Dickinson Bayou
Watershed Steering Committee
DRAFT Meeting Summary – February 24, 2005

ATTENDING: 2-24-05 MEETING:
Carl Masterson – Houston Galveston Area Council – Clean Rivers Program
Carol Singletary – Dunbar Middle School Science Teacher, Resident
Michael A. Cunningham – Industry - Penreco
Winston Denton – Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife
Don Reynolds – Residence of the Bayou
James Pierce - Citizen
Julie Masters – Director – "Keep Dickinson Beautiful"
Jim McBride – Water Board
Jan Culbertson – TX Parks & Wildlife
Scott Jones – Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Mary Dunbaugh – Councilwoman, City of Dickinson
Courtney Miller – Galveston Bay Foundation
Janet Belanger – Citizen and member of "Keep Dickinson Beautiful"
Jeff East – U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) – Houston
Marissa Sipocz – TX Coastal Watershed Program
Steven Johnston – Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Celea Mabry for County Commissioner Ken Clark
George Guillan – University of Houston, Clear Lake
Terri Laird – Dickinson Parks and Recreation
Steve Hillman – Industry
John Patterson – Save Our Shores
Carl Horechy – Galveston County Consolidated Water District
Ken Hufstetler – Real Estate
Brett Bercher – Engineer
Berna Dette Williams – City of League City
Gary Harris – Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District
Jason Christian – Citizen
Aaron Wendt – TX State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Linda Broach – TX Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) – Houston Regional
Roger Miranda - TX Commission on Environmental Quality – Project Manager
Earlene Lambeth - TX Commission on Environmental Quality – Coordinator
Stanley Jim Indest - TX Commission on Environmental Quality – Houston Regional
Karen Atkinson – TX Commission on Environmental Quality – Houston Region

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:
Earlene Lambeth (TCEQ) opened the second meeting of the Dickinson Bayou Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project with introductions of the newly formed Dickinson Bayou Stakeholder Committee and self-introductions of those in attendance. The meeting was held at Bay Colony Elementary School in Dickinson TX. and was well

attended with a diverse representation within the watershed including local businesses, various state agencies, public and private stakeholders.

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

Ms. Lambeth gave a presentation on the formation of the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Steering Committee groundrules. She said that the Committee would be following established guidance under HB 2912. She also announced there were a couple of positions left to be filled on the twenty-four Committee membership set under HB 2912. Several more people stated they would like to serve on the Committee.

Ms. Lambeth made some suggestions to the steering committee to consider following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Getting In Step" guide for conducting watershed outreach campaigns. A link to this guide can be found at the following web site: http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/outreach/documents/
Another suggestion included a trend being followed in various watersheds across the United States of developing "partnerships". Such grass roots initiatives already established in Texas include water quality projects in Armand Bayou and the Arroyo Colorado watershed(s). Another possibility for the Committee to consider was developing and forming area-specific work groups to represent agriculture, habitat restoration, land development, education and outreach, etc. throughout the watershed.

On the evening's sign in sheet, the participants were given an opportunity to indicate if they were indeed interested in serving on a work group if formed. A little more than half of the attendees responded they would indeed be interested in serving on a work group(s) if the Committee decided to move in this direction.

Ms. Lambeth said that the TCEQ had designed and would maintain a web site for Dickinson Bayou Watershed Steering Committee, would hold quarterly meetings, send out meeting notices, post meeting summaries and project information as it became available. The TCEQ wants to ensure through the public meetings and TMDL process the public understands the issues related to the dissolved oxygen (DO) project. The TCEQ solicits stakeholders' comments and will try to consider ideas offered at each milestone of the TMDL project.

John Jacob with the Texas Coastal Watershed Program will be the next speaker for the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Committee meeting to be held in May 2005. Mr. Jacob will elaborate more on various administrative Committee options, partnership initiatives and various other ideas for the Committee to consider in this early developmental stage of the project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Ms. Lambeth turned the meeting over to the TCEQ Project Manager, Mr. Roger Miranda. Mr. Miranda gave a brief re-cap of the water quality assessment process, the categories of the Section 303(d) list, and the TMDL development process. He said that a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can assimilate and still meet Water Quality Standards (aquatic life, contact

recreation, public water supply, and fish consumption or oyster waters). The TMDL also allocates allowable pollutant loadings among contributors. More detailed information on the TMDL process and program can be found at the following web link: http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/water/quality/tmdl/index.html.

The Dickinson Bayou (Tidal Segment 1103 and Above Tidal Segment 1104) has been listed on the State of Texas 303(d) list since 1996 as impaired for low dissolved oxygen (DO). The work began on the TMDL project in the year 2000 with detailed data collection, water quality monitoring, public participation through the Clean Rivers' program and watershed modeling. The tidal portion of Dickinson Bayou (Segment 1103) is listed for bacteria and DO. The above tidal portion of Dickinson Bayou (Segment 1104) is listed for bacteria.

Roger Miranda presented graphs of water quality data collected in Dickinson Bayou and used in the latest 303(d) list 2004. Linda Broach with the TCEQ Houston Regional office also briefed the group about the biological (fish) sampling performed in the Dickinson Bayou and Oyster Bayou in 1992 and 1993. Forty-three different fish species were collected and graphs were used to compare similar sampling performed in the bayous. Oyster Bayou significantly outperformed Dickinson Bayou in these samplings.

Roger Miranda also presented a brief re-cap of data that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) had on a fish community study performed on the Dickinson and Armand Bayous in the years 2000 and 2001. The study compared the two water bodies and found marked differences – Dickinson was bulkheaded and dredged whereas Armand was shallower and had a wider channel. Roger also presented the results of a watershed model, which was recently completed for the Dickinson Bayou by the TCEQ. He explained that the output of this watershed model will be used as input for the next phase of modeling, the detailed in-stream hydrodynamic and water quality modeling of the water body.

Roger said the hydrodynamic and water quality models that are currently being developed and calibrated would represent the actual processes being observed in Dickinson Bayou. He explained the need for this detailed in-stream hydrodynamic and water quality model for Dickinson Bayou within the context of the TMDL. Roger said that in developing the in-stream model for Dickinson Bayou, it is important to get the hydraulics and hydrodynamics right, especially for the tidal portion of the water body. These hydraulic interactions and mixing are important factors in this study and they are very difficult to model – upper layer and lower layers of the water body must be correctly represented. He said that the TCEQ had contracted with the USGS and Galveston County Health District to obtain the calibration data. Roger said one of the most important roles for the Committee would be to look at solutions to the water quality problems in Dickinson Bayou.

For more information on Dickinson Bayou project can be found at: http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/water/quality/tmdl/dickinson.pdf