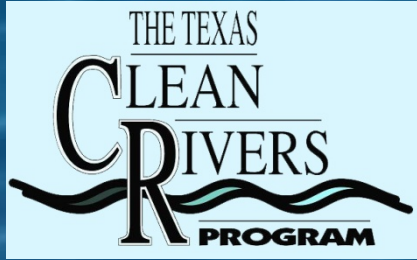


MANAGING MULTIPLE LOCAL PARTNERS

**Clean Rivers Program
QA Workshop**

January 7, 2015

A LITTLE HISTORY

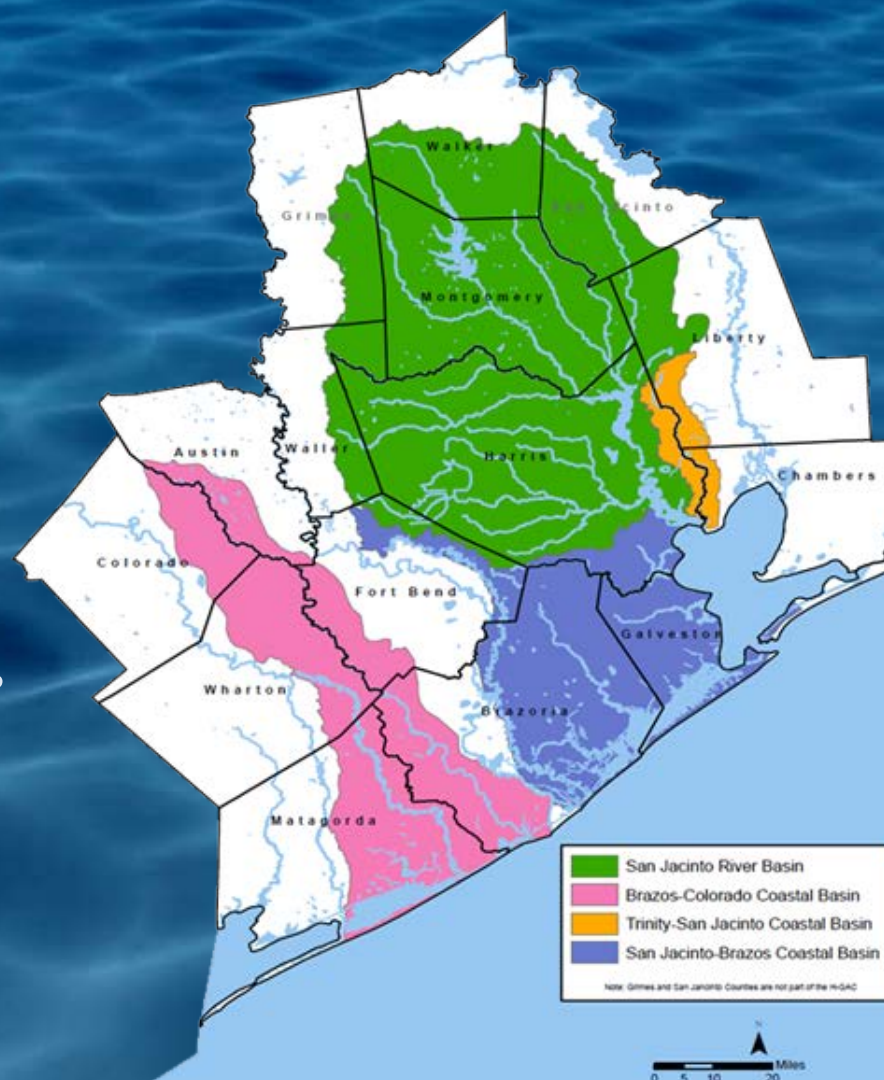


- Started in 1991
- Local stakeholders making decisions about water quality assessments
- 16 Partners statewide

OUR REGION'S ASSESSMENT AREA

Four Coastal Basins

- *15 counties*
- *16,000 miles of streams & shoreline*
- *Population 5+ million*
- *No River Authority*



H-GAC'S ROLE



- Approached by local agencies to run program in four area basins
- No monitoring program in place
- No lab facilities
- Found local agencies involved in WQ monitoring
- Brought those local agencies to the table

H-GAC'S ROLE (cont.)

