



## SUBTASK 2.2 REPORT

### Documentation of Stakeholder Meeting 4 (May 23, 2019)



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## **APPENDIX**

- Meeting Invitations
- Meeting Reminder
- Meeting Agenda
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- Meeting Presentation

## MEETING DETAILS

The fourth stakeholder meeting for the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Coastal Communities Outreach Project (582-18-80213) was held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at the Angleton Branch of the Brazoria County Library.

H-GAC has convened a Water Quality Education & Outreach Workgroup to provide a forum for networking, planning, mentorship, and collaboration by connecting groups conducting education and outreach in the Houston-Galveston area with local governments in coastal areas who wish to provide it to their residents.

**GOAL 1:** Improve collaboration among education/outreach organizations to determine regional outreach priorities, share materials, plan and schedule to provide better breath of coverage with less overlap and redundancy.

**GOAL 2:** Increase collaboration between cities and organizations to offer more education/outreach events and materials to residents, targeting behavior change that improves water quality.

**GOAL 3:** Match larger cities with MS4 permits conducting residential outreach in compliance with their permits to mentor smaller non-MS4 cities in the same watersheds to share outreach opportunities and materials.

Expected outcomes include a more comprehensive and cohesive outreach strategy and increased assistance for non-MS4 permit cities to conduct this work.

Invitations (*Appendix*) were sent to mayors, city managers, city secretaries, public works directors, county governments, OSSF officials, Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates, Texas AgriLife Extension agents, and organizations and agencies who conduct water pollution prevention outreach and education across the greater Galveston Bay watershed. Twenty-two non-MS4 cities received invitations, including those in the EPA-approved Bastrop Bayou and Double Bayou Watershed Protection Plans.

There were 13 people at the meeting, representing 9 cities, organizations, or agencies (*Appendix*).

## PAST MEETINGS

The first stakeholder meeting was held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at the Brazoria County Library, Alvin Branch in Alvin (Brazoria County). It was an open-house style meeting with organizations and agencies who conduct water pollution prevention outreach and education across the greater Galveston Bay watershed displaying their outreach programs and materials.

The second stakeholder meeting was held at 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, at the offices of H-GAC in Houston. It was primarily a meeting for visioning and setting group goals and priorities, as well as determining what groups were missing from the table.

The third stakeholder meeting was held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at Alvin Community College. The meeting agenda included a tour of the website, finalization of priorities, and a review of H-GAC outreach materials.

## MEETING No. 4 AGENDA

The meeting's agenda (*Appendix*) for the two-hour session:

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Project updates, to include project pillar milestones, website updates, and remaining goals. (*PowerPoint included in the Appendix*)
3. Focus on FOG, to include strategy brainstorming, possible webinar, and plan development through a sub-workgroup.
4. Networking and open roundtable discussion.
5. Announcements of upcoming H-GAC and partner events.
6. Assign homework.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### Welcome and Introductions

- Three elected officials were recognized (Councilmember Joel Castro – Alvin, Councilmember Adrian Hernandez – Pearland, Councilmember Erik Aguilar - Clute). Two staffers from Pearland attended.

- In addition to two H-GAC staffers, three coastal outreach organizations were represented (Texas Water Resources Institute, Brazoria County Parks, Galveston Bay Estuary Program).
- A representative of Alvin Community College attended.
- The TCEQ grant manager from Austin attended.

### Project Updates (*PowerPoint in Appendix*)

- Reviewed project deliverables that have been completed or are ongoing throughout the project. Noted that outreach events need to be completed for each community.
- Reviewed the educational materials available for loan through H-GAC to support water quality messages at events and educational opportunities, including monthly social media, website, and print messaging available free-of-charge for communities in the coastal counties.
- *On-Site Sewage Facilities Pillar*: Chart presented to show OSSF repair and replacement in the coastal counties, and specifics for the project area.
- *Pet Waste Pillar*: Reviewed 36 pet waste stations provided for the coastal counties, and outreach items available for these communities also include pet waste leash dispensers and pet waste bag refills.
- *Litter and Illegal Dumping Pillar*: Reported results of [River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash®](#), held on March 30, 2019. Six sites are located in coastal counties, with two in or adjacent to the project area. Other related initiatives reviewed include the H-GAC Solid Waste Management Grant program that will renew in Fall 2019, the [Trash Free Texas](#) Adopt-a-Spot mapping tool, and a progress report on the Partners in Litter Prevention [Trash Action Plan](#).
- *FOG (Fats, Oils, Grease) Pillar*: Spoke to the desire of the attendees of the first three workgroup meetings to focus our efforts on this issue, with the addition of flushable wipes. FOG is a unique issue that affects both wastewater and stormwater. Several websites that support FOG outreach were reviewed

### Focus on Fats, Oils, and Grease

- Group was still in agreement that FOG should be the focus of the workgroup.
- Timeline: Hopefully we can get baseline data and begin the project by 1/1/20 with a completion date of 8/1/20. Project group members agreed to meet in July, August, and September to plan the project.
- A strategy for a pilot project was introduced, contain 5 steps:
  1. Determine an audience
  2. Craft a simple core message

3. Produce materials
  4. Distribute materials
  5. Track results
- Attendees worked in groups of two to answer questions 1, 2, and 5.
  - Audience: After a brief discussion of the pros and cons of several options, including schools, HOAs, homeowners, it was determined that multi-family housing units would be the best choice. It was decided that the housing unit should have a minimum of four units. We will try to have at least one project in each coastal county.
  - Track Results: (1) maintenance is completed by management so will be easier to track (2) residents are within a small geographic area and can easily receive the same messaging from various sources (3) municipalities can track SSOs and blockages from lines emanating from the complexes.
  - Message: Since we will be using the [Community Based Social Marketing](#) model, we will need to create a simple clear message of 6-7 words. *It should require one action and needs to be clear what needs to be done and how to do it.* The group worked a good while on this – trying to differentiate between an action statement and a slogan. Nothing was resolved. Proposed statements/slogans – do they meet the definition:
    - Fats, oils, and grease: trash it, don't wash it.
    - Keep grease out of the sink.
    - Put grease in the drain, it'll cause you pain.
    - When you're at the sink, stop and think #FOG.
    - Think before your sink.
    - Protect the pipes, defend the drain.
    - Put grease in the trash, not down the drain.

## OPEN FORUM/ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Discussed the idea of having [Save Water Texas Coalition](#) present their programs and materials at the next meeting, perhaps joining with the H-GAC Clean Waters Initiative. The Save Water Texas Coalition (SWTC) is made up of cities, water agencies, water professionals, community leaders, and educators who are dedicated to raising public awareness about the critical need for water conservation and water reuse measures in order to assure sustainability of our finite groundwater and surface water resources. Their stable of resources includes [Patty Potty](#). They recently have added stormwater pollution to the program.
- H-GAC announced a number of workshops; including a webinar and workshop on Disaster Debris Management, a pharmaceutical kiosk giveaway to law enforcement in rural counties, and a rural recycling conference to be held in July.

## HOMEWORK

1. Invite someone to come with you to the next meeting – especially elected officials and city staff members who do outreach at any size city in one of the four coastal counties.

Suggestions for who is needed at the table still:

- Brazoria County Stormwater Coalition
- More local government elected officials and staff
- Private entities, including waste haulers

2. If participating in the pilot, identify the multi-family complex you will be working with and get management on board.

3. Work on the action statement and slogans.

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Next meeting of the full workgroup will be in August 2019 at a location to be determined.