



Boater Waste Workgroup

January 13, 2011 5:30 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Helen Paige (Marina Bay Harbor), Lynda Hall (Lakewood Yacht Club), Paul Fannin (Public), Ericka McCauley (GBEP), Elizabeth Kompanik (GBF), Lynley Doyen (TCEQ), Cassandra Derrick (TCEQ), Dewayne Hollin (Sea Grant), Scott Jones (GBF), Julie Mintzer (GBF), and Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Clean Water Certification Program Discussion:

Lynley Doyen and Cassandra Derrick, TCEQ Austin, explained the new sewage disposal rules as a result of Senate Bill 2445 and answered questions. A FAQ sheet is attached that explains the new regulations.

Boater Waste Education Committee Discussion:

GBF has a booth at the Houston Boat Show. The response has been good on the weekends but slow during the week.

Coasters – 625 coasters have been distributed to 13 restaurants/bars in the area. Elizabeth Kompanik will be calling the restaurants to find out if the coasters have been given out and if the establishments would like more coasters. The committee had several recommendations for other places to distribute the coasters – Meley's, South Shore Grill, Noah's Ark, Beaudreaux's on the Water, Allen's Swamp Shack, and Ichibon.

GBF intends to take out a Facebook ad where up to \$25 a day is spent. People with interest in boating click onto a link that sends them to the GBF boater waste website. GBF will do several different ads over a four week period.

GBF is in the process of investing in new displays for boater waste events. The new displays will be more modern and streamlined. They will be used at events like the boat show and conferences.

GBF has not received survey responses since November. The overall response was approximately 5%. Generally, the boaters that responded knew the boater waste laws and already pump their boat sewage. Some of the consistent suggestions from the survey were:

- Add more pumpout stations;
- Have pumpout and fuel stations together;
- Pumpout stations need to be more conveniently located.

The Boater Waste Education Committee would like to use some of their grant money to develop a television ad. The committee would target local cable channels and public television. The purpose of the television ad campaign is to raise awareness to the boater waste issue.

The suggestion was made during the last TMDL meeting to provide pet waste stations at marinas to prevent waste from being washed into the bay. The committee will need to research the cost of the kits, which marinas would

benefit the most from having the kits, and talk to the marina owners to get their approval to have the kits at their marina. GBF would furnish the initial equipment and supplies and the marinas would re-stock as needed.

TMDL Discussion:

At the previous meeting in October, members suggested keeping a log at each of the pumpout stations or with their pumpout cart. Having a log would help quantify the number of boaters that use the pumpout and how often the pumpouts are used. The members decided to wait to follow through on this action. Boaters are not likely to take the time to sign in to use the pumpout or will sign in inconsistently making the information a less accurate portrayal of the users of the pumpout.

The group discussed using volunteers to sample the water at marinas. Again, the members are reluctant to recommend this action for several reasons. It is an expensive effort that does not provide much new and useful information. It is already known that there boaters that dump sewage in the marinas. Better information would be to find the cause for dumping rather than pumping and change the boater's behavior.

Action Items: N/A

Next Meeting: TBD

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