- Started with 16 local agencies that conducted some sort of WQ monitoring
- Created Regional Monitoring Workgroup that met every other month
- Began development of a Regional QAPP

INITIAL CHALLENGES



Data Comparability

- *Different methods*
- *Different databases*
- *Different detection limits*

INITIAL CHALLENGES (cont.)



Different Monitoring Objectives

- *Human health concerns*
- *Bypass and overflow*
- *Illicit connections*
- *Compliance*

INITIAL CHALLENGES (cont.)



Quality Assurance

- *Large number of groups*
- *Limited staff*
- *Trust of local agencies*

RESULTS

Signed first Regional QAPP in 1998 with five local agencies (400+ sample sites).

**Quality Assurance Project Plan
For
Fiscal Year 1998 Monitoring Activities
For the Texas Clean Rivers Program**

Prepared By:
Houston-Galveston Area Council

February 23, 1998

Questions regarding this document may be addressed to:

Todd A. Running
Senior Environmental Planner
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Lane
Houston, TX 77027-6478

(713) 627-3200
trunning@hgac.coq.tx.us

Project No. _____
Revision No. _____
Date: _____

SUSTAINING OUR MONITORING PROGRAM

- ✓ Built trust between local agencies
- ✓ Reduced duplication of monitoring sites
- ✓ Provided training and Quality Assurance
- ✓ Gave local agencies a voice in monitoring strategy
- ✓ Gave local agencies access to data
- ✓ Local data is used in 305b assessments

SUSTAINING OUR MONITORING PROGRAM (cont.)

- ✓ Implemented habitat assessment at all monitoring locations (initial years only)
- ✓ Provided local agencies with access to latest monitoring technology
- ✓ Provided training and support for database design and management
- ✓ Brought in staff to assist local agencies in receiving NELAC accreditation

SUSTAINING OUR MONITORING PROGRAM (cont.)

Communication!

FOUR STEPS NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE PROGRAM

1. **COORDINATED MONITORING MEETING**
2. Regional Workgroup meetings
3. Field Audits
4. E-mails
 - a. *TCEQ*
 - b. *Other*

1. COORDINATED MONITORING MEETING

- All-day, annual event
- Agencies – TCEQ, TSSWCB, USGS and GBEP
- Local Partners
- Review of TCEQ Watershed Action Plans

[illegible]The background of the slide is a deep blue with a wavy, rippling texture, resembling water. The text is white and centered. The title 'ORDER FOR THE DAY' is at the top in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, the subtitle 'Review TCEQ & USGS monitoring sites' is also in a white, sans-serif font, but smaller and split across three lines.

