



# *Houston Council of Engineering Companies*

## **HCEC Joint Committee on Storm Water Quality Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Held: January 8, 2008, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Minutes Issued: January 14, 2008**

### **1. Introductions**

Attendees introduced themselves. Attendees included: A. Max (HC), N. Russo (HC), R. Mellum (HC), M. Bloom (PBS&J), D. Culp (Jacobs), S. Saenger (Jones & Carter), J. Myers (HCFCD), C. Elliott (HCFCD), S. Owen (Pate Engineers), Becky Olive (TCB), V. Ogboi (COH), and K. Bulloch (COH).

### **2. Land Development Permitting Coordination Issues**

- a. City of Houston – none.
- b. Harris County – none.
- c. HCFCD – none.
- d. HCEC – none.

### **3. Current Activities**

#### **a. SWQMP Index Sheet**

Committee agreed to make final edits (as documented in mark-ups distributed during the meeting) and to forward the final sheet to the HCEC Drainage Committee with a recommendation that HCEC recommend that Harris County and City of Houston adopt its use. D. Culp to make noted electronic edits and to forward to M. Bloom for transmittal to the Drainage Committee.

#### **b. Suggested BMP Design Criteria Manual Updates**

Committee voted to forward the suggested updates as presented to the committee during this meeting to the HCEC Drainage Committee with a recommendation that HCEC recommend that Harris County and City of Houston consider the proposed updates when revising or updating the relevant design criteria and guidance documents. D. Culp to forward to M. Bloom for transmittal to the Drainage Committee.

#### **c. White Paper on Sediment vs. Floatables Control**

During a prior meeting C. Maske (Dodson) agreed to lead effort to develop white paper. He could not attend, however, he provided an update to M. Bloom. M. Bloom provided the status report. Research has been initiated to find reports and data. M. Bloom indicated that he would provide some literature and research data as well.

### **4. New Activities**

#### **a. City of Houston Stormwater Capacity Reservation Application Form**

K. Bulloch indicated that COH had developed a draft new form. She asked for committee review of the form. K. Bulloch to send to HCEC for distribution. [This may be more appropriately reviewed by the Drainage Committee or Design Standards Committee.]



**b. City of Houston Stormwater Review Webpage**

K. Bulloch indicated that COH was revising their website to allow for engineers and developers to check the status of storm water quality reviews. K. Bulloch to send link or screen shot for HCEC review and comment.

**5. Informational Items**

**a. Harris County: Low Impact Development Added to Subdivision Regulations**

N. Russo indicated that Harris County has proposed a change to their Infrastructure Regulations to allow for implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) methods. The change was to be adopted early January, but its formal adoption was delayed. The regulations state:

“SECTION 6.06 – LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT: Low impact development is a comprehensive land planning and engineering design approach with the goal of maintaining, as the minimum, the pre-development hydrologic regime in a watershed. This technique shall be allowed provided the following criteria is met:

1. The post-development hydrograph for the 10 and 100 year events indicates the peak flows are below the pre-development hydrographs.
2. Other provisions of these regulations are met or variances to those provisions are approved.
3. A conceptual design meeting is held with the County Engineer and design concepts are approved prior to proceeding to preliminary design.”

Detailed design criteria and methods will be proposed to the JTF Technical Advisory Committee in March or April. These may be similar to the LID criteria recently provided by the HCEC subcommittee to both the City and the County.

**b. Houston Land/Water Sustainability Forum – LID Seminar**

N. Russo indicated that the seminar will introduce the LID regulations noted above. Seminar information is available at [www.HoustonLWSforum.org](http://www.HoustonLWSforum.org)

**c. Bacteria TMDL's**

A. Max briefed the committee on current development. JTF is required to amend their storm water discharge permit application to include an Interim Bacteria Reduction Plan. Each JTF member will have a separate section of the iBRP. The plan must be submitted by April 15, 2008. Clear Creek TMDL is on a fast track. C. Elliott provided a news item about the City of Dickinson and others protesting a proposed wastewater discharge permit sought by the development firm Marlin Atlantis White for a new 0.5 MGD wastewater treatment plant serving a 1,200-lot development that discharges into Gum Bayou. Gum Bayou is impaired for low oxygen and bacteria. See the link below for the full text of the article:

<http://news.galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=5996f3db5e9ca45a>

Attendees noted that this contested case hearing may further increase the pressure on TCEQ to impose monitoring and effluent limits on wastewater discharges to waters impaired due to elevated bacteria levels.



**d. Harris County MUD's and Private Streets**

N. Russo and S. Sanger noted that the TCEQ and Harris County are still discussing whether or not MUD's with "private streets" require a small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit. N. Russo agreed to forward the web link to some correspondence regarding this issue. Link below:

<http://www.eng.hctx.net/permits/swq/MUD%20Phase%201.pdf>

**Next meeting:** 10:30 AM February 12, 2008, HCEC Offices

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