributions from different warm blooded host organisms.

Research Priority 10.3: Determine Appropriate Indicators

The city of Houston reported that during the bacteria source tracking project that they will also be evaluating other potential indicators, including bacteria from the order Bacteroidales.

Research Priority 10.4: Additional Research Topics

The workgroup discussed related Texas Department of Transportation (TX DOT) studies and any work related to avian and wildlife bacteria contributions. TX DOT reported that there has been a lot of research on road BMPs to deal with bacteria and other pollutants. There has also been research conducted on BMPs to exclude wildlife, particularly avian wildlife. TX DOT stated that passive BMPs to exclude birds did not work and that there are concerns with active devices. TX DOT said that they were not looking at avian contributions at present as past research suggest that the contribution is minimal at road crossings.

Discussion: Review I-Plan Strategy 10.0 Research

Workgroup reviewed the approved I-Plan wording. Workgroup did not suggest any potential editorial changes.

Adjourn

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