ORDER FOR THE DAY

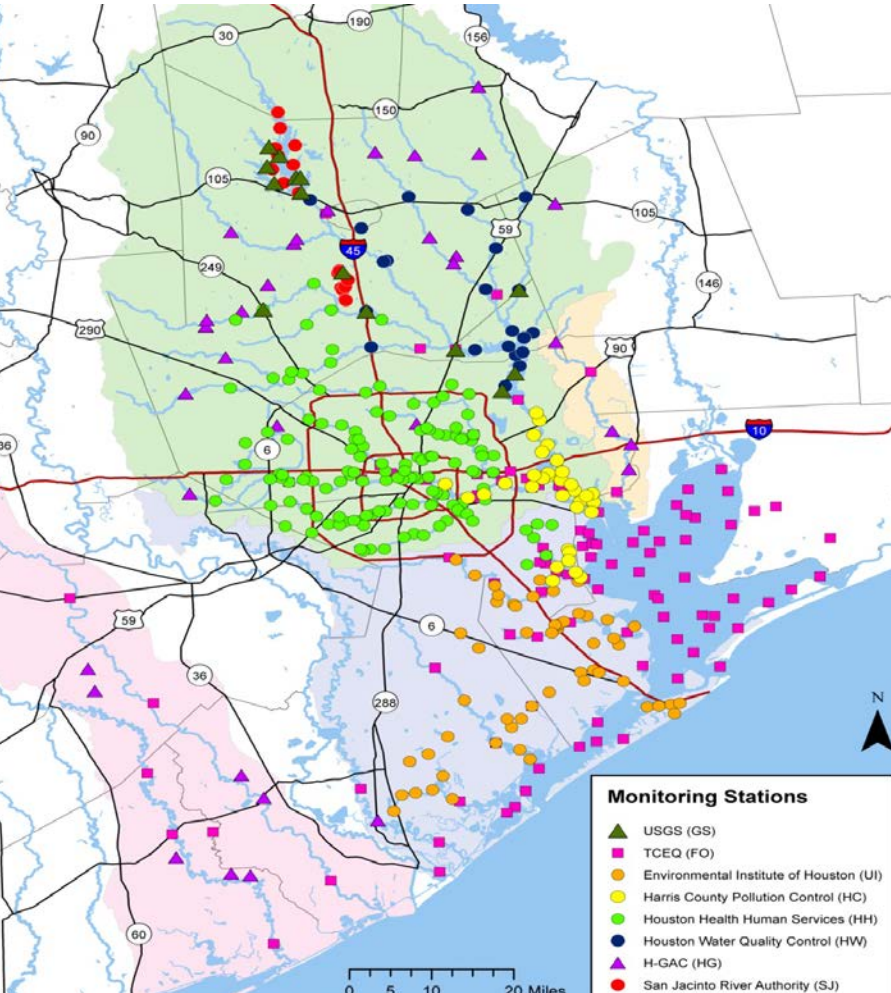
Review TCEQ &
USGS monitoring
sites

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ORDER FOR THE DAY

Review TCEQ &
USGS monitoring
sites

Water Quality Monitoring Stations



LOCAL PARTNER SITES

Review local partner
monitoring sites

Eliminate duplication of
effort & promote
efficiency

FOUR STEPS NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE PROGRAM

1. Coordinated Monitoring meeting
2. **REGIONAL WORKGROUP MEETINGS**
3. Field Audits
4. E-mails
 - a. *TCEQ*
 - b. *Other*

2. REGIONAL MONITORING WORKGROUP

- 2nd Tuesday of the new quarter
- Meeting announcements sent via e-mail
 - 30 days
 - 1 week
 - 24 hours
- Verbal reports & monitoring discussions
- Miscellaneous topics

CRP Monitoring & Project Report
Please complete & bring to meeting for discussion.
Thanks!

Monitoring Partner's Name: _____

1. How many sampling sites were supposed to be or were scheduled to be monitored during the last three months according to CRP agreements?

| September | October | November |
|----------------------------|---------|----------|
| TKN _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Extra Bacteria _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Chlorophyll <i>a</i> _____ | _____ | _____ |

2. How many of the sites were actually monitored each month?

| September | October | November |
|----------------------------|---------|----------|
| TKN _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Extra Bacteria _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Chlorophyll <i>a</i> _____ | _____ | _____ |

3. Of the sites monitored, were all parameters collected?

| September | October | November |
|----------------------------|---------|----------|
| TKN _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Extra Bacteria _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Chlorophyll <i>a</i> _____ | _____ | _____ |

4. Did any field/lab equipment problems, weather conditions, accidents, errors, etc. occur which prevented the data from being collected or produced? What were they?

5. What is the status of data submittal to H&GAC? Your agency is current through what month/date?

6. Have "Data Review Check Lists" been submitted for all the data sent to H-GAC?

7. Is there a re-occurring theme or problem that is preventing your agency from collecting all samples expected under the QAPP?

8. Is there anything the staff at H-GAC might be able to help with?

FOUR STEPS NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE PROGRAM

1. Coordinated Monitoring meeting
2. Regional Workgroup meetings
3. **FIELD AUDITS**
4. E-mails
 - a. *TCEQ*
 - b. *Other*

