

**Meeting Summary**  
**Buffalo & White Oak Bayous Bacteria TMDL Stakeholder Group**

**July 19, 2005**

**STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:** Latrice Babin; Neil Bishop; Catherine Elliott; Terry Hershey; Steve Johnston; Bill Manning Sr.; Trent Martin; Todd Running; Linda Shead; Kerry Whelan; Mary Ellen Whitworth;

**STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:** Del Cannon; Claire Caudill; Bob Hunt; Shane Hunt; Tom Ivy; Gwang Pyo Ko (resigned); Helen Lane; Paul Nelson (represented by Jack Sakolosky); Colleen O'Brien (resigned); Kim Phillips (resigned);

**SUPPORT TEAM PRESENT:** Carl Masterson (H-GAC); Mary Jane Naquin; Ron Stein (TCEQ) via conference call.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jim Coody (Greater Houston Builders Assoc.); Richard Cron (GHBA); Linda Pechacek (TCB); Laura Blackburn (LOWV)

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Facilitator Mary Jane Naquin welcomed the stakeholders and audience at 4:20 PM and there followed self introductions.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Ms. Naquin then reviewed the agenda giving a brief description of each item noting that this was a specially called meeting to discuss membership issues.

**ADOPTION OF APRIL 6, 2005 MEETING SUMMARY**

There were no suggested changes to the meeting summary and it was adopted by consensus.

**MEMBER ISSUES**

The main issue centered on a request by the Greater Houston Builder Association (GHBA) to become a member of the recognized Stakeholder Group. Prior to discussion, Carl Masterson posted a summary of the Stakeholder Group Makeup:

- 2 Conservation Groups – *1 may resign*
- 2 Public/Environmental Health – *2 resigned*
- 1 Local Government Regulator
- 1 Development Community
- 1 Agriculture Community
- 1 Local Government Flood Management
- 2 Local Government Storm Water Quality
- 4 General Public – *1 resigned*
- 2 Wastewater Operators
- 1 Estuary Program
- 1 Reservoir Operator – *Current Corps Rep will be replaced*
- 2 Clean Rivers Program
- 1 Business Community

Mary Jane Naquin reviewed the Ground Rules regarding membership – adding and replacing members. Mr. Jim Coody presented the position of GHBA an association of the development

## DRAFT SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND REVISION!

community with 5,000 members. The development community is regulated under storm water rules, and they have concerns they discussed with TCEQ and were told to work with the stakeholder group to address. The concerns center on the cost of implementing measures to reduce bacteria and the lack of any cost-benefit information. Richard Cron of GHBA said he was invited by Carl Masterson to seek a place on the stakeholder group six months ago.

There followed much discussion and the major points brought out in the discussion were:

- There are many interest groups in the watersheds. The Stakeholders have heard presentations and the background research in scientific issues for 3 years. The Stakeholders welcome input from any watershed interest group and encourage all to comment on proposals for the watershed plan. At this time in the project, it would be very difficult to bring a new interest group on board and up to speed while focusing on options for strategy and future actions.
- The stakeholder meetings are open and available for hearing the comments from anyone interested.
- The development community has a representative on the group, and the groups' overall representation seems to be balanced.
- GHBA said that the development community will be paying the costs of any regulations and the project could be better served by having their opinion.
- The Stakeholder group agreed by consensus not to add new groups to the process at its April 2005 meeting. They agreed this should not be set aside and that the developers provide input by participating in the open meetings. One suggestion was for interest groups to be placed on a meeting agenda to present comments.

There was additional discussion regarding how and whether to replace members who resigned for one reason or another. The group felt that public/environmental health was a critical category to replace and since one of the positions resigned was a City of Houston Public Health representative, it was suggested that someone from Houston Public Health Engineering, specifically someone who actually was responsible for bacteria monitoring would be acceptable. This is consistent with previous group actions to replace specific members representing existing stakeholder groups/interests that have been on board and are versed on the project.

At the end of discussion, the group affirmed the consensus of the April meeting not to add new groups who had not participated in the process and discussion from early in the process. The members were reluctant to rescind a decision that had previously been accepted by group since it could negate the Stakeholders' operational agreements or undermine trust relationships

### **NEXT MEETING**

The End Game Strategy group has reviewed a couple of iterations of a technical summary prepared by the University of Houston. Generally the second draft is better but there are still some questions and some requested information wasn't included. Linda Shead will accept comments and send them to Dr. Hanadi Rifai and the group will make a presentation at the next meeting that will be held in August. Members will be polled to determine the date.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6 PM.