



Boater Waste Workgroup Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2011 2:00 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Scott Tuma (City of League City), Helen Paige (Marina Bay Harbor), Ericka McCauley (GBEP), Dewayne Hollin (Texas Sea Grant), Scott Jones (GBF), Julie Mintzer (GBF) and Charlene Bohanon (GBF)

Discussion

Schedule Updates: Charlene began the meeting with introductions and by reviewing the new I-Plan schedule. A preliminary draft will be submitted to TCEQ by September 30, 2011 and the final draft is due on February 15, 2012. In the mean time one to two public meetings will be held and public comments will be received and incorporated into the final draft. Workgroup and GBF staff comments are currently being incorporated and will be submitted with the preliminary draft in September.

Funding: Section 319 non-point source pollution funding through TCEQ was discussed. We will be working with Kerry Niemann and Bill Carter at TCEQ. Funding for additional pump-out stations will be the focus for these funds since we currently have CMP funding for the education/outreach components of this management measure.

Public and City Council Meetings: Charlene solicited suggestions for dates, locations, target audiences and advertising avenues. It was decided that a meeting around the 2nd or 3rd week in November would be ideal. Future meetings with city council members are also on the radar.

Implementation Plan: Copies of the 9 Key Elements table with edits/updates were distributed for comment. The general consensus was that most had already seen them and had no comments since they seemed to match the I-Plan text. The need to calculate load-based reductions was discussed and Charlene gave workgroup members a heads up that she will be asking for their help with that.

Boater Waste Education Campaign: Charlene brought examples of campaign items that were completed since the last Workgroup meeting including the new coasters, pump-out map brochure draft, yacht broker bags and magazine ads. She informed them that the pump-out maps were currently at the printer and the yacht broker bags would be assembled once the final items arrive in the mail. Charlene shared her vision for moving forward with a new approach to the campaign, continuing efforts that have already been made, but expanding to include a more bottom-up approach. Ideas were shared including establishing marina partnerships (with a tenant workgroup), volunteer water quality monitoring, strategic planning of management measures for individual marinas, facilitating enforcement officer training and new methods of behavior change measurement. Workgroup members gave positive feedback and seemed excited about the proposed changes. They also discussed strategic locations around Clear Lake/Galveston Bay for public pump-out stations and contacts that need to be made in order to move forward with securing these locations. The steps to establish Galveston Bay as a NDZ were also discussed.

Next meeting: October 12th, 2:00pm