



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



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.

* 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 | |
| Monofilament Collection | Notify Sheriff For Violations | | |
| | 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 27th in League City and May 28th 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.