



Upper Gulf Coast Oyster Waters TMDL Implementation Plan

OSSF Workgroup Meeting Agenda Wednesday, December 11, 2013 1:00 PM GBF Conference Room

Participants: Steve Johnston (H-GAC), Linda Broach (TCEQ), Martin Entringer (GCHD), Charriss York (Texas A&M), and Charlene Bohanon (GBF).

Welcome

2013 Activities: The Workgroup gave updates on their activities regarding OSSFs that relate to the UGCOW project or neighboring watersheds. Ms. York shared that the OSSF YouTube videos created for the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership are up online and can be imbedded into other websites. So far they have received over 1,000 views. They have also created new print materials that watershed groups can use. They contracted with a public policy research group to conduct surveys before and after doing a series of educational mailer distributions and received a 29% response, which she explained is a good return. They believe the fact that they put \$2 bills in the envelope was helpful motivation. She said that they can share the results of this survey with other groups. Mr. Gerlich shared (via email) that Texas AgriLife Extension is actively inspecting, pumping out, repairing, and replacing OSSFs throughout the coastal zone. In 2012, they pumped out and inspected 24 anaerobic systems. In 2013, they pumped out and inspected 15 systems, replaced six systems, and scheduled seven additional systems for replacement within Galveston and Brazoria County. They have additional funding to continue this work through at least 2015. Mr. Johnston shared that H-GAC is working with TCEQ to obtain funding for repairing and replacing systems and is not sure of the status of their training course for authorized agents, but will check with his colleagues. Mr. Entringer shared that GCHD will continue to respond to complaints they received about failing OSSFs.

I-Plan Comments to Address:

- Timeline for completing unpermitted OSSF assessment? (H-GAC)
 - This is ongoing; the timeline is hard to predict
- Add names of authorized agents or H-GAC web page?
 - The workgroup recommended listing the entities and the link to H-GAC and TCEQ's webpages with information on AAs
- Inspection frequency we recommend in I-Plan?
 - I-Plan language needs to clarify that the inspections listed in the management measure are meant to be an initial survey of the status of the project area. Since these are only initial inspections, listing the inspection frequency is not needed.
- List funding sources and mechanisms
 - Aside from the ones listed on the agenda, the workgroup suggested adding GBEP, U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Grant Program, USDA Rural Development

Fund, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Program

- Concentration target vs. load reduction
 - Agencies recommend concentration limits/targets vs. reductions and stakeholders are OK with this change because they believe it is more accurate given the project area
- Other – The workgroup would like a sentence added to the I-Plan that states that we will collaborate with other watersheds that are carrying out surveys/studies to see if they can incorporate data collection that we need into their projects.

Summary

- Bravos for the Bay – January 16th, 6:30-8:30pm, Texas Corinthian Yacht Club
- Action items for next meeting
- Next meeting – TBD

Adjourn