



WASTEWATER/SEPTIC WORKGROUP MEETING FIFTH MEETING

**Monday, February 23, 2014
5:30 – 7:30 PM**

Chambers Recovery Team

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees: Robin Deville, Guy Robert Jackson, Kim Laird, Rex Tunze, Pudge Wilcox

Team: Ryan Bare (HARC), Abby Ficklin (Shead), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), (TSSWCB) Brian Koch, Brandie Minchew (Shead), Linda Shead (Shead)

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Following welcoming the group and self-introductions, Linda reviewed the agenda, with a meeting goal of the workgroup refining recommendations on management measures to take to the larger stakeholder group at their next meeting.

2. Quick Review of Results of Source Modeling and Water Quality Sampling

Stephanie reviewed the results from the SELECT modeling and from the sampling. The handout with the set of maps shows how much bacteria the SELECT model predicts as potentially being produced in each subwatershed, by each source identified by all of the workgroups. The bar graph handout shows the actual sampling results for bacteria at each of the five sampling stations (locations shown on the map on the wall). Of those, the wastewater treatment plant was the lowest on non-rain days. The three tidal stations all had geomeans above the State criterion. The septic maps from SELECT show which subwatersheds have the highest probability for bacteria as a source, because of the number of potentially failing septic systems, which would be where septic BMPs might be most effective.

What is important to remember is that if the stakeholders approve measures to be included in the plan, and then the plan goes to EPA and is found consistent with requirements for a plan, the result is that items in the plan become eligible for funding.

4800 Research Forest Drive The Woodlands, Texas 77381 Tel: 281-367-1348 www.doublebayou.org

Double Bayou Watershed Partnership is a project of the following entities:



HARC



3. Presentation/Discussion: Potential Management Measures

Linda reviewed the flip chart lists for management measures. The team had taken all the previous stakeholder suggestions (shown in green on the flip charts), and added a few more that might apply (in blue), such as ones found in other watershed protection plans. These were all then lumped into larger categories groups (in brown). She then reviewed the information items to include in the plan to help make the management measures be effective: recognized measure, responsible party, potential (bacteria) load reductions, unit cost, number implemented/year, and total cost. While information on every factor may not be possible, the more info that is available, the more likely the measure will be effective.

The group then discussed the implications of being included in the plan. Regarding listing a responsible party, the team clarified that being listed would have to be confirmed with that party, and no particular burden would be placed on that party for being identified in the plan. That is, for example, if an entity is listed to expand the sewer system, but they decide not to do it, or cannot get funding for it, then it would not happen, and there would be no penalty. On the other hand, being listed in the plan could make that measure more eligible for obtaining funding. Another way to say it is: the bottom line is to improve water quality, but to get there requires more funding (such as for an expanded sewer system).

Each category and management measure was then discussed. The following tables reflect the outcomes of the discussion.

Septic Systems

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Responsible Party</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
<u>Expand Sewer System</u>	Connect septic homes to sewer	TBCD	#1 Wilcox Addition #2 Double Bayou community
<u>Septic System Review and Expansion</u>	Enforcement of complaints, w/ population growth	County	watershed-wide
	Increase inspection capacity		
	Identify OSSFs in watershed and develop OSSF database		
<u>Education and Outreach</u>	Improve maintenance	Watershed Coordinator	watershed-wide
	New homeowner education, via utility connections (introduction to OSSFs)		
	Existing homeowner education – aerobic system workshop		
	SJRA “Patty Polly”		

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Responsible Party</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
	GBF "Cease the Grease"		

During discussion, it was noted that the information collected so far on OSSFs for the WPP project will be a good start toward a database.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Responsible Party</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
<u>Infrastructure Improvements</u>	Infiltration & Inflow program (for low budget, via H-GAC)	City of Anahuac	
	Upgrade Collection – line and manhole replacement		
	Increase staffing capacity – explore how		
	TCEQ Small business program		
	TWDB loan program		
	Collection system study – smoke test, video lines		
	Lift station upgrades, including bypass pumps (better than generators)		
	Enroll in SSO program	TBCD	
<u>Plant Operations</u>	Increase staffing capacity (RESTORE?)	City of Anahuac	
	Wire thefts - cameras		
	Infrastructure backup		
	Pump repair/replacement		High priority
<u>Education and Outreach</u>	GBF's Cease the Grease program	Watershed Coordinator	watershed-wide
	Education on community notification		
	NEMO program		
	TEEX bacteria operations class		
	Trinity Valley _____ (operator org.)		

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Responsible Party</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
	SJRA "Patty Polly"		
	GBF "Cease the Grease"		

Kim noted that she would check on the plant's "design" capacity vs. its "real" capacity.

Straight Pipe Discharges

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Responsible Party</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
<u>Address Sources</u>	Leaky pipe system campaign	Watershed Coordinator, with system operators	
<u>Education and Outreach</u>	Reporting process for boaters	Watershed Coordinator, with system operators	
	Grants for low-flow devices		
	Proper use of gray water		
	Homeowner responsibilities (e.g., filtering, laterals, and clean-out caps) – incl. options for financing.		

Participants noted that use of low-flow devices would need to be coordinated with the sewer line size and slope; otherwise, there may not be enough flow to wash out solids, which then can cause problems when there is I&I to wash the solids into the plant.

4. Presentation / Discussion: Draft Form and Contents for watershed Protection Plan

Stephanie presented the proposed outline for the Watershed Protection Plan document. She explained that the "Elements" listed in the outline refer to elements required by EPA to be in their standard for a successful WPP. Brian reminded everyone that, while the stakeholders are the only ones who approve a WPP, having EPA agree will make recommendations in the plan eligible for funding. The first chapters are background, and will be presented for stakeholder review first. The chapter on management measures will include estimated costs and technical assistance needed for implementation, plus the

responsible party. All of the education and outreach items from each workgroup will be pulled into one chapter.

Stakeholders will have multiple chances for review, comments, and discussion on all the chapters. The goal is to have the final meeting for stakeholder approval in October.

5. Wrap-UP, Next Steps, and Next Meeting

Linda noted that the next general meeting will be on April 21, and there will be a workshop for homeowners on septic systems on March 31. She asked ideas on how get the word to the communities that have septic systems. Suggestions included: water bill inserts, facebook, the post office, convenience stores and the feed store on Belton Lane. She also noted that there is an opportunity to have a well-owner workshop later. Folks noted that, although many folks may still have wells, most people in the watershed are on public water supply systems now for their drinking water, and just use the wells for irrigation purposes. Still, anyone from anywhere in the county (or elsewhere) can attend, so a workshop will probably be held, coordinated with one for the Cedar Bayou watershed.