



Policy and Outreach Workgroup Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2010 2:00 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Bob Stokes (GBF), Scott Jones (GBF), Steve Hupp (HCPHES); Gerhard Meinecke (Public), Charriss York (Texas Agrilife Extension Service), Linda Broach (TCEQ), Scott Tuma (City of League City), Amanda Ross (TCEQ), and Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Discussion: Bob began the meeting by reporting that a presentation had been give to the GBF Board concerning the Boater Waste Campaign. A couple of the members suggested that commercial vessel owners may be opposed to making Galveston Bay a No Discharge Zone (NDZ). The committee wants to research several topics in order to better understand how a NDZ designation would affect commercial vessels:

1. How well treated is the water that is being dumped from the commercial vessels?
2. What are the standards for commercial vessels?
3. What kind of inspections is necessary for commercial vessels?

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.

A broad scope of ideas and subjects were discussed at the meeting. Following is a general list of the thoughts and ideas brought up during the meeting. These thoughts will be reviewed and discussed by GBF staff to determine the focus for the workgroup for the next several months.

- More research of the science of the problem may be necessary now so that it is fully understood once the I-Plan is being written.
- Need to find out what other jurisdictions are doing about similar issues.
- Begin communicating with the local communities to introduce our issue and possible solutions, cultivate pathways for future cooperation.
- Need a coordinated, well thought out, unified message to bring to the stakeholders and present it at the right time. Do not want to deliver a message and then change the message.
- Need to investigate which ordinances each community has that applies to each of our issues (sources).
- Need to define the geographic scope for each source.
- Begin researching examples of No Discharge Zones from other areas.
- Figure out what is necessary to influence policy for different groups (County Commissioners, Water Board, City Councils, etc.)
- Begin making a list of organizations to present the draft I-Plan and what is the best way for the I-Plan to get support.

- Develop a framework of the questions that need to be answered in order to implement an effective policy and give this framework to the workgroups from which to work.
- Would Policy and Outreach apply for funding for all of the outreach from the workgroups as a whole or each outreach effort separately?
- While other workgroups are researching the background for their sections, the Policy and Outreach workgroup can work on stormwater and begin developing the framework for the workgroups.
- Policy and Outreach Workgroup may not need to meet monthly.

Action Items:

1. Amanda will map the Phase II stormwater municipalities.
2. Nicole will research sewage disposal standards for MSDs and MARPOL.
3. Bob, Scott, and Lisa will discuss the ideas above and determine where to focus the efforts of the workgroup.

Next meeting: October 5, 2010 at 2:00 PM

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