



GALVESTON BAY
FOUNDATION

Boater Waste Workgroup Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 7th, 2016 1:00 PM

GBF Conference Room

In Attendance: *Jean Wright (H-GAC), Helen Paige (Marina Bay Harbor), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Scott Tuma (City of League City), Nate Johnson (GBF)*

I. Welcome + Introduction

II. Update on Bacteria Plan

- a. GBF has received funding from GBEP (passed through the Texas Coastal Watershed Program (TCWP)) for one year to continue work on carrying out the implementation measures identified in the Bacteria Reduction Plan. The contract is currently undergoing final revisions and approval, and GBF and GBEP will meet later in the day to discuss logistics, timelines, and deliverables for the project as they currently stand. All I-Plan workgroups, including Boater Waste, will meet after the new year to discuss the status and progress that remains to be made on their associated implementation measures as part of this contract. More details will come in the next month or so.

III. Review Deliverables (Performance Indicators, Meeting Schedules) for CMP 21

- a. GBF received funding from the GLO's CMP Cycle 21 program for the Boater Waste Education Campaign. This funding will run from October 2016 – March 2018, and will continue and expand much of the work that this campaign has already begun. As part of this new contract, an outline of the BWEC's outreach and distribution plan needs to be submitted to the GLO on December 10, 2016. Therefore, GBF will be compiling this information in the coming month. All workgroup members were encouraged to contact Kaitlin Grable (kgrable@galvbay.org) with any outreach opportunities or events that they would like GBF to represent our BWEC at in the coming year. Please send all ideas to Kaitlin by December 1, 2016.

IV. NDZ Status

- a. Meeting updates
 - i. Nate Johnson has been meeting with as many local stakeholders as he can to discuss the NDZ initiative. These meetings are largely informational, and are meant to make potentially-impacted users of the Bay aware of this effort, the justification and rationale behind this initiative, and how the proposed NDZ may affect them if implemented.
 - ii. These groups include marina managers, recreational boaters, commercial fishers, oyster harvesters, enforcement agencies, state and federal regulatory bodies, cruise ship representatives, commercial vessel owners and operators, trade groups, etc.

- iii. Jean mentioned that in order to potentially gain support from H-GAC, Nate should contact Justin Bower and ask to be put on the Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting agenda for the February meeting.
- iv. Lisa Marshall mentioned that Nate could probably also ask to speak with the Galveston Bay Council about the NDZ to potentially gain support.
- b. Application status
 - i. Because these individual meetings with stakeholders could take some time, the application submission is being put on hold until GBF thinks that it has a good sense of what the views are of the major stakeholders.
 - ii. Nate mentioned that GBF would prefer to take a slower approach in order to get more groups on board with the NDZ initiative rather than a faster approach that may leave out some key users of the Bay.
- c. Data questions – bacteria contribution, demographic of boaters and MSDs
 - i. One of the major questions that could come up from these NDZ talks is the contribution of boater waste to the overall fecal bacteria in Galveston Bay. Because this data is incredibly difficult to collect, it is very challenging to say what contribution boaters make to bacteria in the Bay. Rather, boaters are simply one of the many sources of bacteria in the Bay, and while GBF and its partners work with boaters to reduce their contribution, we also work with WWTFs, OSSF owners, land managers, and the broader community to reduce their contributions as well.

V. GBAN Update

- a. App status, GBEP project, new partners
 - i. GBF will be releasing the GBAN app for BETA testing around December of 2016. After a month of BETA testing by invited GBF partners (workgroup members, Board or Advisory Council members, etc.) GBF will release the final product around the beginning of the new year.
 - ii. Nate encouraged all members of the workgroup to use the mobile GBAN app as much as possible during this month of testing, and to contact Sarah Gossett (sgossett@galvbay.org) or Nate with any questions, concerns, or suggestions for improvement. This will ultimately allow the final product to be more user-friendly and effective.
 - iii. Nate mentioned that GBF received some funding from GBEP for one year (summer 2017 – summer 2018) to market and advertise the GBAN app to local communities. These strategies could include presentations, interviews, tutorial videos, mass marketing campaigns, seminars, workshops, and community discussions. Though the marketing plan for this year-long funding will be developed after the new year, the workgroup mentioned that the Master Naturalists may be a good group to reach out to about GBAN since they are very active in the local environmental community.

VI. Pump Don't Dump Outreach and Events

- a. Nate mentioned that GBF has represented the Pump Don't Dump campaign at a variety of boating events or conferences within the last few months, and has plans to continue this outreach over the next quarter as well. Some previous events were discussed, and members of the workgroup were encouraged again to send any ideas for PDD outreach to Kaitlin within the next month.

VII. Water Monitoring Update

- a. Sites and trainings
 - i. Nate invited all members of the workgroup to GBF's quarterly Membership Meeting on November 15th, where we will discuss the Water Monitoring Program. GBF will also be holding a training for new water monitors on November 18th, and is looking for volunteers who can monitor around Trinity Bay or on Bolivar.

VIII. Pump Out Funds, Applications, etc?

- a. Nate will be speaking with Jennifer Demers of Maritime Sanitation to discuss marina funding for pumpout facilities in the coming weeks, and to hopefully identify ways to increase the funding or number of groups installing pump outs.
- b. Helen Paige mentioned that it might be worth reaching out to municipal groups, such as Seabrook or Nassau Bay, to see if the city could fund and maintain a pumpout facility for local users.

IX. Conclude and next meeting

- a. The date and time of the next meeting will be Monday, February 6th, from 1:00 – 2:30 PM at GBF's offices.