

**Residential Workgroup**  
**Tuesday, January 6, 2009**  
**11:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Individuals Present:**

BIG Liaison – Marilyn Christian (HCPHES-EPH); Sam Metzger (City of Pasadena)

**H-GAC Staff Present:**

Carl Masterson; Rachel Powers; Erin Anderson

**Discussion**

Existing programs:

- Harris County has an extensive public education program and so it would make sense to share the education materials. Education messages for this region are going to be the same: FOG, cleaning up after your dog, not pouring stuff down the stormdrain...
- GBEP has a Public Participation and Education Program, they give grants and public education campaign materials for free
- Texas Water Resource Institute will teach courses on how wetlands grow and why we need them

Prioritization:

Since not many were present at the meeting, it was suggested that an email be sent to all members requesting that they rank the implementation activities (IAs) from highest to lowest on how much they reduce bacteria and rank them on feasibility.

*Education in general*

Education will likely be easier than enforcement, because, for example, it's not very likely that the proper authority would witness someone putting grass clippings in the stormdrain. Also the idea was expressed that enforcement would create enemies and what we need in this complicated process is partners.

Something else that was discussed as important was to educate the public on more general information: that the waterways are important, bacteria is an issue, and there are things that individuals can do about it. The general sense is probably that the residential implementation activities won't be a major source of bacteria reduction, but there are things that can be done. The actions of individuals do add up to be more significant. Also discussed were proper methods of educating the public so that partners are made and not enemies. In order to gain political support we will need to have a list of activities/actions that the public can do participate in the efforts. If individuals become involved, they will encourage elected officials and their communities to also get involved.

*Promote water conservation*

It was stated that the city would not like this tactic because they would lose money. It would not be politically popular. But some communities have successfully put in place a stormwater utility fee.

*Proper lawn care education*

One IA that seems doable, and like it could work, is education on proper lawn care methods. It was felt that the most effective method of education on this subject would be to give individuals information at the time of purchase with focus being on the larger chain stores. Even if individuals do not maintain their own yard, they pay someone to do it, they should be educated because they would be able to monitor the company they use

*FOG program*

Another high priority IA from this group is a FOG program because of the potential exposure to human waste due to blockages and the subsequent overflows or backups.

**Next meeting:**

Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM, at H-GAC offices, C&E Conference Room