



## DOUBLE BAYOU WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP Stakeholder Meeting 9

**April 21, 2015**

**5:30 – 7:30 PM**

**Double Bayou Community Building**

### MEETING SUMMARY

**Stakeholders:** Charlene Bohanon, Louise Carrington, Terry Chandler, Leroy Ezer, Norma Ezer, Becky Fancher, Clint Fancher, Larry George, Elga Jackson, Guy Robert Jackson, Charles Johnson, Kim Laid, Brandt Mannchen, Ollie Mayes, Creola Moore, Jerry Shadden, Rex Tunze, Bertha White, Kay Willcox, Pudge Willcox

**Team Members:** Ryan Bare (HARC), Abby Ficklin (Shead), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Lisa Marshall (GBEP), Brandie Minchew, Linda Shead (Shead)

#### 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Linda Shead welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She thanked Jeri's Seafood for sponsoring the dinner, which was prepared by Tony's Barbecue. She also thanked Chambers County Precinct Two for providing the use of the building, the Office of Emergency Management for use of the screen, and the Economic Development Office for the sound system and arranging for the room set up. She noted that Commissioner George was in attendance, and two other watershed celebrities: Cliff Fancher as Rancher of the Year for Area 4 of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Leroy Ezer for receiving the Western Heritage Award from the Trinity Valley Exposition.

Linda reviewed the goals and agenda for the meeting: presenting for discussion the workgroup recommendations for management measures to be included in the WPP document; a presentation on the Cease the Grease program, from the Galveston Bay Foundation; and reviewing and commenting on Chapters 1 and 2 of the WPP document.

Linda then started the self-introductions of meeting attendees.

#### 2. Review and Comment on Workgroup Recommendations for Bacteria Management Measures

Linda reminded everyone that the goal for the management measures that are being presented for consideration is: to be effective at improving water quality in Double Bayou. Several factors have been identified as being indicators of whether measures will be effective. One is whether the

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



**HARC**

**Shead Conservation Solutions**

**USGS**  
science for a changing world

measure has been recognized as effective. Measures that have not been recognized can also be listed – they may not have been tried before, but might work in this watershed. A second factor is whether someone has been identified as being responsible for making the measure happen. Along with that factor are two other related ones: how much it is going to cost, and how it will be paid for. Lastly, how much it might potentially reduce the bacteria going into the bayou. Not all of this information will be known for every measure, but the more that is known, the more likely the measure is to be successful.

Not every workgroup had time to consider the lead entity\* for each measure, and that will be something to consider this evening. Stephanie Glenn added that the “lead entity” that is listed on the charts will be approached to be a partner, and that no one will be listed unless they have agreed.

As Stephanie began to present the workgroup recommendations, other overarching concepts arose about the WPP document. She noted, for example, that each of the workgroups had recommendations for education and outreach, and that those measures will be discussed separately at this meeting, and then pulled together into one chapter, since many of the measures are shared among the groups and among the potential parties.

Linda reiterated that the lead entity is voluntary, as is each of the practices or measures to be listed. Being in the plan does not require the practice or measure to be implemented. The advantage of being listed in the plan is that it can become eligible for funding through future grants. For example, if a grant were obtained to help implement the plan, but some measure was not in the plan, then that measure could not be funded with that grant. Thus it is better to be as inclusive as possible in listing measures and practices.

Another overarching concept was the role of a watershed coordinator for implementing the plan. The watershed coordinator would be a new position of at least half-time, with a person to be identified. The watershed coordinator would be the one who would reach out to, and help coordinate, entities who are listed as responsible, e.g., working with entities on existing education and outreach programs.

Starting with the **Ag/ Wildlife/Feral Hog workgroup**, the first section discussed was measures for livestock, and the first measure that had been suggested by the workgroup was hiring a WQMP technician. Stephanie noted that while many of the Ag folks in this watershed are already enrolled in water quality management plans, a new technician could work on updates and maintenance of those WQMPs, plus approach people who don't have one as yet. Brian noted that the soil and water conservation districts have been approached, and are supportive, with the idea of hiring a technician to work with both this watershed and the Cedar Bayou watershed, and based out of the Anahuac NRCS office. In response to a question about the applicability of the EQIP program, Brian noted that the technician could help identify new eligibilities for funding.

In addition to the **livestock** practices suggested by the workgroup and listed on the chart below, lists of potential practices were distributed for consideration of additions.

