Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds

MEETING NOTES

May 8, 2017

1:30-3:30 PM

Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office

Charriss York started the meeting and welcomed everyone. Stakeholders were encouraged to add their project ideas to the list (summarized below) and the group discussed each project idea and shared knowledge and resources.

Project idea	What do you need to make this project happen?	Notes from group discussion
Finish Highland Bayou Watershed Protection Plan	Funding and contractor	Need flow data and modeling to complete the WPP. Further discussions with EPA to determine what they want to see. Possibly use a Hydraulic & Hydrologic (H&H) study and rain fall data for modeling purposes
OSSF – repair and replace in underserved areas	Funding and support	Support is needed form the communities and the homeowners. Could possibly use Ag grands and USDA rural development funding for some areas. HGAC has a small amount of funding through their SEP. Much discussion was had about these project, the costliness, time to complete, and obstacles.
Cattle fencing along property at Dickinson Bayou	Funding, support, and land owner coordination	Possible funding sources: TSSWCB with water quality management plans, USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Both of these are competitive programs, and require cost share. The group also discussed landowners reaching out to other landowners as a way to

		increase participation in these programs, and ways to cut costs on the projects.
Various living shoreline projects	Funding and support, USCOE nationwide 54 permit	Galveston Bay Foundation does a lot of these type projects as funding allows. Can we talk with them about providing great amounts technical assistance and what resources they need. Also discussed previous efforts to spread the word about living shorelines as an alternative to bulk heading.

A list of Implementation Measures from all four watersheds was handed out and stakeholders reviewed the lists, noting the similarities and differences between them. Prior to the meeting, Charriss took the implementation measures from all four plans and grouped them together into 8 categories and 45 Implementation measures. At the meeting, stakeholders then participated in four exercises to prioritize these Implementation Measures to help the Coalition set goals and determine which type of projects should be considered first. The table below shows the results from the priority ranking. The top 12 vote receiving Implementation Measures are highlighted in yellow. The top 5 vote receiving categories are denoted by **.

		Priority Ranking within each category	Priority ranking across all categories	Total Votes	Category Priority Ranking
OSSFs **					
1	Address inadequate maintenance of OSSFs	1	0	1	
2	Improve enforcement to mitigate failing OSSFs	13	13	26	8
3	Identify and hookup, upgrade, and/or fix failing OSSFs	11	12	23	

#					
4	Identify and rank target areas by pollutant reduction priority (for both education and upgrades)	1	0	1	
5	Evaluate/enhance OSSF design criteria	0	0	0	
6	Incorporate OSSF criteria into standards of practice for home sale inspections	14	1	15	
7	Target areas for intensive water quality sampling based on OSSF pollution	12	7	19	
Wastewater Treatment Facilities **					
8	Promote sanitary sewer where appropriate	9	5	14	
9	Implement stricter bacteria limits and enforcement measures for effluent	9	3	12	
10	Improve design and operation criteria for new plants	3	1	4	6
11	Upgrade plants/facilities	7	8	15	
12	Increase compliance and enforcement by the TCEQ	11	10	21	
13	Use effluent for facility irrigation	0	0	0	
Sanitary Sewers **					

#	Description				
14	Upgrade/rehabilitate collection systems including lift stations	14	8	22	
15	Address Fats, Oils and Grease (and roots & wipes) through education for homeowners & renters (Cease the Grease, workshops, outreach, etc.)	4	2	6	
16	Address Fats, Oils and Grease (and roots & wipes) through ordinances and policy for commercial businesses	7	9	16	
17	Improve reporting requirements & capabilities for sanitary sewer overflows	7	2	9	7
18	Revise penalties for sanitary sewer overflow violations	8	3	11	
19	Develop utility asset management programs or infrastructure management programs to pay for upgrades	7	3	10	
20	Upgrade or repair private line connections to wastewater collection systems	4	3	7	
Stormwater/Urban Runoff **					
21	Continue existing and encourage expansion of stormwater management programs	8	4	12	
22	Retain and treat stormwater on-site or in regional detention features using green infrastructure (rain gardens, bio-swales, rain water harvesting) and stormwater wetlands. (pilot projects, demonstrations, education, etc.)	15	17	32	8
23	Revise ordinances and codes to allow for green infrastructure practices, especially in new development	7	5	12	

24	Increase compliance with and enforcement of stormwater management permits	7	1	8	
25	Decrease and minimize the introduction of lawn debris and nutrients into stormwater through ordinances, education and enforcement	2	0	2	
26	Publicize contact information for reporting violations and poor disposal practices	0	0	0	
Pet Waste					
27	Expand pet owner education efforts (distributing educational materials, pet waste bags, etc.)	7	2	9	
28	Install pet waste stations in public areas including informative signage	12	2	14	0
29	Develop and promote model ordinances and HOA bylaws for adoption and enforcement	7	0	7	
Illegal Dumping					
30	Detect and eliminate illicit discharges and dumping sites	15	13	28	
31	Improve regulations and enforcement of illicit discharges and dumping	9	11	20	3
32	Monitor and control waste hauler activities	3	0	3	
33	Host Trash Bash event within watershed	2	0	2	

