



WWTF Workgroup Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2011 9:30 AM

Workgroup Members Present: Kim Laird (TCEQ), Chip Morris (TCEQ by phone), Ray Mayo (City of La Porte), Eloy Mendoza (CLCWA), Leonard Levine (GCWDA), Steven Johnston (GBEP), and Charlene Bohanon (GBF)

Discussion

Public Meeting: Charlene informed the workgroup that a public meeting has been scheduled for November 15th from 3-5pm at Armand Bayou Nature Center. The group discussed various avenues for advertising including city T.V. ads, city calendars, area newsletters, Houston Chronicle, The Citizen Times, Galveston News (Christopher Gonzalez and Pachenko) and Steven suggested talking to Erika McCauley (GBEP) for other outlets.

Charlene asked the group for suggestions on the public meeting format based on the workgroup's past experiences. They recommended keeping it interactive and the more informal, the better. They suggested asking Charriss York and Rachel Powers about activities they used to engage the stakeholders, such as post-it notes that they can write concerns on and stick it on a large map to show where their concern is located, as well as a chart with different water quality concerns where stakeholders place sticky dots up to show what their largest concerns are. Another suggestion was to have tables setup with maps, etc. about the 3 major management measures with workgroup members present to talk with and answer stakeholders' questions. There should also be a table where educational handouts will be setup that stakeholders can take away. One idea was to create a sturdy postcard size take away that lists important phone numbers to call to report various problems (i.e. sanitary sewer overflows, broken water main, etc.). Part of the presentation should be focused on "what can you do?" We can also request letters of support for the I-Plan from those in attendance who are willing. Kim mentioned that TCEQ has a nice FOGs poster that we can setup at the meeting. Workgroup members received postcard sized handouts to pass out to advertise the meeting. Charlene will email out a one page PDF advertisement that is good for attaching to emails, as well as an e-invitation that can be forwarded to contacts.

The thought to have an additional public meeting in Galveston was mentioned, but needs to be discussed with Raul and David from the City of Galveston for their thoughts on a date/location.

Implementation Plan: Charlene informed the workgroup that the preliminary draft of the entire I-plan was submitted to TCEQ on September 30th. She will email the entire PDF document to them, as well as a Word file with just their section so they can give additional comments as necessary. She provided them with handouts with a couple example load reduction calculations from other I-plans for WWTF. They didn't have time to discuss this, but emails will be sent if questions arise during the calculations.

Specifics of the EnviroMentors (EM) workshops were discussed. The workgroup suggested that providing CEUs and no cost to attend will motivate people to attend. EM will need to apply to TCEQ for approved credits. They recommended that EM holds short courses on bacteria at night for small WWTF operators. The issue of whether or

not these workshops would be a conflict of interest with TEEX offerings was discussed and Chip will look into it, but he doesn't believe so. FOG trainings can also be held for restaurant associations, HOAs, and apartment management companies in the late afternoon (around 2-4pm). They also discussed trying to get small, "mom and pop" restaurants to participate. Discussing how FOGs impact oyster productivity through SSO may be a motivator for seafood restaurants/general public, as well as improperly maintained laterals causing bacteria contamination in seafood.

Kim mentioned a FOG cartoon that is from SAW that they play before movies at various theaters. The group suggested looking at the city of Austin and Trinity River Authority websites for other educational materials.

The group mentioned that the City of Galveston is joining the SSOI, so this will be a good motivator for other cities to follow suit.

Funding: The workgroup will need to determine more specific funding requirements for applying for grants. If TEEX/TWUA trainings are to be offered for free then funding will be needed, but they are generally paid for by the participants or their organizations if CEU credits are offered.

Next meeting: November 3rd, 9:30am