



OSSF Workgroup

May 26, 2010 9:30 AM

Workgroup Members Present: Martin Entringer (GCHD), Bruce Lesikar (Texas Agrilife Extension Service), Ryan Gerlich (Texas Agrilife Extension Service), Bryan Eastham (TCEQ), Amanda Ross (TCEQ) and Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Discussion: The priority for this meeting was to narrow down and refine the ideas that have been suggested and develop management measures that will be reported at the public meetings in July. The BIG, Gillieland, and Upper Neuse projects were discussed and used as comparisons.

1. Create a regional plan to identify, prioritize, and address failing systems. Mapping and matching bacterial concentrations with where the septic tanks are located will help determine if OSSFs are a significant contributor to the bacteria in the bay.
2. Pursue funding for actively locating failing systems. Currently, the Galveston County Health District only responds to complaints. With funding the county can hire staff to identify and address failing systems.
3. Pursue funding for low income repairs. The court system does very little enforcement to low income homeowners. Need to find funding to help low income homeowners repair failing systems. The guidelines for "low income" need to be very clear so the appropriate people are receiving the help.
4. Require that a licensed maintenance provider or a registered maintenance technician must do the maintenance on all types of systems, not homeowners.
5. Require point of sale inspections.
6. Increase education and outreach to both the public and public officials. There are many issues that are important for education and outreach that will be prioritized and addressed.

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

Action Items

1. Lisa will finalize the management measures to be approved at the next workgroup meeting.

Next meeting: June 30, 2010 at 9:30 AM

DRAFT