3. FIELD AUDITS



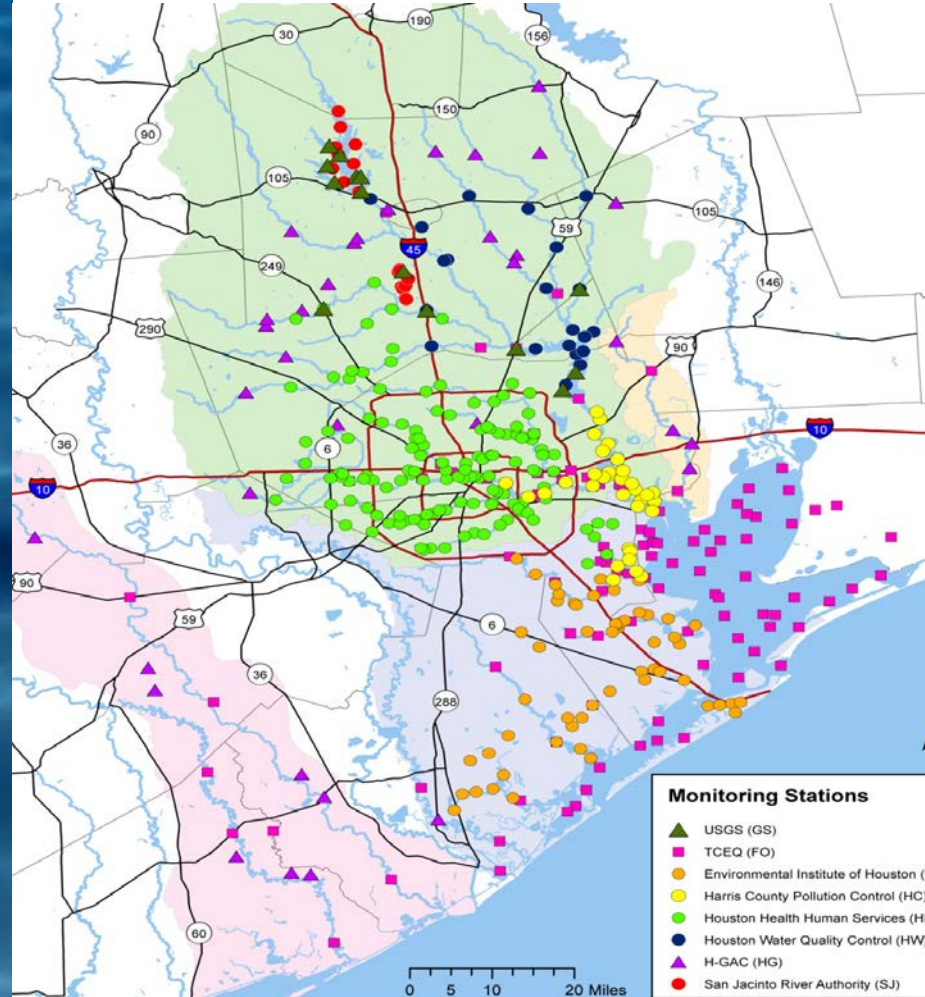
FOUR STEPS NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE PROGRAM

1. Coordinated Monitoring meeting
2. Regional Workgroup meetings
3. Field Audits
4. **E-MAILS**
 - a. TCEQ*
 - b. OTHER*

WHERE ARE WE TODAY?

- Five local partners + H-GAC makes six
 - 2005 – new contractor EIH
- 2008 - H-GAC added monitoring program
 - Out lying areas with no local programs
- FY2015 – Local partner collect at 301 monitoring stations

Water Quality Monitoring Stations



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- Continue to work with existing local partners to meet everyone's needs
- Be on look out for new local partners!

SOLICITING NEW LOCAL PARTNERS

- **Required program commitment**
 - QAPP adherence
 - SWQM Procedures, Volume 1
 - Readiness review
 - Bi-annual field audits / corrective action plans as needed
 - Quarterly Regional Monitoring Workgroup meetings
 - Submit quality assured data

SOLICITING NEW LOCAL PARTNERS (continued)

- Required program commitment
- **Routine monitoring requirement**
 - At least 2 years
 - Minimum quarterly samples
 - Parameters
 - Field measurements
 - Conventional lab parameters
 - Bacteria
 - Flow

SOLICITING NEW LOCAL PARTNERS (continued)

- Required program commitment
- Routine monitoring requirement
- **H-GAC will provide**
 - Write QAPP with input from new partner
 - Copies of SWQM Procedures Manual No. 1
 - Training of 'designated field trainer' and/or personnel
 - Maintain loaned equipment
 - Data management support
 - Electronic versions of field sheets, calibration forms, sample bottle labels & sampling run checklist

SOLICITING NEW LOCAL PARTNERS (continued)

- Required program commitment
- Routine monitoring requirement
- H-GAC will provide
- **Local partners will provide**
 - Purchase expendable supplies & other equipment
 - Personnel to monitor on quarterly basis
 - Cover cost of lab analysis at NELAP accredited lab

WHAT NOW?

Be on look out for new local partners!

Questions?

Jean Wright, H-GAC

713-499-6660

jwright@h-gac.com