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\* Note: During the meeting, the term “Responsible Party” was used, but this terminology was clarified to be “Lead Entity” afterwards.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
WQMP Technician	More WQMP Enrollments, Updates, Etc. (Shared With Cedar Bayou)	SWCD	
WQMP Practices	Prescribed Grazing	SWCD & Landowner	
	Alternative Water Sources	SWCD & Landowner	
	Stream Crossings/ Drop Structures	SWCD & Landowner	
	Exclusionary Fencing	SWCD & Landowner	
	Shade Structures	SWCD & Landowner	
	Riparian Herbaceous Buffer	SWCD & Landowner	
Education & Outreach	Soil & Water And Testing Campaign	Watershed Coordinator	
	Agriculture Field Days	Watershed Coordinator	
	Ag. Nutrient Management Ed.	Watershed Coordinator	
	Ag. Waste Pesticide Collection Days	Watershed Coordinator	
	Livestock Grazing Mgmt. Ed.	Watershed Coordinator	
	Tx Watershed Steward Training	Watershed Coordinator	
	Riparian Workshops	Watershed Coordinator	

For the next topic of ***Feral Hogs***, the feral hog specialist position is existing, with Mark Tyson covering southeast and south central Texas. In response to a question about the need for work in the county, beyond just the Double Bayou watershed, Stephanie noted that the workgroup recognized that the issue was even broader than just Chambers County and thus suggested having a workshop for a statewide program. The table of the workgroup's Feral Hog recommendations is below:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
Feral Hog Specialist (Existing)	Technical Assistance For Trapping, etc.	AgriLife	Watershed Wide
Co. Position	(For: Equipment, Training, Tools)	County	
Feral Hog Management (Equipment)	Sterilization	Watershed Coordinator	
	Traps	Watershed Coordinator	
	Aerial Shooting	County Position	
	Exclusionary Fencing	County Position	
	Inc. Hunting/Removal	County Position	

Education & Outreach	Workshop For Statewide Program	Watershed Coordinator	
	Lone Star Healthy Streams (Feral Hog)	Watershed Coordinator	
	Riparian Workshop	Watershed Coordinator	
	Feral Hog Workshop	Watershed Coordinator	
	Riparian Outreach	Watershed Coordinator	
	Promote Awareness Of Comm. Processing	Watershed Coordinator	
Other	Bounties (County)	County	

**Goats and horses** were next, with the key measures being making the Lone Star Healthy Streams publications for those two categories more available in the watershed. The group expressed the need for having them in Spanish as well, so funding would be sought for translating them.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
Education & Outreach	Lone Star Healthy Streams – Horse	AgriLife And Watershed Coordinator	
	Lone Star Healthy Streams – Livestock Grazing		

The Ag workgroup also discussed **Wildlife**, and their suggestions are in the table below:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
WQMP Practice	Buffers between fields and bayous	WQMP Specialist and Landowner	
Education & Outreach	Signage- not treat/feed wildlife as pets	Watershed Coordinator	

**Carcasses** were also discussed in this workgroup:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
Education & Outreach	Proper/Alternative Disposal Sites	Watershed Coordinator and whoever is responsible	
	Illegal Dumping Campaign		
	Signage		
Enforcement	Programs With Local Law Enforcement		

All of the above measures were specifically related to bacteria (and/or dissolved oxygen). The Ag workgroup also consider other water quality/watershed issues. One of those was **Fish Kills**, and the following were some measures that would possibly reduce fish kills:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
WQMP Practice	Grazing Practices	WQMP Technician	
	Buffer Zones		
	Nutrient Management		
	Soil Testing		
	Alternative Water Sources		
	Vegetated Banks		
	More Shading Over Bayous		
Education & Outreach	Herbicide Use – Workshop	Watershed Coordinator	
	Soil Testing		
	Riparian Mgmt. Workshop		
	Riparian Area Outreach		

The last issue from this workgroup was **Collections of Vegetation**, which includes invasive species and other vegetation growing on top of the water:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
WQMP practices	Integrated Pest Management.	WQMP Technician	
	Careful Use Of Herbicide		
	Physical Removal of Invasive Species		
Education & Outreach	Riparian outreach	Watershed Coordinator	
	Watershed wide habitat plan for invasive species		

The first focus of the **Recreation and Hunting Workgroup** is **Boater Waste**, and Charlene Bohanon offered that GBF has outreach activities they would be happy to share with the workgroup.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
Pump-Out-Joe Beason	Installation & Maintenance	County; GBF	
Education & Outreach	Work With Co. & TPWD On Event	Watershed Coordinator	
	Promote GBF Hotline		
	Continuous Ad In Newspaper		
	Logs Of Violations In Newspaper		
	Partner W/ GBF Re: West Side Boaters		
	Chambers Wild Website & Others		
	Roots And Shoots Group		

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location / Priority</i>
	School Materials (Age Encompassing) & GBF Outreach Activities		

