

Detailed Drainage Committee Report (web site version) - 1/21/2011

Drainage committee representatives of SN16 met last week with representatives of the Corps of Engineers(USACE) and the Harris County Flood Control District(HCFCD) and Congressman Culberson's Chief of Staff . The presentation by us concerned two items 1) retention of bypass waters within Addicks and Barker dams and 2) reduction of liability issues especially pertaining to the USACE. We also presented who we are, our goals, what the existing problems were and how to solve these problems. The other organizations present also presented their view point for flooding . None of their thoughts opposed the ideas of the SN drainage committee. Much progress was made at this meeting by the SN16 drainage committee.

This presentation was originally organized at our request by Congressman Culberson's Chief of Staff. Present at the meeting were six representatives from the Southwest Region office in Galveston of the USACE and the local manager of the Addicks and Barker dams, two high ranking members of the HCFCD, the Chief of Staff for Congressman Culberson, a representative of COH council district G office and four members of the SN drainage committee.

At this meeting, an invitation was extended by the HCFCD for the inclusion of a representative of the SN drainage committee to be included as a part of a liaison stakeholder group for dissemination of information of the HCFCD efforts generally related to Buffalo Bayou. Mr. Jack Smart was selected as our committee's representative to this committee. Dissemination of current HCFCD affairs will be the theme of these biannual stakeholder meetings generally composed of a number of civic groups.

We feel the results of the meeting were a large success in advancing our goals and gaining rapport with the right organizations.

The HCFCD has recently rethought it's process to widen their feasibility study to include the entire Buffalo Bayou watershed More importantly the HCFCD will not continue following the somewhat bureaucratic process of the USACE of doing this which will speed up culmination of their work... This may not include the results of our presentation mentioned above, with the main purpose to finish a study of Buffalo Bayou in a timely manner. HCFCD began this study several years ago but this change would speed up completion of the study, possibly complete it within the next year. Our work with the USACE will continue regardless of the HCFCD work but we should profit from the HCFCD study of Buffalo Bayou when completed and will undoubtedly be useful toward completing the goals of this committee.

Bill Hopkins
Drainage committee