Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues and Habitat & Wildlife Joint Work Group Meeting		
6.21.2010	6:00pm	Lampasas County Farm Bureau Building
Attendees	Pamela Casebolt, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Karen Sears, Texas AgriLife Research Kenneth Mayben, USDA-NRCS Kyna McKee, Texas A&M University James Caldwell, Landowner Donald Parrish, Landowner Dickie Clary, Hamilton County Commissioner Chris Meis, SW Hamilton Wildlife Management Association Bradley Ware, Landowner Wayne Boultinghouse, Lampasas County Judge Holly Vierk, Texas Water Development Board Whitney Milberger, Texas Water Development Board Rob Grotty, Texas Forest Service Steven Uselton, USDA-NRCS Rodney Parrish, Landowner Ed Lilley, Landowner Jed Garren, Mills County Commissioner Leona Bohm, Landowner Bettie Black, Landowner Michael Miller, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Beth Bendik, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Jennifer Bronson, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Gene W. Ray, Landowner	

- Introductions

- Power Point Presentation provided
  - Printed copies provided as handout
  - Prior meeting summaries provided as handout

- Work Group Collaborations
  - The Agricultural Issues and Habitat and Wildlife Work Groups agreed to join their efforts and work together
  - Steering Committee will vote to approve this change at the next meeting
  - Upon Steering Committee approval, the Work Group will be renamed "Agriculture and Wildlife"

- April Work Group Meetings
  - Brief review of both the Agricultural Issues and Wildlife and Habitat April Work Group meetings
  - Slide Correction – slide # 5; Feral Hogs – 20 per acre should be 20 per square mile

- Spatial Explicit Load Estimation Calculation Tool (SELECT)
  - Presentation of initial SELECT results by Kyna McKee, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, TAMU
    - SELECT will work for septic systems, dogs, cattle, wildlife, and feral hogs
    - SELECT shows potential loading from E. coli
    - SELECT will be used to show where to target Best Management Practices (BMPs)
    - The Potential *E.coli* daily Load scale will be different for each source (each SELECT map)
    - Population, land use, and subwatershed size will be accounted for in SELECT and can help dictate locations of hot spots for potential bacteria sources
  - Horses
    - Work Group expressed concern over horse population estimates, they felt the horse population would be higher in the lower watershed than in the upper watershed
    - The Work Group requested that horse populations not be equally distributed over watershed but rather on a county-by-county basis
  - Whitetail Deer
    - Two different sources for population estimates for whitetail deer; Texas Parks & Wildlife Whitetail Deer Census and individual survey data from seven Wildlife
      Management Associations
    - TPWD Whitetail Deer Census
      - TPWD Whitetail Deer Census data was not intended for use on a watershed scale
      - Resource Management Units (RMU) include larger areas of land (approximately 5525 square miles)
      - The Lampasas River watershed lies mostly within RMU 23 and the corresponding TPWD deer census estimates 61 deer per 1000 acres
    - Wildlife Management Associations' Surveys
      - WMAs are typically managed deer populations, so populations may not be completely representative of the entire watershed
      - Survey data within WMAs is collected according to scientific methods and reflects most recent and historical trends so it should not be altered
    - How do we utilize TPWD and WMA deer population information for SELECT?
      - Work Group agreed to use WMA numbers within the respective WMA area.

- Stakeholders agreed to recommend that the TPWD estimate be increased from 61 deer per 1000 acres to 100 deer per 1000 acres
- In all areas outside of WMA boundaries the adjusted TPWD deer census estimate will be used

➢ Feral Hogs
- Feral Hog will consume a lot more food during a day producing more fecal material than deer but feral hogs may have less E. coli in their gut than deer; both of these concerns are addressed within the SELECT model
- A study by Hellgren (1997) suggests the median number of Feral Hogs is 12 per square mile
  - Work Group agreed in April to increase this number to 20 hogs per square mile.

➢ Can Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) monitoring be done to make our estimates stronger?
- BST is being planned for the Lampasas River watershed and sample collection is expected to begin in Fall 2010
- The WPP will be written prior to the completion of the sampling. The Partnership will utilize adaptive management to incorporate the data into the plan
- TCEQ is currently monitoring at Station 15770 (the site where the Lampasas was previously listed as impaired).
- TCEQ and BRA are conducting water quality monitoring throughout the watershed through the Clean Rivers Program.

➢ Stakeholders agreed that time and money should be spent on things (pollutant sources) that can be managed for efficient use of resources. Lake Granbury has had success because they focused on what pollutant sources could be managed within the watershed.
- Importance of the accuracy of wildlife population estimates
  - Estimate wildlife separately from other sources
  - Wildlife is potentially an uncontrollable source of bacteria pollution
  - The Steering Committee will set water quality goals. If wildlife estimates are not accurate, the load reductions may be either difficult to achieve or more than truly necessary

❖ Next Steps

➢ Riparian Workshop; Presentation given by Kenneth Mayben, USDA-NRCS - Weatherford, Texas
- Free, one day course on proper functioning riparian areas and restoration of riparian areas
- ½ day in classroom setting and ½ day in the field (along the river)
- Workshop needs:
  - Building location to hold classroom component

        - Several field sites with riverfront access no more than ≈5 miles from area chosen for classroom setting
    - Tentative plan is to hold two workshops open to the entire Partnership
        - Possible locations:
            - Upper River (Star Fire Department)
            - Lower River (Parrie Haynes Ranch)
    - Additional workshops can be scheduled if necessary
    - Course needs dates to be coordinated for participation of partners and instructors
        - Late summer into fall would be earliest current time frame for first class
- Upcoming Meeting
    - Group agreed to next meet July 15, 2010 for a Steering Committee meeting

- Adjourn
    - 8:00 pm