The second topic was ***Lack of Sanitation Facilities***, which is concerned with having restrooms where people might be recreating, such as having a picnic. There are restrooms at the parks in the watershed, but no other public land where restrooms would be feasible. However, if the measure is listed, and more public land should become available, then the facilities might be funded.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Installation & Maintenance	Work With Chambers Wild	Low Priority	
Add Restroom Icon To Maps/Websites	Watershed Coordinator		

This workgroup also addressed ***Disposal of Carcasses***:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Education & Outreach	BBQ & Education Event	Watershed Coordinator	
	Reinforce Hunter Education, Promote Operation Game Thief		
	Continuous Ad In Newspaper		
	Logs Of Violations In Newspaper		
	Illegal Dumping Campaign – Carcasses?		
	Provide Info On Proper Disposal		

On the issue of ***Concentrations of Scavengers***, there are some limitations on controlling buzzards, for example, so the idea was to prevent them from congregating by the water, or cleaning the water when it comes off gutters – such as having rain gardens at downspouts.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Education & Outreach	Program On Alternative & Proper Disposal		
Rain Gardens & Rainwater Harvesting	At Gutter/Downspouts for County/public buildings	County; ISD	County Wide

In the Other Issues grouping – that is, not bacteria or dissolved oxygen, the group developed recommendations for four issues: oil sheen, litter, invasive species, and sedimentation.

They identified two measures for ***Oil Sheen*** from motorboats:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Education & Outreach	Inform And Encourage Newer Motors	Watershed Coordinator	
Legislation	TERP Type Program Of Incentives, Get More Watershed Plans And More Counties	Larger Issue Of Concern	

To address **Litter**, they recommended two categories of measures, with one measure being the GBF reporting hotline:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Education & Outreach	Mention Co. Facilities For Residents – Subsidize?	Watershed Coordinator	
	Continuous Ad In Newspaper		
	Logs Of Violations In Newspaper		
	Signs At Parks		
	School Materials (Age Encompassing)		
	Library Exhibit		
	Watershed Clean-Up Days		
	Trash Bash & Adopt-A-Beach		
	Reporting Info Hotline (# And App)	GBF – App	
Notify Sheriff For Violations			
Monofilament Collection	Install & Maintain Receptacles At Bridges And Popular Fishing Areas	Sea Grant	

**Invasive Species** was an issue for this group, as with the Ag group:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Education & Outreach	Websites	Watershed Coordinator	
	Gatorfest		
	Boat Parade		
	Physical Removal Days		
	Riparian Area Outreach		
	Riparian Workshops		
	Management Plan For Invasives – Discuss		
	Inform About Boat Motor Wash		

The issue of ***Sedimentation*** focuses on erosion from ATVs and motorboats, but also loss of vegetation. Some specific examples were described by stakeholders, particularly around the Grand Parkway. Brian noted that the game wardens would have the most power for enforcement in cases where the events are happening on public right of way.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Education & Outreach	School Materials, Age Appropriate	Watershed Coordinator	
	GBF Hotline		
	Chambers Wild Website		
	Ad In Paper		
	Test-Your-Knowledge Game → Facebook		
	Riparian Education		
	Hotline - # To Call For Enforcement – Game Warden Has Broader Enforcement		
	Signage		
	Law Enforcement Coordination		
Structural	Drop Structure/Grade Stabilization	Landowner, TSSWCB, NRCS	

On the **Wastewater/Septic Systems workgroup** recommendations, Stephanie noted that, while infrastructure improvements cannot generally be funded by WPP implementation funding, having them listed in the plan will help when seeking other sources of funding. Thus, thus the ***Wastewater facility*** recommendations were:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Infrastructure Improvements	Infiltration & Inflow Program	City Of Anahuac	
	Upgrade Collection System		
	Increasing Staffing Capacity (Now?)		
	TWBD Loan Program		
	Collection System Study		
	Lift Station Upgrades		
	Hotline Like A “311”		
	TCEQ Small Business/ Local Gov’t		
Plant Operations	Increase Staffing Capacity (Restore?)	City Of Anahuac	
	Wire Thefts – Cameras		
	Infrastructure Back-Up		
	Pump Repair/Replacement		High Priority
Education &	GBF’s Cease The Grease	Watershed	Watershed

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Outreach	Education On Community Notification	Coordinator	– Wide
	Nemo Program		
	TEEX Bacteria Operations Class		
	Trinity Valley District (Operator Org.), Texas Water Utility Associates		
	SJRA’s “Patty Potty”		

And the **Septic System** recommendations were:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Expand Sewer System	Connect Septic Homes To Sewer	TBCD	#1 Wilcox Addition #2 Db Community
Septic System Review & Expansion	Enforcement Of Complaints With Increased Population	County	Watershed Wide
	Increase Inspection Capacity		
	ID OSSF’s In Watershed; Develop Database		
Education & Outreach	Improve Maintenance	Watershed Coordinator	Watershed Wide
	New Homeowner Ed, Via Utility Connections		
	Existing Homeowner Ed		
	SJRA’s Patty Potty		
	GBF’s “Cease The Grease”		

