



Boater Waste Workgroup

July 8, 2010 5:30 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Helen Paige (Marina Bay Harbor), W.P. Steffan (TPWD), Dewayne Hollin (TAMU), Trace McVickers (Maritime Sanitation), Scott Tuma (City of League City), Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Boater Waste Education Committee Discussion

30,000 boater waste coasters have been ordered and will be distributed to ten restaurants along Clear Lake to increase awareness of the issue.

Marina packets have been distributed to nine marinas with boater waste questionnaires, mail inserts, and pump out DVDs. GBF has received 29 responses to the questionnaires (with only 540 questionnaires distributed at the time.) Scott Tuma will deliver the packet for Bal Harbor, which leaves five marinas that will be visited in the next two weeks. Once all of the packets have been distributed, 5551 questionnaires and inserts and 350 DVDs will have been given out to the marinas to distribute to their boat owners.

Helen ordered 60 storm drain markers for the marinas to be paid for by the GBF's boater waste grant.

Lisa asked the group to be thinking of more educational and outreach ideas for the future and bring them to the next meeting.

TMDL Discussion

Dewayne Hollin gave a brief overview of the public hearing at TCEQ in Austin on June 8, 2010. Only two comments were sent in in support of Senate Bill 2445 which recommends making all inland waterways in Texas a federally designated no discharge zone. No opposition to the bill was present at the hearing. The new rule would become effective on October 28, 2010

Helen reviewed the bacteria reduction ideas that will be reported to the stakeholders at the public meetings. No changes were recommended to the four ideas. They are:

1. Make Galveston Bay a No Discharge Zone. This will be a combined effort with the Policy and Outreach Workgroup.
2. Increase the number of pumpouts in the Clear Lake and Galveston Bay areas. The group would like to coordinate with the Policy and Outreach workgroup to get ordinances passed in the surrounding cities that require marinas that meet certain criteria to have a pumpout. For

instance, marinas that have at least 25 wet slips that can accommodate boats 26 feet and over must have a pumpout. As part of this measure, the workgroup would also help to pursue funding for entities interested in having a pumpout.

3. Continue with education and outreach of boater waste issues.
4. Increase enforcement. The workgroup would like TPWD to work with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to train marine officers about preventing sewage discharge and incorporating y-valve inspections into the USCG Aux voluntary vessel checks . Initially, marine officers may educate boaters to prevent sewage discharge but then should escalate to stronger enforcement.

Action Items

- Lisa will develop a presentation for the public meeting for the boater waste workgroup.
- Helen will get pictures for the presentation.
- Helen and Lisa will distribute the final packets with questionnaires, inserts, and DVDs to marinas.

Next meeting: September 1, 2010 at 5:30 PM