



OSSF Workgroup Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2011 9:30 AM

Workgroup Members Present: Bryan Eastham (TCEQ), Ryan Gerlich (Texas AgriLife Extension, by phone), Marty Entringer (GCHD), Steven Johnston (GBEP), Chip Morris (TCEQ by phone), and Charlene Bohanon (GBF)

Discussion

Public Meeting: Charlene reminded the workgroup that a public meeting is scheduled for November 15th from 3-5pm at Armand Bayou Nature Center. They discussed ideas for an OSSF station in order to provide the public with helpful information and a way to receive their feedback. The workgroup suggested putting out a laminated map of the OSSF sites in our project area and having the public label with sticky notes any areas of concern they have. The main points that they wanted the public to walk away with were 1.) The fact that state legislation doesn't require inspections of aerobic systems after the first 2 years of installation; 2.) The importance of contacting state representatives to get this legislation changed back to requiring inspections indefinitely; 3.) Maintaining your OSSF is like changing the oil in your car – it's something you have to do in order to prevent it from malfunctioning and costing you more money to repair if you don't; 4.) Dogs and kids play in the water coming out of spray heads... what if your system isn't functioning properly? Ryan provided Charlene with many great resources for using to prepare the presentation.

Implementation Plan: Charlene brought up her opinion of the importance of having someone from the private sector represented in the workgroup (i.e. installers and maintenance providers) and asked for suggestions of who to ask to join the OSSF workgroup. Ryan suggested talking to Ken Davis and others suggested contacting WW associations like TOWA (Texas Onsite Wastewater Association). Charlene also shared the ideas that the Science and Monitoring group came up with for pursuing a partner to carry out the OSSF impact study and asked for their additional input. The workgroup suggested talking to John Jacobs about what type of study his grad students are currently carrying out regarding OSSFs and to ask George Guillen at UHCL suggestions for monitoring sites.

Next meeting: TBA