



On-Site Sewage Facilities Workgroup Meeting

Agenda

Wednesday, August 24th, 2016 1:00 PM

GBF Offices

- I. Welcome + Introduction**
 - a. Meeting began at 1:15 PM in GBF's conference room
- II. Bacteria Plan Update**
 - a. Nate mentioned that GBF was awarded funding for one year (September 2016 – September 2017) from GBEP through the Texas Coastal Watershed Program to pursue implementation measures for and continue working on the Bacteria Plan, though no more details were discussed since TCWP and GBEP are still finalizing the contract.
- III. No Discharge Zone (20 minutes)**
 - a. GBF is moving forward with putting together a petition to submit to TCEQ to designate Galveston Bay as a No Discharge Zone, and right now is working to determine who will submit letters of support, and how boaters will be impacted by the designation. More information will be sent to the OSSF workgroup members, along with a draft letter of support, once GBF gathers information on the potential impact towards commercial boaters and formulates an appropriate petition
- IV. Pump Don't Dump/Dockwalker Update (15 minutes)**
 - a. The Marina Association of Texas (MAT) is in the process of receiving funding to adopt the Pump Don't Dump Campaign state-wide, to expand the message to areas like Matagorda Bay and Corpus.
- V. Cease the Grease Campaign (15 minutes)**
 - a. GBF reviewed current progress and plans for the Cease the Grease campaign, including oil recycling and partner engagement. Workgroup members agreed that it would be useful to receive and analyze up-to-date data on SSOs due to FOG in the five county area in order to update the statistics on this issue put forth in the I-Plan.
- VI. GBAN and WQ Monitoring Update(15 minutes)**
 - a. GBF recently signed a contract with Vertices to develop a mobile-based GBAN app, which we will begin beta testing within three – four months. GBF is tossing around the idea of adding an air pollution category to GBAN.
- VII. Conclude (10 minutes)**
 - a. The workgroup briefly discussed an initiative spearheaded by Rhonda Gregg and the City of Galveston to transition all areas not currently served by sewer over to sewer from septic systems. This is a multi-year project that will take place over most of the west end of the island, and there may be an opportunity for public outreach and education within

the next year or so for the OSSF workgroup members. For more information, members can email Nate and he can put them in touch with Rhonda.

- b. The workgroup stressed the desire to meet on an annual or semiannual basis, rather than quarterly, based on need. The workgroup also discussed the difficulties involved with collecting specific data on the causes and harms of bacteria in Galveston Bay to answer questions like how much does boater waste or septic system overflows contribute to total bacteria loads in Galveston Bay. This type of data would assist policy makers in understanding the benefits of things like an NDZ or a switch from individual septic systems to sewer systems in a given neighborhood. Unfortunately, this data seems to be either too anecdotal for policy makers to feel comfortable encouraging action based on it.
- c. The next meeting will be scheduled after the I-Plan contract is finalized.

VIII. Adjourn