



## **OSSF Workgroup**

**July 7, 2010 9:30 AM**

**Workgroup Members Present:** Martin Entringer (GCHD), Ryan Gerlich (Texas Agrilife Extension Service), Bryan Eastham (TCEQ), Linda Broach (TCEQ), John Jacob (TAMU), and Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

**Discussion:** The focus for this meeting was to prepare for the public meetings. The ideas to be presented to the stakeholders/public at the public meetings were reviewed. Some minor changes and additions were made. The original ideas were:

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.

The wording for number 5 will be modified to: "Standardize and promote point of sale inspections." To number 1, the following will be added: "A more recent data analysis will be used to identify areas where samples indicate the bay is being affected by failing septic systems and then prioritized to determine which areas to focus additional resources."

A discussion was also brought up by John Jacob about coordinating a workshop for homeowners to help them identify indicators that they have a problem with their septic system and general education about their systems. The Dickinson Bayou Group, Bruce Lesikar, and this TMDL Implementation Group would work together to host a workshop for homeowners in the Dickinson Bayou and Galveston areas. In addition, a flyer would be developed and sent out prior to the workshop to publicize the workshop and educate the homeowners about septic system problems.

**Action Items**

1. Lisa will develop a presentation for the public meeting specific to OSSFs and Marty will review it.
2. Ryan will send pictures that could be used in the presentation and forward a link with the H-GAC WWTP maps.

**Next meeting:** September 1, 2010 at 9:30 AM

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