



Policy and Outreach Workgroup

June 30, 2010 2:00 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Bob Stokes (GBF), Scott Jones (GBF), Nicole Hausler (POHA); Steve Hupp (HCPHES); Gerhard Meinecke (Public), Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Discussion:

The group reviewed the ideas that will be presented to the stakeholders at the public meetings. They are:

1. Work with local communities to share storm water management ideas.
2. Require all marinas to have a pump out. Coordinate with Boater Waste Workgroup.
3. Make Galveston Bay a No Discharge Zone. Coordinate with Boater Waste Workgroup.
4. Work with local authorities to increase enforcement of sewage pumpout and publicize the actions.
5. Create a positive message to increase awareness of the bacteria issue in the bay.
 - o Message needs to be positive
 - o Bay is not broken, it needs protection
 - o Combine oyster waters use with all seafood consumption and recreation
 - o Incorporate other TMDLs in the area

Minor changes were suggested for two of the ideas:

1. Work with local communities to share storm water management ideas that concern bacteria issues.
5. Instead of "The bay is not broken, it needs protection" the group thought the idea should be: "The bay is at risk. Half of our waters cannot be harvested due to high bacteria concentrations. More pressure is expected in the future with 4 million people expected to move into the area. There is a need to reduce the stress to the bay and now is your chance to help."

Policy and Outreach Ideas from Other Workgroups:

If other workgroups have a management measure where a change of policy is necessary, the Policy and Outreach Workgroup would be responsible for the implementation. However, the workgroup originating the management measure should develop a short write-up explaining why they think the idea is important, what needs to be done, and what actions need to take place. Once all of the management measures have been submitted to the Policy and Outreach Workgroup, a matrix will be developed and the management measures prioritized.

Implementation Plan Process:

- The implementation plan is approved as a document, not in parts.
- There are no repercussions for not following through with a management measure. TCEQ meets yearly to review the plan to determine what has been accomplished, what has not, if a measure should be dropped from the plan, etc.
- Funding and permitting carry more weight if they are included in the implementation plan.
- The management measures can begin before the implementation plan is submitted to TCEQ.

Action Items:

1. Lisa will develop a presentation for the public meetings with regards to the Policy and Outreach Workgroup.
2. Nicole will research sewage disposal standards for MSDs and MARPOL.

Next meeting: September 1, 2010 at 2:00 PM

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