



Boater Waste Workgroup

May 26, 2010 5:30 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Richard Sowrey (Public), Helen Paige (Marina Bay Harbor), Paul Fannin (Public), W.P. Steffan (TPWD), Ericka McCauley (GBEP), Dewayne Hollin (TAMU), Amanda Ross (TCEQ), Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Boater Waste Education Committee Discussion

5000 mail inserts and 5000 head stickers have been ordered and will be available to distribute to marinas and brokers soon.

2500 instructional videos were delivered today. The committee members briefly viewed the video and were very happy with the quality of the video. The marinas will be given the videos to give to their boat owners.

The group would like to hand out inserts, stickers, and videos to brokers, at Marina Day, and at the hurricane seminar. They will also be distributed to the marinas. A suggestion was made to contact the Chamber of Commerce and the Safe Boating Council to have them distribute these materials in their packets and at functions.

Helen would like to buy 150 storm drain markers for the marinas to be paid for by the Boater Waste Education Committee funding. With the storm drains consistently marked at the marinas, boat owners are less likely to dump their waste from portable MSD's down the drains by mistaking them for sewers.

Public Meetings

Three public meetings will be held in July to update the TMDL stakeholders on the progress of the workgroups. The list of management measures from each workgroup will be discussed as well as the timeline for the next year. Members were asked to notify people about the meetings. The schedule for the meetings is:

July 20, 2010 at Flower Garden (NOAA) in Galveston at 7:00 pm

July 21, 2010 at American Legion Hall in Anahuac at 7:00 pm

July 22, 2010 at Clear Lake Park Meeting Room in Seabrook at 7:00 pm

TMDL Discussion

The boater waste questionnaire that the group developed to get a better idea of the target audience for our education and outreach, has been sent to the printers and will be ready to review next week. It will be distributed by the marinas to all of their boat owners in the billings. The questionnaire is already online on the GBF website under the “pump, don’t dump” logo. GBF staff will also announce the questionnaire on Facebook and email the TMDL stakeholders to get as much participation as possible.

Helen discussed the management measures that will be reported to the stakeholders at the public meetings. The group has narrowed the list to four management measures. They are:

1. Make Galveston Bay a No Discharge Zone. This will be a combined effort with the Policy and Outreach Workgroup.
2. Increase the number of pumpouts in the Clear Lake and Galveston Bay areas. The group would like to coordinate with the Policy and Outreach workgroup to get ordinances passed in the surrounding cities that require marinas that meet certain criteria to have a pumpout. For instance, marinas that have at least 25 wet slips that can accommodate boats 26 feet and over must have a pumpout. As part of this measure, the workgroup would also help to pursue funding for entities interested in having a pumpout.
3. Continue with education and outreach of boater waste issues.
4. Increase enforcement. The workgroup would like TPWD to work with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to train marine officers about preventing sewage discharge and incorporating y-valve inspections into the USCG Aux voluntary vessel checks. Initially, marine officers may educate boaters to prevent sewage discharge but then should escalate to stronger enforcement.

Action Items

- Lisa will formalize the management measures to be approved at the next meeting.
- Helen will order the storm drain markers.
- Helen and Lisa will distribute stickers, inserts, and videos to marinas and brokers.

Next meeting: July 8, 2010 at 5:30 PM