



OSSF Workgroup Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2010 9:30 AM

Workgroup Members Present: Martin Entringer (GCHD), Justin Mechell (Texas Agrilife Extension Service), Bruce Lesikar (Texas Agrilife Extension Service), Bryan Eastham (TCEQ), Linda Broach (TCEQ), Charriss York (Texas Coastal Watershed Program), Amanda Ross (TCEQ), Scott Jones (GBF) and Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Discussion: A general schedule for the next year was discussed and is attached. Initially, the workgroups will be brainstorming to come up with support for the management measures that will eventually be added to the Implementation Plan. The goal is to have a draft of the I-Plan ready for review by February. In the spring, the I-Plan will be presented to the stakeholders and revisions made. The final I-Plan should be submitted to TCEQ by August.

Amanda Ross explained the Gillieland Creek 9 Key Elements table for OSSFs as an example of what we need to do. The strategy for completing a 9 Key Elements Table for our workgroup was discussed. The group decided to begin with determining the yearly goals. A five year timeline with annual reassessments for the OSSF management measures was agreed on.

Year 1:

- Create a regional plan to identify failing septic systems
- Coordinate with H-GAC to map areas that are potential hot spots for septic systems. Once the geographic scope is determined, the specific areas can be prioritized. The responsible party for the areas that are shared between several TMDLs and groups would be determined.
- Workshop for realtors to encourage inspections at the point of sale
- Workshop to educate homeowners about their systems
- Begin to identify potential sources of funding for more inspections
- Coordinate with larger groups (Texas Real Estate Council, for example) to find ways to promote point of sale inspections

Year 2:

- Focus on the geographic and prioritized areas previously identified
- Continue holding workshops for realtors and homeowners
- Begin inspections
- Continue coordination with larger, relevant groups
- Continue to pursue funding

Year 3 and 4:

- Continue inspections

- Continue providing education to homeowners
- Continue coordination with larger, relevant groups

Year 5:

- Partners evaluate and make adjustments
- Continue with remaining inspections

Responsible Parties:

TCEQ will host annual assessment meetings

Texas Agrilife Extension Service will host workshops for homeowners and realtors

GBF will investigate funding

Other ideas to take into consideration:

Do we want to separate management measures into failing systems and improving maintenance of systems?

Science and Monitoring may want to investigate how far the bacteria travel downstream.

For every wastewater system, whether it is a septic system, WWTF, or boater sewage, the system needs to be maintained and periodically inspected.

In order to inspect a system properly, the inspector needs to be able to see the components of the system. This could mean that the landscaping will be disturbed.

We could partner with H-GAC to apply for 319 funding to promote more inspections.

We could consider making our maintenance education program a pilot program for the Galveston area that eventually could be expanded statewide.

Action Items

1. Lisa will develop the 9 Key Elements Table and distribute to workgroup members.
2. All workgroup members will investigate how to calculate the potential load reduction and bring ideas back to the group.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 9:30 AM

Schedule for Implementation Plan

September – January: Establish support elements for the management measures and complete the 9 Key Elements Table, draft sections of the I-Plan

February: Draft Implementation Plan due

March – May: Revisions, present draft I-Plan to the public, solicit support from the public

June – July: Finalize the I-Plan

August: Submit I-Plan to TCEQ