#	Description				
34	Implement illegal dumping hotline and signage	6	3	9	
35	Removal of abandoned and potentially leaking boats	4	0	4	
	Agriculture, Animals, and Feral Hogs				
36	Promote increased participation in existing programs for erosion control, nutrient reduction, and livestock management	12	6	18	
37	Promote best management practices for managing water quality for livestock and other large groups of animals	15	8	23	
38	Lone Star Healthy Streams Program and materials (for both livestock and feral hogs)	1	0	1	0
39	Promote the reduction of feral hog populations (workshops, education, etc..)	0			
40	Feral hog hunting promotion event	3	0	3	
	Conservation Programs & Land Preservation **				
41	Increase landowner participation in existing conservation and habitat management plans to decrease bacteria and nutrient loading (including TSSWCB Water Quality Improvement Plans)	11	3	14	
42	Identify existing conservation and habitat management plans and facilitate communication between organizations with existing plans and potential participants when appropriate	4	0	4	7
43	Support acquisition of undeveloped lands to protect water quality	6	9	15	

44	Support establishment of conservation easements to protect water quality				
		8	9	17	
45	Protect, restore, and repair riparian zones				
		9	14	23	

The final step in prioritization was Scatter Plot voting for the top 12 vote getting Implementation Measures. Stakeholders were asked to plot each Implementation Measure on an x-y axis. The x-axis ranged from low cost on the far right to very costly on the far left. The y-axis ranged from easy to implement on the top to had to implement on the bottom. Results from this exercise are shown in the table and photo below.

Quadrant Voting

Quadrant	Implementation Measure
Q1 - Low Cost & Easy to Implement	7, 36, 37
Q2 - Very Costly & Easy to Implement	3, 14
Q3 - Very Costly & Hard to Implement	
Q4 - Low Cost & Hard to Implement	
Above the x-axis (Easy to implement but no consensus on cost)	2, 44
To the left of the y-axis (Very costly but no consensus on ease of implementation)	45
NO discernable pattern	12, 30, 31
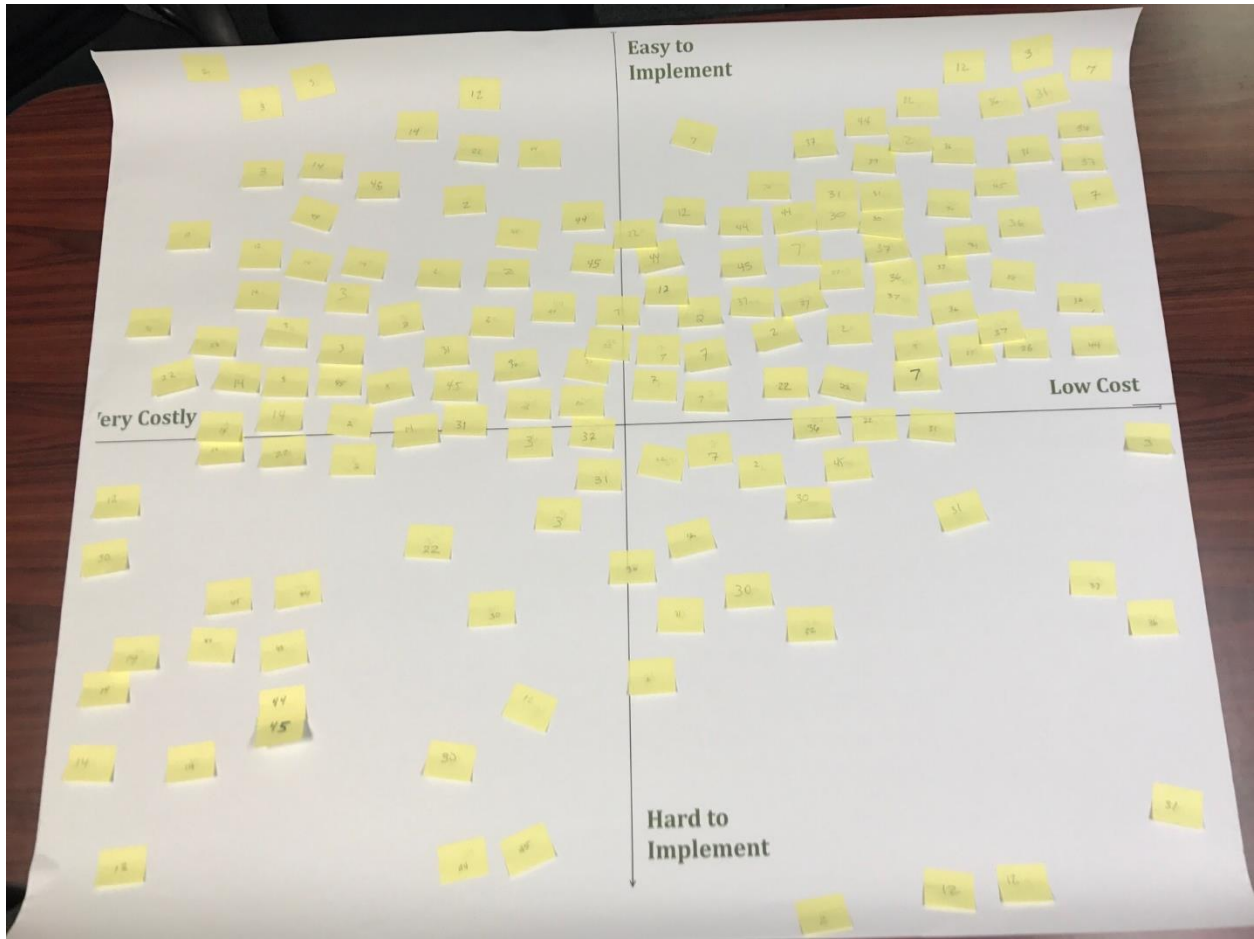
The meeting concluded after these prioritization exercises.