



Boater Waste Workgroup

September 1, 2010 5:30 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Helen Paige (Marina Bay Harbor), Trace McVickers (Maritime Sanitation), Scott Tuma (City of League City), Graham Waak (TCEQ), Amanda Ross (TCEQ), Steve Gammill (Green Marinas), Joan Cordes (Lakewood Yacht Club), Juliana Kerker (GBF), Richard Sowrey (Public), Ericka McCauley (GBEP), and Lisa Miller-Marshall (GBF)

Graham Waak, Boat Sewage Liaison for TCEQ in Austin, has recently been assigned to the boater waste program. He introduced himself and summarized the new rules that will take effect on November 11, 2010 as a result of Senate Bill 2445. Graham distributed a handout that summarized the new rules and the actions TCEQ will take to publicize and enforce the new regulations. The hand out will be posted on the GBF website.

Boater Waste Education Committee Discussion

Redfish Raft Up is Sunday, September 5. Maritime Sanitation will be available for pumps outs the entire day.

Scott Tuma has distributed coasters to: Club Classic, Huston Yacht Club, Lakewood Yacht Club, Turtle Club, and Seabrook Classic Café. Trace McVickers has also volunteered to distribute coasters to restaurants. GBF will get the coasters to Trace within the next couple of weeks. The committee was asked to prioritize which restaurants should get the coasters based on reaching the most boaters. The restaurants suggested were: Clifton By the Sea, Gilhoey's, Topwater Grill, Skipper's Café, San Lorenzo's, Boondoggle's Pub, South Shore Harbor, and Hoagie Ranch.

Marina Packets have been distributed to all of the local marinas except two in Galveston. Those packets will be delivered soon. The next priority is to deliver storm drain markers and the head stickers to marinas and/or yacht brokers.

GBF has received and processed 151(137 mailed and 14 online) questionnaires to date. This is a small number relative to the approximately 5000 distributed but many marinas have not sent the questionnaires out to their owners yet. The results were compiled by Tiffan Chilcott Wong, GBF.

Results of Boater Waste Survey:

- 10% of the respondents are live-aboards
- 79% take their boat out 1-3 times a month during boating season
- 80% of the respondents' primary activity is cruising
- 94% go boating in Galveston Bay; 40% go boating in Clear Lake

- 74% get fuel at Three Amigos
- 89% have a head on their boat
- 80% use the head on their boat
- 84% said their y-valve is locked at all times (75% knew it is required to be locked)
- 96% said that the sewage is pumped out
- 59% pump at the marinas, 50% use a professional service
- 7 out of the 151 said that more pump out stations are needed
- 3 out of 151 want pump out stations located where fuel stations are

The group discussed what types of activities are working that promotes the boater waste campaign and what are some new ideas the committee might have. The group liked the new billboard and believes the koozies, coasters, etc. help to draw attention to the issue. There was a suggestion to send out the inserts again with the bills to the boaters to reinforce the message. They also thought we should be attending more functions like boat shows to hand out our materials. A suggestion was made to begin talking directly to the marina owners about the importance of adding pump outs to their marinas. The group did not believe that speaking at Rotary Clubs would be effective. Most of the members of the Rotary Club are already familiar with the issue and we would not be reaching enough people to make it worth our time. Phillip Croft has been speaking to the yacht brokers and delivering our message. Helen and Lisa can follow up with the brokers when they deliver the stickers. A suggestion was made to use BWEC funds to install pet waste disposals at the marinas to cut down on pet waste going into the marina waters. With many boat owners bringing their dogs with them when they go boating, the pet waste disposals would encourage owners to clean up after their pets.

TMDL Discussion

Lisa began the discussion by reporting that a presentation had been give to the GBF Board concerning the Boater Waste Campaign. A couple of the members suggested that commercial vessel owners may be opposed to making Galveston Bay a No Discharge Zone (NDZ). The committee wants to research several topics in order to better understand how a NDZ designation would affect commercial vessels:

1. How well treated is the water that is being dumped from the commercial vessels?
2. What are the standards for commercial vessels?
3. What kind of inspections is necessary for commercial vessels?

A general schedule for the next year was discussed and is attached. Initially, the workgroups will be brainstorming to come up with support for the management measures that will eventually be added to the Implementation Plan. The goal is to have a draft of the I-Plan ready for review by February. In the spring, the I-Plan will be presented to the stakeholders and revisions made. The final I-Plan should be submitted to TCEQ by August 2011.

In reference to the process to make Galveston Bay a NDZ, Amanda Ross suggested the group research other bays with a port similar to ours that have already gone through the process to get a better understanding of the best way to

accomplish our goal. We need to find out what kind of obstacles they faced, how they overcame any obstacles, how to avoid and problems, etc.

Amanda reviewed the Gillieland Creek 9 Key Elements Table for OSSFs as an example of what the boater waste workgroup will be focusing on for the next several months.

The group agreed on a five year time frame with yearly reassessments for the boater waste management measures.

Year 1:

- Coordinate with the Policy and Outreach Workgroup to begin communications with the area municipalities to pass an ordinance to require pump outs at marinas within their jurisdiction.
- Begin to identify potential sources of funding for new pump out stations
- Research the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) to get a better understanding of what requirements there are for the pump out stations that are paid, at least in part, by funds related to CVA.
- Provide two training sessions to the Coast Guard Auxiliary

Lisa will continue to work on the timeline and email out to the group for comments before the next meeting.

Municipalities can apply for funding to install pump out stations on their own land that is on the water. The group would like the Policy and Outreach Workgroup to look at the feasibility of doing this at any of the local municipalities and begin introducing this idea to the local officials.

Action Items

- Lisa will continue to fill in the 9 Key Elements Table, particularly the yearly goals
- Everyone in the group should begin to research areas that are already a NDZ
- Everyone should investigate what we need to calculate the potential load reduction
- Helen and Lisa will distribute the final packets with questionnaires, inserts, and DVDs to marinas and begin delivering storm drain markers and head stickers.

Next meeting: October 14, 2010 at 5:30 PM

Schedule for Implementation Plan

September – January: Establish support elements for the management measures and complete the 9 Key Elements Table, draft sections of the I-Plan

February: Draft Implementation Plan due

March – May: Revisions, present draft I-Plan to the public, solicit support from the public

June – July: Finalize the I-Plan

August: Submit I-Plan to TCEQ