



OSSF Workgroup Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2012 9:30 AM

Workgroup Members Present: Bryan Eastham (TCEQ), Ryan Gerlich (Texas AgriLife Extension, by phone), Charriss York (Texas A&M), Linda Broach (TCEQ), and Charlene Bohanon (GBF)

Discussion

Implementation Plan: Charlene updated the workgroup that the final draft of the I-Plan is in a waiting stage right now and that there is no new work to be done on it by the workgroups at this point. She will update the group as things progress. According to H-GAC, the first draft of the permitted/unpermitted OSSF map has been submitted for review. The workgroup requested that Charlene ask if it is possible for them to see the draft.

Management Measures: The workgroup discussed future workshops that they would like to hold for homeowners, as well as for authorized agents, real estate agents, and home inspectors. Charlene and Ryan will determine a date in the fall to hold one for homeowners. The workgroup needs to find out from H-GAC if their workshop for authorized agents has been awarded CEUs yet and who the instructors are. Ryan described the 2-day course/manual that Texas AgriLife has developed for designated representative and home inspectors. It will be worth 16 CEUs and should be accredited by the end of this year. Charriss suggested that we look into tailoring these already existing courses to reach real estate agents and that this would be a good slant for us to take when applying for funding.

319 Application: The workgroup made several suggestions to help with formulating the 319 grant application. Components that they would like to see funded are workshops, inspections, repairs/replacements, campaign materials/media, giveaways for workshop participants (i.e. sludge judges), and an impact study that's purpose is to create buy in of local/regional government and the public by making the case for the importance of addressing this problem with real data, as well as to help prioritize areas for carrying out inspections, repairs and replacements. Charriss suggests looking at the OSSF campaign that Snohomish, WA used since they determined what does/doesn't work. She also shared that her watershed group is developing a series of mailers and surveys that will go out to homeowners in Dickinson. Ryan mentioned that part of the campaign could make people aware that it costs around \$200 to pump out their system, but could cost them more than \$1500 if they are issued a fine. The workgroup suggested that we start building relationships right now with counties in the project area so that the necessary organizational capacity is in place for when we receive funding and we don't experience delays. For the impact study, the group recommended speaking with Dr. Clyde Munster with Texas A&M, Dr. Rifai with UH, and George Guillen with UHCL. Charriss also suggested that we might look at CMP as a possible source of funding for this study since they set aside some funds specifically for stormwater related projects.

Next meeting: TBA