



Buffalo Bayou
& Lower White Oak Bayou
Federal Flood Damage
Reduction and Ecosystem
Restoration Study

INITIAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP (ISG) MEETING NOTES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

TCB, 5757 Woodway, Conference Room 1st Floor

Introductions and Welcome

Wayne Crull welcomed the members of the stakeholder group after a four-month break in meeting. He introduced the agenda for the meeting which included a study update; discussion of public meeting communications; a public meeting presentation run-through and questions and answers.

Wayne introduced Jennifer Dyke as the newly appointed Study Manager for the federal study. Jennifer will take the lead the management of the Study while Wayne will remain on in an oversight role.

In addition, Captain David Bryant was introduced as the representative for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Study Update

Wayne gave a brief update on the status of the study. The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) is currently having an internal technical review performed on the without project condition reports for the study. The study team has received comments on the reports and is reviewing these comments and will revise the reports appropriately. In the next two to four months, HCFCD will begin component identification. This topic will be the main focus of the next stakeholder meeting.

The name of the stakeholder group was also discussed. The name "initial stakeholder group" is no longer appropriate as the study expands its audience and more organizations and the public become involved in the study. A new name will be discussed with the stakeholder group in the near future.

Public Meeting Communications

HCFCD will conduct two public scoping meetings in November. The purpose is to introduce the public to the study and the partners, to educate audiences on the federal study process, and to gain input on problems and opportunities in the study area.

A printed hand-out with meeting dates, locations and times was distributed.

The format for the meeting includes an exhibit area, formal presentation and verbal public comment period. During the comment period, HCFCD will receive comments only. Staff will be available before in the exhibit area before the meeting and after the formal presentation for questions/answers.

Communications have included ad placements, editorial calendar listings and a direct mail invitation to homes and businesses in the Study area. In addition, HCFCD has offered to brief public officials and select community leaders in advance of the meetings.

Public Meeting Run-through

Jennifer proceeded to run through the PowerPoint presentation.

After seeing the run-through of the presentation, Jennifer encouraged the group to provide feedback on the presentation. In addition, she encouraged providing HCFCD with feedback on any issues in the area that might arise at the public meetings.

Feedback from Attendees:

- Requested electronic copy of the invitation.
- Asked if the information was provided to business and organizations in downtown Houston. The information was provided to all businesses and homes within a 0.5 mile radius of the bayous including downtown businesses and homes. In addition, thirty+ organizations were invited to an advance briefing to be held on November 1, 2007.
- Suggested adding more graphics and less text on the slides
- Requested to see more efforts of data collection in the presentation. Right now the presentation is about study process not study results. Proposed data collection/ info can be captured in a handout.
- Commented that there is no discussion of local sponsor (or lack thereof) for Ecosystem Restoration. Consider adding to text.
- On Study Process Slide, Public Involvement should extend through “Funding”
- Suggest moving Study Process slide to beginning of the presentation.
- Anne Olson, of Buffalo Bayou Partnership, suggested the timing of the public meetings might incur interest from individuals wanting to talk about the new county jail. HCFCD should be prepared for that discussion.
- Nancy Wilcox, of White Oak Bayou Association, alerted HCFCD that individuals in the White Oak area will be knowledgeable about the City of Houston’s Ordinance 19. Would be helpful to have staff to discuss any potential tie-in.

Jennifer thanked the study representatives for their comments and agreed to work on incorporating the comments into the presentation.

Next Meeting

To be determined – 1Q 2008

