



Boater Waste Workgroup Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2011 2:00 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Scott Tuma (City of League City), Paul Fannin (Public), Ericka McCauley (GBEP), Chip Morris (TCEQ, by phone), and Charlene Bohanon (GBF)

Discussion

Public Meeting: Charlene informed the workgroup that another public meeting has been scheduled for January 18th from 5:30-7:30pm at Armand Bayou Nature Center. This will serve as the workgroup meeting for the month of January.

Implementation Plan: Charlene updated the workgroup on recent contacts made regarding enforcement of boater waste violations (Cody Jones – TPWD Lieutenant Game Warden; Autie McVicker – Maritime Sanitation). The workgroup continued discussions on how to increase enforcement of open Y valves through visual inspections as well as using dye tabs. Paul Fannin suggested calling on marine surveyors (like a home inspector for boats) to cite the regulation on reports when they find Y valves that aren't functioning properly. The workgroup requested for Charlene to send them the location of the code so they can refer to it in the future. The group also came up with the idea to hold "zero tolerance weekends" similar to what they do for traffic and DUI violations over busy holiday weekends. They suggested doing a strong publicity push a month before the ZTW to make the public aware, make it an outreach event (law enforcement provide courtesy inspections) where citations are not given out but they are informed of the laws and possible repercussions for not complying, and give some type of reward to those who are in compliance. Charlene shared that GBF will be applying for a Boat U.S. grant in January and got positive feedback from workgroup members on focusing the application on funding for expanding the volunteer water quality monitoring program. The group suggested talking to Helen Paige to see how best to go about garnering the most votes for our application (do only Boat U.S. members vote or the public?). Finally, Charlene shared the fact that conversations are in progress for partnering with Star Fleet Yachts to purchase the dock attached to their land and lease it to them. In return they would install, operate and maintain a free public pump-out station.

BWEC: Charlene updated the workgroup on progress being made to form partnerships with Watergate Marina, Redfish Island Marine, and Pelican Rest Marina. She presented the concept of the new GBF Clean Water Partnerships with an article that will be published in GBF's quarterly Gazette and an outline of what this partnership could look like for the boating community. Charlene asked them for suggestions on what they think the requirements should be to be a GBF Clean Water Partner. Feedback was given to limit the amount of requirements in order to assure greater success with finding participants. They suggested that the marina provide the facility for the launch event, but that corporate sponsors or another source of money fund the supplies needed for the event. They agreed that water quality monitoring and formation of a "Clean Water Team" (actual name TBD) should be required. They also suggested that emphasis should be made on how the marina or any other organizations will benefit from

becoming a GBF Clean Water Partner. Finally, they suggested that the marina should provide all installation services that their staff is capable of (i.e. Pet Waste Stations, signage, trash/recycle bins, etc.).

Next meeting: January 18th, 5:30pm (public meeting at Armand Bayou Nature Center)