

WQ-3

Install Additional Sewage Pump-out Facilities for Recreational Boaters and Live-aboard Vessels

ACTION:

Assist local governments in obtaining funding through the Florida Clean Vessel Act grant program to construct sewage pump-out facilities at publicly and privately-owned marinas in the Lake Worth Lagoon (LWL).

BACKGROUND:

The Florida *Clean Marina* Program is a voluntary designation program under the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with a proactive approach to environmental stewardship. Participants receive assistance in implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) through on-site and distance technical assistance, mentoring by other *Clean Marinas* and continuing education. To become designated as a *Clean Marina*, facilities must implement a set of environmental BMP designed to protect Florida's waterways. These BMP address critical environmental issues such as sensitive habitat, waste management, storm water control, spill prevention and emergency preparedness. Designated facilities and those facilities seeking designation receive ongoing technical support from the Florida *Clean Marina* Program and the *Clean Boating* Partnership. Of the twenty clean marinas in Palm Beach County, thirteen are located on the LWL. Six have received the designation between 2008 and 2012. Three of them have added pumpout stations.

Human waste and associated pathogens can severely impact water quality and public health when discharged directly to water bodies. Providing more pump-out facilities will help reduce waste loads while encouraging boaters to become more responsible stewards of the LWL.

STRATEGY:

- STEP 1 Identify and create a GIS map of potential future Clean Marinas
Potential Partners: FDEP, local governments, ERM and Marine Industries Association (MIA)
- STEP 2 Encourage participation in the Clean Vessel Act grant program, Florida's Clean Marina program, which provides financial assistance to older marinas for installing sewage pump-out systems.
Potential Partners: FDEP, local governments, ERM, PBC Parks and Recreation Dept., MIA

- STEP 3 Construct pump-out facilities or contract for portable systems.
Potential Partners: Local governments, marina owners, MIA
- STEP 4 Identify the busiest marinas for outreach and educational purposes. Provide educational materials to boaters explaining the importance of pump-out facilities or portable systems and how to use them. Disseminate educational materials to boating clubs in the region making them aware of facilities.
Potential Partners: Local governments, local boating clubs, Lagoon Keepers, ERM, PBC Parks and Rec., MIA, West Palm Beach Fishing Club
- STEP 5 Encourage registered boat owners to install fuel overfill protection devices and fuel-water and oil-water separators in automatic bilge pumps.
Potential Partners: FDEP, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, MIA, Lagoon Keepers
- STEP 6 Promote educational materials and “Clean boater pledge” to recreational boaters.
Potential Partners: FDEP, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Lagoon Keepers, in cooperation with ERM, PBC Parks and Rec.

SCHEDULE:

DEP will enlist the organizations listed above to evaluate on-going programs and material, and develop a plan to implement the steps outlined.

COST:

Installation and construction costs vary depending on type of equipment selected. According to FDEP, costs for stationary or portable pump-out units range from approximately \$2,000 to \$6,000. Costs for a portable toilet waste station may vary from \$1,100 to \$1,800. State grants could pay up to 75 percent of the construction costs. In addition, construction and maintenance costs could be recouped by charging boaters a minimal user fee. If DEP funds are utilized, a maximum charge of \$5.00 per service can be requested by these marinas for the next five years.

Costs to develop and distribute educational materials will be determined based on format selected, but should be accomplished through existing resources or available grants.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

Providing sewage pump-out services for boaters will help reduce pathogens as well as nitrogen and solids in the LWL.

MONITORING ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSES:

Use of the pump-out stations through sales’ receipts can be tracked to determine effectiveness. Receipts will be submitted to the FDEP’s Clean Marina program.

REGULATORY NEEDS:

None anticipated, with the exception of the FDEP authorization. These facilities are

typically given a de minimus exemption.

FUNDING:

FDEP, Florida's Clean Vessel Act grant program, Florida's Clean Marina program, Palm Beach County Boater Registration, Pollution Recovery Trust Fund (PRTF)

POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND FUNDING SOURCES*:

FDEP, Local governments, ERM, PBC Parks and Rec., MIA, FIND

*Listed Agencies have not committed funds and are subject to Agencies' budget approvals