



Policy and Outreach Workgroup

April 26, 2010 9:30 AM

Workgroup Members Present: Charriss York (Texas Coastal Watershed Program), Linda Broach (TCEQ), Bob Stokes (GBF), Scott Jones (GBF), Nicole Hausler (POHA); Steve Hupp (HCPHES); Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Discussion: The group reviewed the ideas that were discussed in the previous meeting regarding the ordinance analysis and the development of a database of people that might be helpful to our efforts. This discussion led to other policy and outreach ideas that are listed below. Specific action items were not given out, however, Bob suggested the GBF staff meet to discuss the direction the workgroup should take.

1. Compile a list of ideas to offer to cities to put in their Phase II or SWMP permits as they renew. These are ideas that are best for the health of the Bay and other water bodies. Cities would incorporate some of these ideas in their plan rather than having to come up with the ideas on their own.
2. Require marinas to have a pumpout or require so many pumpouts per number of boats.
3. Make Galveston Bay a "no discharge zone." Clear Lake is already a no discharge zone which means that no sewage can be dumped into the lake, treated or untreated. In Galveston Bay, untreated sewage cannot be dumped within the three miles of the shore but treated waste can be dumped within the three mile buffer.
4. Coordinate with law enforcement and cities to fine boaters that do not have their y-valve closed or that are seen dumping waste into the lake or Bay. Then publicize the enforcement to prevent others from dumping waste into the lake and Bay.
5. Develop a message to be used by the TMDL program that is effective at getting the public and public officials to listen and want to help. The message would need to be positive, stress "protecting" the Bay rather than "fixing" it, possibly distinguish between types of bacteria, and incorporate all of the TMDL projects in the area.
6. Find a public official that could champion our cause with the municipalities in the area.
7. Outreach from other workgroups should be coordinated through the Policy and Outreach Workgroup in order to maintain a consistent message.

Next meeting: June 3, 2010 at 2:00 PM