

## FINAL PROGRESS REPORT

**Project Name: Cove Harbor Drainage and Stormwater Management Plan**

**GLO Contract Number: 10-062-000-3761**

This project was the third phase of a project conducted by the Aransas County Navigation District to address stormwater management and drainage system improvements for Cove Harbor and the adjacent marshlands and marsh habitat areas. The goal of the project was to help control and prevent stormwater contaminants from influencing the wetlands and bay waters, and also improve economic development through improved tenant operations involving runoff control. An important part of the current phase involved working on-site with each tenant to assess and improve drainage and stormwater best management practices.

### **Task 1: Project and Administrative Management**

- Status: Complete.
- Problems or obstacles encountered: None.

### **Task 2: Spill Response Stations**

- Status: Complete.
- Major accomplishments: Containers and supplies have arrived and have been put in place.
- This task was implemented in conjunction with the education portion of task 3. Through this task, the Navigation District has made proper spill response equipment readily available to a well-trained staff in order to help prevent and prepare for a spill of any size at the harbor. The purpose of this task was to improve and streamline spill response preparedness for Cove Harbor leaseholders, their employees, and ACND staff. We have accomplished this purpose through group and one-to-one training, emphasizing that a quick response to a spill on the water or on the ground around the harbor can prevent major harm to the marine environment.

In order to make certain that the Navigation District is prepared to act quickly in the event of a hazardous waste or oil spill, we have implemented the following **Best Management Practices**.

- **Spill Response Plan:** We have a written spill response plan for the harbor and the other ACND facilities. The plan includes a listing of immediate spill response protocols, a contact list for response communication, a chain-of-command in the event of a spill, and an inventory of spill response equipment and its location. The list of immediate spill response actions includes the phone numbers of the General Land Office and the Coast Guard, which are also posted at the spill response stations.
- **Spill Response Stations:** Clearly marked and easily accessible spill response stations are stationed around the harbor. Each contains large booms, mops, and other spill response equipment. (Photos attached)
- **Tenant education and training,** described below.

### Task 3: Cove Harbor Cleanup and Education Program

- Status: Complete.
- Major accomplishments:

**Site Visits:** The Project manager, the harbormaster, and other ACND staff made initial and follow-up site visits to each leased property on Cove Harbor. The purpose of the site assessment was to identify and prioritize current and future goals and objectives for each lessee, and to make recommendations for achieving those goals. In the company of tenant owners and/or staff, we assessed each property; recommended steps to improve stormwater management; and worked in cooperation with tenants to remove and properly dispose of potential sources of contamination.

**Education Program:** ACND staff instructed harbor tenants and employees at each site on their role in stopping, containing, or recovering spilled material in the event of a release and what steps they will need to take, including who to contact, where the spill response stations are located, and how to use them.

The harbormaster and staff conducted training sessions relating to best management practices tailored to each lease site to address one or more of the following activities as needed:

- Routine Harbor Maintenance/Facility Management
- Fuel Storage and Transfers
- Hazardous Waste and Gray Water Discharge and Control
- Trash and Marine Debris Control
- Storm water and Runoff
- Derelict Vessels

### Project Summary

A common thread that ran through all three phases of the Cove Harbor Stormwater Management Plan was that each boatyard and vessel in the harbor creates some incremental pollution and waste, which can ultimately enter the coastal waters which will, collectively, cause harm to the water quality of Aransas Bay, the surrounding bays, and the Gulf of Mexico. We emphasized throughout the Cleanup and Education task that this harbor pollution is very easy to prevent and not necessarily expensive to clean up. Failure to control and clean up pollution can bring costly fines.

We found that many of the tenants were already operating clean, safe facilities. These had appropriate storage, transfer, containment and disposal facilities for solid wastes. They provided covered containers for trash and solid wastes generated within the facility. They disposed of all used batteries properly. They provided and maintained appropriate storage, transfer, containment and disposal facilities for liquid wastes, and regularly used the waste oil collection and recycling station on the harbor.

A few were in very poor condition, with a great deal of debris spread throughout the property; most were somewhere in between these extremes. As we conducted our site visits, we pointed out discrepancies to the leaseholders, and followed with a letter and report summarizing our findings. We later conducted follow-up visits to note corrections and improvements.

The problems we noted were generally and most often housekeeping issues associated with solid waste, such as collected trash from customers and staff, oil cans, barrels, and various containers strewn throughout the properties; boat engines and parts on the ground or otherwise exposed to the air; and

liquid waste from painting, hull cleaning, fueling, oil and antifreeze changing; and petroleum leaks/spills, including petroleum leaks & spills.

We feel that this project has been highly successful in that the tenants and their employees are demonstrating a greatly improved commitment to environmental stewardship through responsible harbor practices. We notice an attitude of self-policing among the tenants, as well as a willingness among many to assist their neighbors in implementing various harbor best management practices. Even the properties that were particularly problematic during our original visits did an excellent job of cleaning up and following our recommendations prior to our follow-up visits, and have continued to maintain their properties appropriately.

### Spill Response Stations



