

Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds

Bastrop Bayou | Dickinson Bayou | Highland Bayou | Jarbo Bayou
Partnering for healthy watersheds.
<https://agrillife.org/coalitionofwatersheds/>

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 | 1:30-2:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM with call in option

Fats, oils, grease (FOG) and wipes in sanitary sewer systems

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Katie Wilson, Stephanie Hendrickson, Eric Combs, Joseph Nowetner, Wendy Forester, Charlotte Cisneros, Nicole Plowman, Clay Forister, Christian Rhines, Robert Michetich, Charriss York, and Celina Gauthier Lowry

Grant proposal submitted - *Highland and Bastrop Bayous: A Collaborative Approach to Implementation Through the Galveston Bay Coalition of Watersheds*, was submitted to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for FY22 Clean Water Act (CWA) 319 (h) funding on July 15th. Highland and Bastrop are highlighted as having EPA-accepted watershed protection plans (WPPs). The Dickinson and Jarbo bayou watersheds are also included in the proposed project. Thank you to Coalition members who provided the five letters of support.

Projects and Priorities

The presentation started with an introduction to the Coalition and a review of the three focus areas for projects prioritized by the Coalition in previous meetings. This meeting we are working through efforts included under the *Reduce FOG and Wipes in Sanitary Sewer Systems* topic.

Review project opportunities and refine project strategies and actions

Outreach to apartment residents – Share FOG education with apartment residents through apartment management and municipal communications.

- Lake Jackson has delivered 660 welcome packets with FOG and wipes giveaways and handouts to apartment managers to distribute to new residents; GBF shared the giveaway items and Celina collaborated with the City on the handouts.
 - Lessons learned –these materials take up a lot of space
- GBF has more complimentary Cease the Grease branded funnels, scrapers, and flyers (English and Spanish) to share. Celina can coordinate and deliver materials.

- League City wastewater has an established FOG and wipes education program; welcome packets are delivered to apartment complexes with each apartment covered annually; daycares, nursing homes, and assisted living centers are provided with wipes information; the wastewater team has targeted outreach in areas where wipes were a problem.
- Where to next? Outreach in progress to the following areas for their interest in this effort: Bacliff, San Leon, Hitchcock, and Santa Fe.

Interactive booth at in-person event – Demonstration of what FOG is and how to properly dispose of it at in-person events.

- Following the last meeting, a list of public events in Coalition watersheds was compiled to help identify potential outreach opportunities.
- Keep Dickinson Beautiful (KDB) hosted a table at Market on the Bayou in Dickinson on June 5th featuring several FOG and wipes educational displays and interactive games including: (1) a wipes versus toilet paper display and demonstration (2) display of price estimates from local plumbers for various repairs (3) *don't feed the grease monster* interactive game available through H-GAC (4) One pledge poster for FOG and one for wipes (5) *Cease the Grease* branded funnels, scrapers, and flyers (English and Spanish) provided by GBF.
- KDB is interested in repeating this outreach at the Market on September 4th.
- GBF and Coastal Communities are planning in-person events this fall in the Bacliff and San Leon area. They will coordinate with Celina for possible participation.
- League City has done outreach at Saturday in the Park and a few other event including Eco-Fest.

FOG Collection Points/Receptacles – Share FOG collection points to encourage residential recycling and encourage additional receptacles

- The welcome packet handout in Lake Jackson included the local cooking oil recycling location.
- The recycling location in Dickinson was visible from the KDB table at market on the Bayou and was marked with flags to increase visibility from the Market. Table visitors were informed about the receptacle.
- There are two known cooking oil receptacles in Coalition watersheds, Lake Jackson and Dickinson, both are hosted by active Coalition stakeholders who have experiences to share. An educational meeting is being planned with KDB for Keep Beautiful affiliates and similar organizations within the Coalition to provide information on FOG, collection locations, and shared stories from Coalition members who currently host receptacles. GBF and H-GAC are planning to participate.

Outreach to Homeowners (digital) – Share FOG education with homeowners through local government communications

- KDB shared photos of pipes clogged with grease and wipes on Facebook before and after the Market event in June.
- Several people in the group have requested social media content on FOG and Wipes to share with their communications departments. There is a ton of quality content available for sharing online. Celina is drafting a list of posts ready to share and creating a list of resources to help those who prefer to find content themselves. The goal is to make sharing content easy for Coalition members.

- Several Coalition communities and GCHD with communications staff are willing to share information through social media or submit to their City Manager's weekly updates.

Resources shared during the discussion:

- GBF can provide complimentary Cease the Grease branded funnels and scrapers, and related flyers (English and Spanish) with information about the initiative. Celina can coordinate and deliver materials.
- City of League City utilizes Cease the Grease materials through [similar efforts](#). For wipes they visit daycares, nursing homes, and assisted living centers.
- League City wastewater presents to the public (ages 8-11) on wastewater at the [library](#); 25 parents and children attended the June 24th event
- Updates to the cooking oil recycling location map on [CeasetheGrease.net](#) ongoing
- Coastal Communities [outreach messages by month](#) (social media posts, bill inserts, etc.) includes FOG and Wipes in pipes; FOG [materials available for printing](#).

Next Steps and Future Meetings

Celina will continue to follow up on projects with individual stakeholders. Before the next meeting, information from this meeting and individual stakeholder conversations will be pulled together and shared with the Coalition.

Next Meetings, virtual through Zoom:

- Tomorrow (7/22) 10-11am, Dredging – Erosion Control – Riparian Buffers
- Thursday (7/22) 10-11am, Debris in Bayous and Illegal Dumping
- Tuesday (8/24) 1:30-3:30pm, full Coalition meeting