

# Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 15, 2010

6:00-9:00 pm

Lampasas County Farm Bureau Building

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Power Point Presentation provided
- ❖ Past Business
  - 2010 Integrated Report (IR) Update
    - Draft will be presented to TCEQ's Commissioners on Aug 25 for approval
    - The status of the Lampasas River on the 2010 Integrated Report is still unknown
  - Work Group Reports
    - Brief summaries of April and June Work Group meetings – summaries available online
  - Partnership Ground Rules Changes
    - Steering Committee unanimously approved the collaboration of the Agricultural Issues Work Group and the Habitat and Wildlife Work Group into the Agriculture and Wildlife Work Group
    - Steering Committee unanimously approved the collaboration of the Wastewater Infrastructure Work Group and the Urban/Suburban Issues Work Group into the Urban Nonpoint Source Work Group
- ❖ Texas Surface Water Quality Standards
  - Discussion led by Dr. Jim Davenport and Debbie Miller from TCEQ's Water Quality Planning Division Standards Group
  - Changes to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards
    - Contact Recreation designation will now use a tiered approach for appropriate use and corresponding water quality standards- Primary Contact Recreation, Secondary Contact Recreation 1, Secondary Contact Recreation 2, Noncontact Recreation
    - Levels of Contact Recreation designation will be determined with Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) to determine how people utilize the river
    - Water quality standards for bacteria impairment are dependent on the level of Contact Recreation
    - UAAs are done at TCEQ's discretion based upon a waterbody's status on the IR and stakeholder input
    - Bacteria standard for Contact Recreation I (the Lampasas River's designation) remained at 126 cfu/100ml
  - Stakeholders' Concerns about Water Quality Standards
    - What water quality sampling efforts are being currently conducted within the Lampasas River watershed?
      - TCEQ is conducting collecting monthly *E.coli* samples at station 15770

- TSSWCB is funding a project with Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) and AgriLIFE Research to begin bacterial source tracking on 12-15 sites throughout the watershed for 12 months
  - Complete datasets for the TCEQ and TSSWCB projects will not be available before the WPP is written, however Adaptive Management will be utilized to amend WPP as needed based upon the sampling results
  - TCEQ and BRA are conducting water quality monitoring throughout the watershed through the Clean Rivers Program
    - ◆ Sampling procedures will be conducted according to TCEQ's standards and will include physical (temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and flow), bacteria (*E.coli*) parameters
  - Is there any data about pharmaceutical related to water quality within the Lampasas River watershed?
    - Not as of yet; this isn't included in routine sampling programs
    - This is an issue that is newly emerging with little available data, but we can start an awareness campaign
      - ◆ Educate Hospice groups and citizens about proper disposal of medication
      - ◆ Task Education and Outreach Work Group with development and pamphlets and educational materials
- ❖ Water Quality Goals for the Lampasas River Partnership
- Water quality goals are only targets for the Partnership to work towards and have no regulatory authority
  - Steering Committee unanimously agreed to use the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards and then change if necessary
    - Fecal Coliform: geomean < 200 cfu per 100 ml
    - *E. coli* : geomean < 126 cfu per 100 ml
    - Chloride: mean < 500 mg/l
    - Sulfate: mean < 100 mg/l
    - Total Dissolved Solids: mean < 1200 mg/l
    - Dissolved Oxygen: ≥3.0 mg/l
    - Nitrate Nitrogen\*\*: mean < 2.76 mg/l
    - Orthophosphate\*\*: mean < 0.5 mg/l

*\*\*State screening criteria – 85% of state's waterbodies are below this level*
  - Management practices to reach these goals will be discussed at August Work Group meetings
- ❖ Review of Water Quality Data
- Review of Flow Duration (FDC) and Load Duration Curves (LDC) and what they can and can't tell us
  - Margin of Safety (MOS)
    - A MOS effectively acts as a cushion for water quality goals and makes your water quality goal more restrictive
    - A 5% MOS is required in a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (regulatory), but is not required for a WPP (voluntary)
    - The use of a MOS and at what level in a WPP is at the discretion of the Partnership
    - The Steering Committee could not come to a consensus about whether to use a MOS and at what level (0.0%, 2.5% or 5.0%)

- Decision was tabled and will be revisited at next Steering Committee meeting. L. Prcin will present LDCs with MOSs of 0.0%, 2.5% and 5.0%
- Steering Committee concerns
  - What is the benefit of using a MOS that creates a goal lower than the state standard?
  - Stakeholders are unclear of the level of impairment of the Lampasas River
  - Would the use of a MOS create an unattainable goal?
- Fecal Coliform to *E.coli* Conversion Methods
  - Prior to 2001, most bacteria measurements were of fecal coliform; after 2004, most bacteria measurements were of *E.coli*
  - To be able to use historical fecal coliform data, we must do a conversion to *E.coli*
  - This is not a one to one conversion
  - Conversion Methods available
    1. Use *E.coli* to fecal ratios found within published work – all, one or average (average = 0.76)
    2. Regression of overlapping fecal coliform vs. *e. coli* collected within Lampasas River watershed for correlation (not readily available)
    3. Texas Surface Water Quality Standards Conversion = 0.63
  - Unanimous approval by Steering Committee of to use method #3 ~ *E.coli* / Fecal coliform = 0.63
- ❖ Land Use / Land Cover Analysis Recommendations from Work Groups
  - Workgroup recommendations brought to Steering Committee for vote
  - Steering Committee voted unanimously to combine rangeland and pastureland and approve completed land use analysis
- ❖ Spatial Explicit Load Estimation Calculation Tool (SELECT)
  - Explanation of Select was given
    - Subwatershed delineation allow us to make assumption and predictions about pollutant sources and direct management practices to those areas that might need it most
    - SELECT addresses many possible potential sources of bacteria with estimated populations
  - SELECT provides a snapshot of a worst-case scenario for pollutant loadings
  - Results from SELECT analysis recommended by Work Groups presented for Steering Committee approval
    - Septic Systems
      - Approved with no discussion
    - Dogs
      - Approved with no discussion
    - Wastewater Treatment Facilities
      - Approved
      - Sanitary System Overflows (SSOs) and lift systems failures cannot be accounted for in the SELECT model
    - Horses
      - Approved with no discussion
    - Goats

- Approved with no discussion
- Sheep
  - Approved with no discussion
- Cattle
  - Approved with no discussion
- Deer
  - Approved with no discussion
- Feral Hogs
  - Approved with no discussion

❖ Next Steps

- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Riparian Function Workshop
  - Volunteers needed for field sites to host workshops
  - Planning two workshops
    - Upper watershed
    - Lower watershed
  - Contact Lisa Prcin if you have river/creek front property that would be suitable for the field portion of the workshops
  - Workshops will initially be opened to the Partnership and later to all interested parties
  - Workshops are tentatively scheduled for sometime in September or October
- Upcoming Work Group Meetings
  - Agriculture & Wildlife – Monday, Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, 6-9pm; Lampasas County Farm Bureau Building
  - Urban NPS – Friday, Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, 9am-noon; City of Killeen Solid Wastes Building
  - Education and Outreach – No meeting in August

❖ Adjourn

- 9:10 pm