



Boater Waste Workgroup Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2013 2:00 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Helen Paige (Marina Bay Harbor), Logan Respass (Texas Sea Grant), Philip Covault (Maritime Sanitation), Scott Tuma (City of League City), Marianne Silva (Maritime Sanitation), Dick Frakes (Boater from Watergate Yachting Center), Paul Williams (Maritime Sanitation), Angela McDowell (Galveston County Health District), Lori Fitz Simmons-Evans (Galveston County Health District), Dewayne Hollin (Clean Texas Marina Program), Paul Fannin (Marine Surveyor/Boater), Chip Morris (TCEQ), Charlene Bohanon (GBF), and Katie McCann (GBF).

Discussion

Implementation Plan: Draft has been going through long process of comments (TXSSWCB) and back to TCEQ. More to talk about later once comments are back. Policy will likely have the most comments. Outreach should probably be good. Found people from boating community and City of Seabrook and asked to get comments – gave them, they're great! Wants to move forward and actually carry out measures. Charlene want's to create an 'At A Glance' similar to the BIG. Also wants a one page (front and back) insert talking specifically about each of the workgroup topics (OSSFs, boater waste, etc.). Public friendly name? Examples: the BIG, Save Our Streams (SOS), Wetland Permit Review, Improving Austin's Streams. Water Words That Work website! Thank you, Charriss!

Galveston Bay Action Network/Team/Group!?!?! Air Alliance and EPA just did a similar thing to GBAN. Look this up? If the I-Plan adopts the GBAN title then GBEP/Back the Bay may be able to support better!

Outreach: Coming up with new education packet – last year distributed 3500 of them! They're now being requested by marinas, etc, so they can put THEIR info in it as well and give it out at boat shows (double plus, GBF won't be at boat shows much at all). Houston Safe Boating Council, Pump-Out people, GB sail and power squadrons, Houston sail and power squadrons. This will be ready for the South Shore Boating Show. Put together 3000 packets this go around.

Volunteer monitoring – regular data submission is the big key right now. About 45% of the 30 monitors are turning in regular data. Working out the kinks of our new Bacteria sampling program. March 22nd is the next training date – on the Stargazer. CNP also accepts the national rate for volunteer hours now (\$21/hour instead of \$7/hr). GBAN is also running

Cease the Grease – Last meeting – what was working with the Dallas campaign? They have neat results: measurable! Have there been issues with plumbers voicing their (negative) opinions about this program? Fighting the Grease Monster – advertise at the site of digging/repair! Also find the upstream residences/etc. of clogged pipes and advertise there, instead of city wide. Not only cities, but MUDS – Municipal districts. Want to choose 'ceasegrease.org' as website (ceasethegrease.org is Dallas's website)... /Pasadena or /Houston or /whatever city is

a partner. Have Back the Bay link out to Cease the Grease! Want people to figure out what videos, images, etc. that they like the most and Charlene can get them from the Dallas people.

GBAN – add Fish kills to categories? Change GBAN cards to e-mail waterquality@galvbay.org OR report online at GBAN! Change website from cbohanon@galvbay.org to waterquality@galvbay.org. Create mobile app. Really want a 311 number type reporting system. Give this information to public works people and have them report things. Contact the environmental scientists (EIH, TPWD, TCEQ quarterly sampling) to see if they will start reporting. Partner with the Shrimp Boat Project – professors from UofH (how you can make a living off of Galveston Bay, give the system a new perspective). Daily logs, weekly logs, take students out as a curriculum/program. Whole focus is on Galveston Bay, history of, environmental aspect, economic aspect, etc. Could be a really cool partner.

In Santa Monica/Barbara – ‘Flash Mob Lawyering’ – getting students to go out and seek things. Train them on how to use the reporting site, how to find things, etc., and let them go out and find things. Volunteer action team.

Contact A&M extension and TAMUG and work with their college groups. Animal Husbandry group, for example. Sea grant? Talk to Julie Massy (?). GISP – beach and bay walks – incorporate this with GBAN. Turtle control!

Cynthia’s pilot program with Pearland – Pearland loved the free info. City of Houston seemed gung-ho, but never showed interest after the first meeting. City of Pasadena has been awesome. Will have widgets available to put info into (justweather.com/Houston) will be looking for info for the ‘did you know’ portion of the widget. Use to highlight habitat? Maybe something else.

Next meeting: TBA