For **Straight Pipe Discharges**, the workgroup recommendations were:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Potential Lead Entity</i>	<i>Location/ Priority</i>
Address Sources	Leaky pipe system campaign	Watershed coordinator with system operators	
Education & Outreach	Reporting process for boaters	Watershed coordinator with system operators	
	Grants for low flow devices		
	Proper use of gray water		
	Homeowner responsibilities		
	GBF’s “Cease the Grease”		
	How to make reports – GBF		

In response to a question, Linda reminded everyone that the “lead entity” is not responsible for coming up with the funding, but would be the entity that could lead making the measure happen, if funding were available.

### **3. Cease the Grease Program**

Charlene Bohanon, with the Galveston Bay Foundation, provided a presentation on their Cease the Grease program, and also some information on the reporting hotline. She gave a brief overview of GBF for those not familiar with its work. Charlene is part of the GBF program to work with citizens and stakeholders to make sure there are eyes and ears on the bay, and that GBF can be the voice of the bay. Charlene is specifically the watershed coordinator for the Galveston Bay Bacteria Reduction Plan, focusing on oyster waters.

The Cease the Grease program came out of a concern about sanitary sewer overflows, which lead to public health problems, economic problems, and the costs to wastewater facilities having to fix the issue. When GBF looked into it, they found that, over the past ten years, more than 50% of the sanitary sewer overflows were the results of fats, oils and greases clogging wastewater lines, and causing the overflows.

The GBF program is modeled on a very successful outreach campaign in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, which started in 2004-2005 with more than 100 overflows in a year. In 2010-2011, they were down to 10 overflows per year, spending \$500,000/year on the campaign.

GBF has borrowed the materials that Dallas/Ft. Worth generously made available, and tailored them a bit to the Galveston Bay region, saving much money. They have been forming partnerships, creating outreach programs, developing a strategy toolkit and a campaign website, and launching a cooking oil recycling program.

Charlene went on to show some of the visual materials, and describe the next steps in the campaign. She noted that there were giveaways for folks at the meeting: funnel to help with pouring oil, can topper, scraper, and stickers.

Another part of this campaign is to report overflows. GBF has developed a Galveston Bay Action Network to help with reporting all kinds of issues. Reports are made online, and then the information is automatically directed to the appropriate authorities, without citizens having to know the right phone number or website or email address – just the one website.

She encouraged everyone to tell their neighbors or colleagues, and noted that the whole campaign has been working because of the creative ideas of many people.

Linda thanked Charlene, and then asked if the Double Bayou Watershed Partnership is willing to become part of the Cease the Grease Network? That will allow the logo of the Double Bayou Watershed Partnership to be included in the Cease the Grease materials, and vice versa. The group agreed with no objections.

### **4. Review and Comment on Chapters 1 and 2 of the WPP Document**

Stephanie Glenn noted that the handouts included the chapter outline and the written drafts of the first two chapters of the plan document. The goal is to introduce the material, and request that folks review it and provide ideas. The first chapter is a short overview about watersheds and watershed protection plans. The second chapter is longer and describes the state of the watershed

– geography, fish and wildlife, land use, and wastewater infrastructure. Both chapters are also on the website, in pdf and .doc formats. She requested comments, in whatever way is easiest – mail them in or send them electronically. Tonight is just to introduce the chapters and encourage review.

## **5. Announcements, Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

Charlene announced the public meetings on the oyster waters plan: May 27<sup>th</sup> in League City and May 28<sup>th</sup> in Oak Island, with dinner provided.

Linda noted that the management measures discussed this evening will be incorporated in a WPP chapter for folks to review later. The next activity will be a well owner workshop on May 28, in the Double Bayou Community Building, with water testing available as part of the workshop.

She presented the schedule for the meetings for the rest of the year:

- Thurs, May 28 – Well-Owner Workshop
- Tues, June 16 – General
- Tues, July 14 - Combined workgroups
- Tues, Aug 18 – General
- Tues, Sept 15 – General
- Tues, Oct 11 – General

New chapters will be coming for each of the meetings, and time will be spent discussing the drafts and any changes that are needed, with a goal to finish the document by the October meeting, and have two more weeks for final comments. Once the comments have been incorporated, the document will be sent to EPA to see if it might be eligible for implementation funding. In January, there will be a meeting, hopefully to celebrate that the document is done. Word back from EPA should be received about two months after that.

Linda noted the July meeting will have each workgroup in a different corner of the Double Bayou room, and then meeting all together. She thanked everyone for attending, and encouraged input on the document, before closing the meeting.