



GALVESTON BAY
FOUNDATION

Boater Waste Workgroup Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, August 8th, 2017 2:00 PM

GBF Conference Room

In attendance: Nate Johnson (GBF), Kaitlin Grable (GBF), Sarah Gossett (GBF), Emily Innes (GBF intern), Carolyn Hembree (GBF intern), Steven Johnston (H-GAC), Lori Fitzsimmons-Evans (Galveston County Health District), Linda Broach (TCEQ)

Calling in: Philip Kropf (Texas Mariners Cruising Association), Helen Paige (Marina Bay Harbor)

I. Welcome + Introductions

II. Discuss outreach events from previous quarter

We had some great outreach events over the past quarter. They provided us with great opportunities to have quality interactions with people of a diverse range of ages and backgrounds from all over the Houston-Galveston region. The highlights of our BW outreach are listed below:

- a. TMCA Spring Fling event in May
- b. Artist Boat World Oceans Day in June
- c. I-Plan Meeting in June

The meeting was a success, but we would have liked to see more interaction from the public. The next meeting will be in January or February of 2018. We are looking for ideas to help us engage with new audiences and welcome your ideas on how to get more people involved. From other professionals in the field we have heard of making it more of a fun "event" rather than a formal meeting and finding some way to incentivize attendance (with food, beer, activities, etc.) We will evaluate our options in the coming months in hopes of finding a way to get more of the general public to attend.

- d. WADE in July

III. Discuss intern research projects

The interns from UT's School of Public Health, Emily (Water Quality Research Intern) and Carolyn (Water Quality Outreach Intern), will talk about their research and findings from this summer

Emily's case study involved looking at Enterococci levels in relation to other water quality parameters (temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, pH) and rainfall in two marinas on Clear Lake that have pump-out stations, the Wharf Marina and Marina Del Sol. These results are much more descriptive in nature. A slight association between salinity (which was much lower at the Wharf Marina than Marina Del Sol) and Enterococci was observed. However, as Linda from TCEQ stated, it is important to note other factors play a role in this, like the source of the water feeding into the Wharf vs Marina Del Sol, water clarity/turbidity which would impact light intensity, etc. Additionally, when looking at rainfall impact on bacteria levels, the "wet weeks" had higher bacteria counts than the dry weeks overall, which was

expected. Further research could include source tracking for the bacteria to further hone our campaigns to reduce bacteria levels for public safety. These techniques and libraries have improved and expanded greatly recently. Additionally, measuring light intensity, which was not possible this summer.

Carolyn's study looked at boater perceptions on the benefits and barriers of using pump-out services. The main perceived barriers reported by boaters were too few pump-outs available, difficult to access pump outs (shallow waters, inconvenient location or hours), having to pre-schedule pump outs, and knowledge of correct MSD function. Benefits included an improved image of Galveston Bay and better water quality for recreation, human health, fish, and oysters. Boaters also value seafood consumption as an activity; targeting this behavior to draw attention to the impact of bacteria on oysters and seafood could be helpful to outreach and education campaigns. Boaters in this survey largely said they would support more restrictive policies to prevent waste discharge. However, many expressed concerns that commercial, industrial, and municipal pollution sources are more worrying to them. Lastly, when asked if they would report illegal discharge into the bay, most boaters who said "no" cited not knowing how to report it. About half of those said they would be likely or highly likely to use an app to report it. This population should be targeted in GBAN marketing efforts.

The interns will be giving final presentations on their studies and results on Wednesday, August 16th from 10:00-11:30 AM at Texas Corinthian Yacht Club.

IV. Updates on Pump Don't Dump

- a. Contacted 15 marinas about CVA
- b. Updated PDD map on website

The map is up to date and accurate as of May 2017. Philip Kropf suggested trying to expand upon the map and go into more detail regarding the locations of pump outs *within* the marinas, since they can still be difficult to find amongst the rows of boat slips.

V. Updates on summer social media campaign

- a. Pump Don't Dump Facebook and Twitter posts have made over 25,000 impressions
The posts we made were very well received and shared by many people and even local sporting/fishing pages!

VI. Discuss tasks for the next quarter

- a. Continue to work on CVA funding
- b. Opportunities for outreach?

If you have any opportunities for outreach, please feel free to contact Kaitlin at kgrable@galvbay.org

- c. Application for Cycle 23

The deadline for applications is September 30th. We are thinking of how to keep the campaign "fresh" in the coming cycle, because this makes it more appealing to our funders. We would like to start focusing more on community based social marketing. We will start doing more to tailor our message to specific audiences to make it more effective. We would also like to include the goal of working towards establishing at least one new pump out station somewhere around the Bay.

VII. Conclude and next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8th at 2:00 PM in the GBF conference room.