



## **Boater Waste Workgroup Meeting**

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2017 2:00 PM

GBF Conference Room

In attendance: Sarah Gossett (GBF), Lindsey Nolan (GBF), Steven Johnson (H-GAC), Philip Kropf (recreational boaters, called in), Scott Tuma (City of League City)

### **I. Welcome and Introduction**

- a. welcome Lindsey Nolan, GBF's new WQ Programs Coordinator

### **II. GBF Program updates**

**PDD:** GBF attended the Marina Association of Texas (MAT) annual conference in October. Participation of Clear Lake & Galveston Bay marinas within MAT has decreased over the years. GBF wants to begin re-engaging local marinas in the Marina Association of Texas. In particular, many marinas have not renewed their Clean Marina pledges. GBF will begin working with marinas to recertify.

**GBAN:** 4000 downloads of app since launch in late April. Spike in downloads between middle of August and early November. This doesn't line up with any specific marketing campaign, which has included: initial media push, PBS Kids advertising, Houston Press Summer Guide, Houston Press Belly Band, presentations, social media posts.

Scott asked if there was any way to further address reports of debris in the water, such as pipes sticking out of the water. They have been reported but are still there. Sarah recommended following up with Philip Smith at GBF, who coordinates debris removal with GLO. Phillip Kropf also noted that he keeps a spreadsheet of hazards in the Bay on his Facebook page. Sarah noted that we should look to see if these are reported on GBAN as well, and to consider if we need to add another partner agency to receive certain debris and hazards reports for the Bay. Sarah also mentioned that the P3 partnership had been added to receive Trash and Debris reports.

**WMT:** Post-Harvey water testing, focus on boater safety. Nassau Bay is looking into putting up signs to inform boaters about bacteria levels in Nassau Lagoon. Could be a good pilot for implementing this elsewhere.

GBF is considering other ways to engage stakeholders with data....what type of information do boaters, marinas, etc. want to see and how do we frame that message around boater waste. Currently have 67 monitoring sites. Not looking to expand, unless new sites are strategic in answering certain questions or engage certain communities.

**NDZ/pump-outs in area:** this has taken a halt over the summer and during Harvey. Renewed focus in 2018...need to revisit if this is the best option...need to engage with commercial boaters, etc. to determine how this will impact them and the amount of pushback we may get.

Regarding adding pump-outs to the eastern side of Galveston Bay, Phillip stated that the only feasible location would be Oak Island, but this isn't actively managed so logistics may be difficult. Most boaters who go to the east end can pump out at Bayland Marina. He stated there wasn't much boater traffic in that area. GBF will conduct surveys to ensure this is the case and analyze need for pump-outs.

CMP Cycle 23 application submitted.

### III. Post Harvey updates

- a. What GBF is doing: GBF has found low bacteria levels post Harvey and has shared this information with the public. They also did targeted sampling for communities of concern (Kemah Triathlon, sailing community, etc.).
- b. How marinas/pump-outs/etc. fared? Philip and GBF haven't heard of any major pump-out or marina damage from Harvey.
- c. What research/recovery others are doing
- d. Primary Concerns from boaters: is it safe to swim?

### IV. Future Projects

- a. **Public Meeting for I-Plan:** what should our focus be? What should our angle be? Early 2018 (Jan or Feb). Suggestions included teaming up with another organization, such as TMCA, and to include raffle items.
- b. **Pump-Out stations:** map is up to date. Plans to expand on map: where are they located *within* the marina, add photos of pump-outs, etc. (look into "ground truthing" pump-outs to include photos, descriptions of locations within marinas, etc.). Maybe add data to ActiveCaptain.com, a crowdsourcing tool that includes many boater amenities, including pump-outs. GBF will make sure pump-out stations are up to date on there. Another consideration is considering using that tool as a part of the PDD campaign.
- c. **Future of BW workgroup:** add more marina managers/owners, another representative from the recreational boater community. Sarah has some ideas but please pass along suggestions.
- d. **Renewing Clean Marina memberships**

### V. Updates and Progress from partners

-Stephen/H-GAC: Jarboe Bayou will go forward in January. Will be written into the BIG and include boater waste as a source of contamination.

-Next meeting will be before Public Meeting, so likely mid to late January. Sarah will keep everyone posted.