

## Green Team Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Present: Kiersten, Shanna, Sally, Candace, Rae, Liz, Katie



Members of the University of Texas Marine Science Institute Green Team show their trash bag while they clean the south jetty during the beach clean up on Saturday, April 20. The group works to make Port Aransas a more sustainable place.

Staff photo by Dan Parker **L to R: Bryan, Rae, Tim, Candace, Jade, Katie, Colleen, and Kim.**

- **Old action items to still be done:**
  - **Sally** is going to do a survey to see what was successful and what was not at the whooping crane festival.
  - **Sally** suggested that we (UTMSI Green Team) host a Trash Summit!!
  - **Candace** should ask Republic Services if they would come to our Trash Summit.
  - **Everyone**: It was suggested that before we do all of this, we need to just go talk to them.... Bombard custodial, maintenance, and grounds crew on their breaks... ☺
  - **Everyone** needs to be thinking about what they could donate!! The tentative date is June 15 at The Gaff.
- **New Items of discussion:**
  - The Keep Port Aransas Beautiful Group (KPAB) has meetings every month and would love for us to join. There are minimal fees involved with joining. Also, they are going to be showing the Texas Water movies by TPWD soon and would like us to join.
    - **ACTION: Kiersten** – ask when the movie will be and ask Julie if she wants to be on our Green Team mailing list.
  - If you have yet to do so, please write your local rep about not passing the bill, which would prevent cities from making their own decisions about plastic bags. (Although Sally's sister said that it was just a bill to stall the congress and is not meant to pass.)

- The bags have arrived!!!
  - ACTION: **Everyone** – make your donation of \$6.00+ and come get your bag.
- The survey has been done and we all approved to get stickers.
  - ACTION: **Sally** – order the round UTMSI Green Team stickers.
- May 11<sup>th</sup> is glass recycling. Katie volunteered to bring it.
  - ACTION: **Kiersten** – email everyone to tell them about glass recycling.
  - ACTION: **Everyone** – ring your glass to MSI by Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- New water restrictions go into effect May 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - You can only water your yard once every two weeks.
  - Kristin Hicks is working with Dave Parsons to have a workshop/discussion with the city of Port Aransas about the restrictions.
    - ACTION: **Sally** – let us know when the meeting is.
- Bag\*It is still available to be shown.
  - ACTION: **Kiersten** – email Rockport people to see when and if they want to show the movie.
- Last time we discussed the possibility of us doing an article in the South Jetty about recycling. Rae did it and it was in last week's edition (and below). Rae may or may not have been misquoted.
  - ACTION: **Kiersten** – email Steve Lanoux about bigger recycling bins at homes.
- Katie's Challenge – The Electric Slide
  - This will be percentage change from month to month. Each month will have a small prize winner. The greatest percentage change (average) over 6 months will be the grand prize winner.
  - On the announcement we will also provide people with info on how to be more energy efficient whether you are a renter or homeowner.
    - ACTION: **Katie/Kiersten** – make a flyer or announcement page.
    - ACTION: **Everyone** – send Kiersten and Katie ideas or websites that have info on being more energy efficient (renters and homeowners).
  - A group in Corpus Christi does audits... Something to think about.
  - This will start June 1. At some point in the month of May we need to make an effort to talk to the custodial, maintenance, and grounds crew of MSI so that they would want to participate also. We can take them the stickers if they are here by then. Also once we find out about the water restriction workshop we can spread the word about that.
- Fundraising – the tentative date for this is Saturday, June 15. Last time we had Matt Khosh DJ for us. Maybe we should be thinking about entertainment to have...
  - ACTION: **Rae** – ask Kip if The Gaff is available on June 15 and if we can bring entertainment again.
  - ACTION: **Candace** – email msi-*all* about things to donate (add ideas as well as the due date, plus remember the 50/50 raffle).
  - ACTION: **Everyone** – start to gather things to donate for the auction.
- **Important Dates:**
  - May 11                      Glass recycling
  - May 15                      Stage 3 Water Restrictions Implemented (once per 2 weeks)
  - June 12                      Auction items are due
  - June 15                      *Tentative* Date for Green Team Auction at The Gaff
  - **July 3**                      **Next Green Team Meeting in ERC Conference Room**

## **Recycling program is free**

By Jim Dubois

Reporter

People might not be aware of it, but Port Aransas has a recycling program, and it's free.

Recycled trash pick up is included in the basic, household trash pick-up.

Since 2007, Republic Services has taken care of trash and recycling pick up in town. The company also serves Corpus Christi, Rockport and other surrounding cities.

All people have to do is get a recycle bin at Port Aransas City Hall. However, only single family homeowners can benefit from the program. The pick-up cannot be performed for condominiums or apartments for logistical reasons.

Yet, condos and apartment dwellers can still recycle, using the big recycle bins all over town.

Two bins are located in the city hall parking lot, multiple ones are on the beach and the transfer center also offers recycle bins.

Recycling is a key component of modern waste reduction and is an easy way for citizens to make an impact in reducing global warming and energy waste, according to Green Team vice-president Rae Mooney.

For example, recycling aluminum helps save 95 percent of energy and reduces 95 percent of air pollution, according to scientific studies.

Port Aransas has multiple organizations and groups that promote recycling.

The University of Texas Marine Science Institute Green Team is a group of students, teachers and staff that works every day to make Port Aransas a cleaner place.

Its mission is to make UTMSI and Port Aransas more sustainable and eco-friendly and to reduce the impact on the environment.

The group hosted a "Recycling Challenge" during the Whooping Crane Festival in February.

"Many of the visitors to our booth were visiting Port Aransas, but of the people who live here, either full time or part time as Winter Texans, many did not know that Port Aransas even had a recycling program", Mooney said.

The group discussed the outcome of the recycling challenge and thought Port Aransas residents needed to be made aware of the "green" things the town is doing, according to Mooney.

"There is and has been curbside pick-up for recycling in Port Aransas at single family homes with trash pick-up," Mooney explained. "Everybody here loves nature, so people should realize that recycling is a great way to preserve it."

The group also cleans the south jetty once or twice a month.

"People go fishing and leave their trash behind," Mooney explained. "We pick up a lot of things when we go clean the jetty."

The group is thinking about having a trash summit, probably this summer. A summit would bring scientists and researchers to town to talk about recycling and its impact on environment.

"It's a way for us to educate the public," Mooney said. "People can come and listen to us. They can ask questions and learn more about recycling and global warming."

The group also encourages people to walk or ride bikes. In other words, anything that could help preserve the environment.

**NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the ERC Conference Room**