



Policy and Outreach Workgroup Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2011 2:00 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Bob Stokes (GBF), Linda Broach (TCEQ), Chip Morris (TCEQ by phone), and Charlene Bohanon (GBF)

Discussion

Public Meeting: Charlene informed the workgroup that a public meeting has been scheduled for November 15th from 3-5pm at Armand Bayou Nature Center. She explained that based on suggestions from those experienced in holding public meetings, it will be designed to be informal and very interactive. Workgroup members received postcard sized handouts to pass out to advertise the meeting. Charlene had already emailed out a one page PDF advertisement that is good for attaching to emails, as well as an e-invitation that can be forwarded to contacts.

The workgroup discussed the draft meeting agenda and they agreed that keeping it interactive is the best way to go. They suggested giving a little background on the plan before breaking into any activities. Linda and Bob really like the “sticky dot” activity like Rachel has done with the BIG plan. Charlene explained that the management measure workgroup chairs will introduce themselves and talk for a couple minutes on their involvement in the I-Plan process. Workgroup members will be around to answer questions when the meeting splits into management measure stations. Charlene asked about the feasibility of creating a map that clearly shows where all of the WPPs and I-Plans are located that empty into our project area. The workgroup liked this idea and will help Charlene compile a complete list of plans and contact people. They suggested asking each project leader for a GIS friendly map and then possibly hiring Heather Biggs to compile the map for us.

Policy and Outreach Tasks: Charlene reviewed the policy and outreach tasks that are listed in the I-Plan that she will need the workgroup’s help with. She pointed out that there are no policy tasks regarding OSSFs and asked if there should be. Linda stressed that the first step is to get people to believe that OSSFs are a problem by pushing to fund a study that shows this. She said that the key is to look at what the first steps are with each of these management measures, make a plan to make that happen, and THEN look at policy. Bob mentioned that Harris County is doing a much better job of enforcement with OSSFs than Galveston County, so if we look at the data it may be able to provide peer pressure to push things forward in areas that aren’t up to speed with Harris County. One management measure that can be added is to look at data in different areas to make comparisons. Overall, we should look at the enforcement environment in different areas and see if we are being effective with current legislation that is in place.

Next meeting: November 17th, 10:00am