



OSSF Workgroup Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2013 9:30 AM

Workgroup Members Present: Martin Entringer (GCHD), Bryan Eastham (TCEQ), Charriss York (Texas A&M), Ryan Gerlich (Texas AgriLife Extension, by phone), Chip Morris (TCEQ, by phone), Charlene Bohanon (GBF), and Katie McCann (GBF).

Discussion

Implementation Plan Update: Ms. Bohanon gave an update on the I-Plan draft – she is sifting through TSSWCB and TCEQ comments. The group brainstormed ideas for a more concise name for the I-Plan and a name for the stakeholder group working on this I-Plan since one wasn't created at the onset of this project. Mr. Morris said that the only place we must have the official title is on the original TCEQ document and can use a simplified name on summaries, etc. Ideas that were suggested include Galveston Bay Bacteria Reduction Plan and Galveston Bay Action Team. Ms. Bohanon suggested incorporating Back the Bay logo somehow. She will continue to discuss the document/group names with the other workgroups as well. Ms. Bohanon asked the group if there are other groups that we should ask to comment on the OSSF section. Mr. Eastham said we could at least ask the other authorized agents or possibly politicians that would be impacted by the controls. Ms. York recommends sending them a summary instead of the entire document/section. Ms. Bohanon shared an example of the H-GAC Bacteria Implementation Group's "At a Glance" annual summary of implementation activities and asked stakeholders what their thoughts were on doing this for this project. Those in attendance liked the idea.

Management Measures Update: The stakeholders viewed the permitted OSSF map that H-GAC has on the web (www.h-gac.com/go/OSSF) and compared it to oyster waters monitoring stations that had higher % exceedences in order to determine where they should try to hold workshops and distribute outreach materials. Ms. Bohanon has not yet been able to retrieve mailing addresses for the permitted OSSF homeowners in this project area, but will continue to try. Ms. York has had a lot of success with targeted distributions in the Dickinson Bayou project area. The following is what the stakeholders found by looking at the maps:

Trinity Bay map – Cedar Bayou - two stations are in the >30% exceedences. This correlates well to the map on H-GAC's site, which shows that there are "residential areas without services". City of Beach City is a potential good spot to do outreach as there seem to be many residential areas without services.

Clear Lake area – There are not many OSSFs.

Smith Point – Is there a WWTF outfall? Not a large exceedence according to data analyzed for this TMDL.

Lower GB and East Bay map – Know about high bacteria/Enterococcus levels by Bolivar, but most development on Bolivar peninsula is on the Gulf side.

Ship Channel/ICW - Are there monitoring sites in other TMDLs in the ship channel (to Chip)? How is the ICW classified (to Chip)? Need to follow up.

Pelican Island and Galveston Island – There are lots of homes on OSSFs on Galveston Island. Pelican Island has a

WWTF – outfall right by Galveston City's outfall on north side of island. Mr. Martin says that there are not many on Pelican Island with OSSFs, however he does remember permitting some on Pelican Island. Look into this a little more.

San Leon and Dickinson Bay – There are many city sewer services. 10-20%. Ryan is coming down for a workshop with Charriss on May 15th – homeowner septic system workshop in League City (northern edge of watershed). Charlene wants to invite people to this workshop – so wants to get outreach products in line. West Bay map – there are a few domestic outfalls in the area. On the Galveston side, there are OSSFs. Chocolate Bay and Oyster Lake - not much stuff built around this area, but there are things built up upstream of these areas. No groups working with Chocolate Bayou – Ryan knows of plans for this area (south of 35), plans on doing workshop in the area. This is a new area for him. He has GIS data from H-GAC, but does not have names, etc. Charlene wants to get contact info from H-GAC, will coordinate with Ryan for wish-list of contact info. Charriss has contact in/for Brazoria county who is interested in workshops/outreach/etc. There is a protection group in this area (Friends of Austin Bayou?) – has signs on highway 35. Who is this group? Kim Laird works with this group, Bryan will contact her. Bastrop Bay/Christmas Bay area – no workshops known with Ryan. His focus is on the San Bernard River and Chocolate Bay/Bayou. Drum Bay, Chocolate Bay, and Oyster Lake have exceedences as seen with the TMDL. John O'Connell is a marine agent who may be a good contact in this area.

Authorized agent workshops – at a standstill right now due to staff changes and lots of other projects. Trying to get a course together. Ryan's update on real estate agent workshop – prepared for submission for TCEQ. CEUs for OSSF professionals - installers, maintenance technicians, etc.

Outreach materials – Charriss has additional TCEQ moneys for online videos – homeowners maintenance 2-3 minutes long. Ryan is working on an AgriLife online course – online course with end product as a certificate.

Impact study – 319 funding did not work out. Lots of stuff going on in the rest of this area – we have too much of an overlap. We may found some walls with doing our own separate thing – we may pull in with other places that are currently running similar programs. What studies have already been done in the area? What does the existing data say? EIH folks? Do we need unique data or is there enough existing data? Especially in the hot spots we identified today. TAMU is currently doing a Dickenson Bayou watershed project, there was a student at TAMUG who had a project for putting people on existing systems which is not feasible.

Want to look in the wording to see if we pigeon-holed selves too much – “OSSF impact study” could this encompass existing data or only unique study? Yes, this is broad enough to include both.

Next meeting: TBA