



OSSF Workgroup Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2011 9:30 AM

Workgroup Members Present: Bryan Eastham (TCEQ), Linda Broach (TCEQ), Ryan Gerlich (Texas AgriLife Extension), Marty Entringer (GCHD), Steven Johnston (GBEP), Chip Morris (TCEQ, by phone) 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. Steven informed us to look into applying for 319 funds through TSSWCB as well. Other funding sources are CMP, GBEP and USDA. Marty suggested looking at H-GAC's list of potential funds. Once our I-Plan is approved it will be included on TCEQ's list to receive SEP funds.

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. The Workgroup suggested reaching out to authorized agents, Westfield Estates, Bolivar, and Demijohn communities.

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. Ryan shared his experience with holding workshops for the homeowners with OSSFs. He suggested advertising that funding is available for repairing/replacing systems and to offer free pump outs/ inspections for participants. He has had around 30 participants in his workshops. A guidance document on inspections (Texas AgriLife Extension) is in draft form and will be finalized soon and can be distributed in our project area. Ryan suggested looking at Texas AgriLife Extension, TCEQ and EPA outreach materials that are already developed and using those for distribution or to be modified to target our specific region. Linda brought up the other watershed groups we should connect with since they connect to our project area: Bastrop Bayou and Cedar Bayou (Justin Bowers), Highland Bayou (West Bayou) and Dickinson Bayou. Charlene mentioned that she intends to start going to more of these watershed meetings in order to make connections for our project area. Charriss suggested asking John Jacobs for data in the project area on soil types/water table levels.

Next meeting: October 12th, 9:30am