



WWTF Workgroup Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2011 9:30 AM

Workgroup Members Present: Kim Laird (TCEQ by phone), Chip Morris (TCEQ by phone), Raul Silvas (City of Galveston), Darren Miller (City of Galveston), Linda Broach (TCEQ), Ray Mayo (City of LaPorte), Leonard Levine (GCWDA) and Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Discussion: Raul checked with others in his department to find out how often the same repair is fixed before it is replaced. There is no set standard for how many times something will be repaired before it is completely replaced. Instead, the number of repairs depends on the location and size of the problem and the type of repair that is necessary.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows –The WWTF Workgroup members believe that this workgroup should address the sanitary sewer overflow issue. The current statement addressing SSOs is: **Encourage the facilities to participate in the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiative (SSOI). Monitor and collect data to figure out if this is a major problem and source of bacteria in the Bay. When the I-Plan comes up for review, if the data indicates that collection systems are a problem, then participation in the SSOI would be required.** The group would like to add outreach to the owners and operators into the management measure. For those dischargers that qualify, TCEQ will send them a letter to invite them to participate in the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiative. TCEQ will offer to help with the plan. A letter will be sent to the officers of the operator's associations to be distributed to the members to inform them of the advantages of participating in an SSOI. The same letter will be sent to the owners and operators of facilities in the project area.

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOGs) – One cause of the sanitary sewer overflows is the dumping of fats, oils and grease down drains that clogs the system. The workgroup initially did not want to address this problem in the Oyster Waters I-Plan but discussion at this meeting indicates the subject should be added to the oyster waters I-Plan. The group liked the wording in the BIG I-Plan and would like to adopt similar language for this I-Plan. The workgroup wants to encourage local governments to adopt ordinances that require appropriately sized grease traps and require grease traps be properly cleaned and maintained.

Action Items:

1. Raul will send Lisa the contacts to the Chambers and Harris County Associations.
2. GBF will prepare a letter that explains the importance of facilities learning how to sample for bacteria before their permit renewal is due.

Next meeting: TBD