



WWTF Workgroup Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2011 2:00 PM

Workgroup Members Present: Kim Laird (TCEQ), Chip Morris (TCEQ by phone), Raul Silvas (City of Galveston), Ray Mayo (City of LaPorte), Eloy Mendoza (CLCWA), Leonard Levine (GCWDA), Steven Johnston (GBEP), David VanRipe (City of Galveston), and Charlene Bohanon (GBF)

Discussion

Schedule Updates: Charlene began the meeting with introductions and by reviewing the TMDL/I-Plan process for new workgroup members, as well as the new I-Plan schedule. A preliminary draft will be submitted to TCEQ by September 30, 2011 and the final draft is due on February 15, 2012. In the mean time one to two public meetings will be held and public comments will be received and incorporated into the final draft. Workgroup and GBF staff comments are currently being incorporated and will be submitted with the preliminary draft in September.

Funding: Section 319 non-point source pollution funding through TCEQ was discussed. We will be working with Kerry Niemann and Bill Carter at TCEQ. Suggested projects under the WWTF Workgroup are education and outreach regarding FOGs (including in schools) and homeowners' responsibility for having laterals checked and repaired (add as a management measure, find low income grant funding). Steven informed us to look into applying for 319 funds through TSSWCB as well. Steven also suggested inquiring into if tax money spent on laterals can be used as match for 319 funds. Other funding sources are CMP, GBEP and Sea Grant.

Public and City Council Meetings: Charlene solicited suggestions for dates, locations, target audiences and advertising avenues. It was decided that a meeting around the 2nd or 3rd week in November would be ideal. Future meetings with city council members are also on the radar.

Implementation Plan: Copies of the 9 Key Elements table with edits/updates were distributed for comment. The general consensus was that most had already seen them and had no comments since they seemed to match the I-Plan text. The need to calculate load-based reductions was discussed and Charlene gave workgroup members a heads up that she will be asking for their help with that. Logistics for writing the guidebook were discussed and scheduling TEEX/TWUA training sessions. Who is our contact at SBLGA and TEEX/TWUA (Chip will find out)? Does anything like this already exist (Kim will send presentation materials that Harris County developed)? Kim suggested asking Chip and Ron about adding GBF name into the I-Plan responsible parties more in order to aid in applying for funding. Finally, the group suggested looking at TCEQ and EPA outreach materials that are already developed and using those for distribution or to be modified to target our specific region.

Next meeting: October 6th, 9:30am