

## Oil Spill Committee Meeting

Called the meeting to order at 10:00am

Listened to State Conference Call

For those of us who didn't know, the Coast Guard is responding representing Federal Interest and the General Land Office is representing State's interest. There have been two bird clean up trucks dispatched from Texas they are being stationed in Mississippi but thankfully there hasn't been much of an impact on wildlife yet. Both groups have been having meetings all down the Texas coast. The Coast Guard is flying over our area getting familiar with the land. The oil itself is still approx 160 miles from the Texas coast and seems to be moving slowly in every direction. Luckily there hasn't been as big an impact on all the State's coasts as it was originally expected. As of now, the currents are about an 80/20 ratio for moving East to West. As the summer progresses, the current directionality will be about a 50/50 ratio of Eastern to Western travel. The Texas coast is looking at about ten days to two weeks before this could impact our coast line. Impact will be more than likely in the form of tarballs and will not be the gooey stuff seen on TV. Tarballs can be easily cleaned up by trained responders with rakes and shovels but they will float under the surface of the water so tracking them will be a challenge. The Area Contingency Plan is posted on the [deepwaterhorizonresponse.com](http://deepwaterhorizonresponse.com) website. General Land Office reminded us that every year about this time tarballs do wash up on shore, and to keep that in mind the tarballs may not be from this oil spill event. During some over- flights, new wash outs have been identified and are being addressed. The oil spill is moving less than 8 miles a day towards us and thankfully the wind direction has been in our favor. On the public health side of things, everyone is monitoring the situation carefully. Hopefully tarballs are all that will impact us and not the sheen. FEMA is currently monitoring the situation as well. Excluding next week there will be a weekly State conference call on Wednesdays at 10 o'clock.

Introductions

Explained the main purpose of the meeting was to start thinking about what we would do if we were to get hit with an oil spill while this other event is taking place, how we would react and what we would have available locally to deal with the situation. The second focus of the meeting is to figure out what we need to do to get ready for the oil spill threat heading our way. It was determined that we still have local resources available if an oil spill was to occur in our area. Lots of different organization within the county still have boom available. The areas that we need to be focusing on to get ready for the oil spill heading our way are listed below:

Everyone needs to log onto the [deepwaterhorizonresponse.com](http://deepwaterhorizonresponse.com) Website and review our ACP and make sure all sensitive sites are included in the plan.

Make sure all wash out have been identified since we did have a hurricane two years ago and much of our beach's line has changed.

Need to focus on beach clean up to get rid of the seaweed that comes ashore this time of year. We need to determine how to best prepare the beach while preventing erosion.

The County Health dept. will be invited to participate in future meetings. We need to take a proactive stance and start getting the word out to the public about what is going on and what they should be doing in regards to public health side of this event. It's better for our local health dept to send out information instead of relying on the State or DHS.

We all need to be utilizing the web to get this information out to the public.

The Oil Spill committee needs to finish their Oil Spill Response Plan so it can be utilized for this event.

Industry needs to be going back and looking at their inventory so we can get a better understanding of what kind of resources we have available.

The County Judge, and those from surrounding counties, will host a press conference in the next seven to ten days. Everyone needs to get some information together for the Judge to have when he attends the press conference. Everything needs to be sent to Jimmy Salinas so he can compile everything and present it back to the group.

It was discussed that we need to get the local Shrimper's onboard and get their thoughts on the subject and see what they have to say. We were given the name Gary Graham with the Texas Sea Grant Extension Program as primary contact for the Shrimping Industry.