



Boater Waste Workgroup

October 7, 2010 5:30 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Helen Paige (Marina Bay Harbor), Trace McVickers (Maritime Sanitation), Scott Tuma (City of League City), Steve Gammill (Green Marinas), Lynda Hall (Lakewood Yacht Club), Phil Warren (TPWD), Juliana Kerker (GBF), Ericka McCauley (GBEP), and Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Boater Waste Education Committee Discussion:

GBF had a booth at the SW Boat Show. The response was good, better than at the Houston Boat Show that takes place in January. GBF will continue to have a booth at the Houston Boat Show but will only have people work the booth during times that are expected to be the busiest.

The bill board on I-45 has been taken down. Everyone liked the location of this billboard and thought the message was good. GBF is looking to put up another billboard but has had trouble with their contact.

Scott Tuma and Trace McVickers will distribute more coasters to bars and restaurants. Scott will deliver the coasters to: Clifton By the Sea, Topwater Grill, Skipper's Café, and Boondoggle's Pub. Trace will deliver to: Gilhooley's, San Lorenzo's, South Shore Harbor, and Hoagie Ranch. Each restaurant/bar will receive 625 coasters.

GBF has taken out two ads in the Texas Fish and Game Atlas which also gave us free online advertising.

The committee took suggestions on places to display our boater waste materials. Some suggestions were:

Lakewood Yacht Service
Boaters Resale
Yacht Equipment Services
Tops-n-Towers
Texas Marine

The committee discussed the idea of marinas keeping a log of all pump outs at their pump out station or with their cart. Having a log would help quantify the number of boaters that use the pump out and how often the pump outs are used. Most marinas already keep some kind of list of people that use the pump outs. The committee should contact the marinas to make the recordkeeping more official and to have the marinas periodically report the numbers to GBF.

Update from Juliana Kerker

Juli briefly updated the committee on the research that she has been doing to make Galveston Bay a No Discharge Zone. The NDZ process requires the state to petition EPA and then the EPA makes the decision whether to allow the water body to become a NDZ. There are three possible purposes for becoming a NDZ:

- Particular environmental importance when adequate pumpout facilities are available
- Particular environmental importance (don't have to show adequate pumpouts.)

- Drinking water intake zone (don't have to show adequate pumpouts.)

Possible obstacles to becoming a NDZ:

- Infrastructure to support NDZ is not ready
- Commercial/industry concerns
 - Cost to retrofit
 - No suitable pumpouts
 - Already have treatment systems on board

TMDL Discussion:

Very little time was left to discuss TMDL issues. The committee suggested using the figure 6500 boats docked in the area, this includes Clear Lake and Galveston. Members are researching a general number for gallons pumped per month/year and the bacteria concentration in boater sewage. All of these factors are necessary in order to calculate the load reduction for implementing our management measures.

Phil Warren mentioned that we may have a more difficult time with our enforcement management measure because TPWD has changed the training procedures for marine officers. Only game wardens can train the marine officers now which will mean fewer trainings would take place and fewer officers will be trained.

The committee also suggested looking at CAD to find the properties that are leased.