

Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Work Group		
4.19.2010	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Lampasas County Farm Bureau
Attendees	Lisa Prcin, AgriLife Research Pam Casebolt, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Dirk Aaron, Bell County Extension Agent Bettie Black, Landowner Wayne Boultinghouse, Lampasas County Judge Barbara Dockrey, Landowner Ronnie Dockrey, Landowner Jed Garren, Mills County Commissioner Mary Ann Garren, Landowner Travis Herring, Hill Country SWCD #534 Don Jones, Landowner Woody Ray, Landowner Steve Uselton, Natural Resources Conservation Service	

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Power Point Presentation provided
 - Printed copies provided as handout
- ❖ Interactive Discussion about Stakeholder Concerns
 - Solid Waste
 - Tires
 - Refrigerators
 - Cattle Access to River
 - Feral Hogs
 - 2 – 3 Cattle Feed Lots within watershed
 - Dairy Farms – Lisa Prcin asked for locations of dairies
 - Monitoring
 - Sampling requested by stakeholders above and below watershed
 - Sampling is currently being done where river crosses Hwy 84 and at the bottom of the watershed by TCEQ and BRA
 - Sites where data is not being collected – Bennett Creek, Reese Creek, Clear Creek
 - AgriLife Research is not currently monitoring
 - The need for additional monitoring can be addressed through the watershed protection plan
 - Urban bulge – houses being packed in – possible chemicals
 - Urban Suburban Issues Work Group will address the issue of urban sprawl
 - Setting up riparian buffers with prairie grasses
 - Used in other watersheds with possible federal funding
 - Bank sloughing doesn't allow vegetation to grow and riparian buffers may help slow sloughing
 - Sloughing is a natural part of river – lots of causes
 - Birds under bridges are a possible issue
 - Lisa Prcin to see if data is available

- Brush Control
 - LRCA Creekside Conservation Program
 - Promotes the reduction of soil erosion and abatement of nonpoint source pollution through the voluntary implementation of BMPs and conservation plans by landowners across LCRA's statutory district.
 - Conservation plan is site-specific to individual agricultural lands directly along or adjacent to riparian areas and is developed in collaboration with NRCS and local SWCDs.
 - North Concho River Brush Control Project
 - Programs are made to help landowners
 - Gasification of brush to produce electricity
 - Company will give \$10 to come on property and burn cedar and mesquite for power to fuel gasification plants
 - Landowners will re-vegetate after brush clearing
 - \$66 million to build each plant – green energy
- Discussed possible solutions
 - Riparian buffers
 - Brush control methods can be written into Watershed Protection Plan
 - Possible cost share funding for practices from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - Find opportunities for state/federal funding

❖ Initial Land Use/Land Cover Analysis

- Types of land use – water, urban, forest, pasture, managed pasture, rangeland, barren, and crops
- Rangeland and Pasture Separate or Combined
 - Difficult to distinguish between rangeland and pasture even using satellite imagery
 - The Work Group was asked to decide whether they preferred to leave rangeland and pasture as separate land use categories for analysis or combine rangeland and pasture into one category for land use analysis
 - Calculations were explained to help work group make decision using maps and pie charts in power point presentation
 - OPTION 1: Rangeland and Pasture Combined
 - 87% -Accuracy based on ground-truthing
 - OPTION 2: Rangeland and Pasture Separated
 - 71% - Accuracy based on ground-truthing
 - End result will help pinpoint the number of animal units on the ground
 - OPTION 1: Rangeland and Pasture Combined was chosen by work group because management of pasture and rangeland isn't different in relation to stocking rates and management practices
 - Estimate of appropriate land use distribution of livestock populations tabled to acquire more information regarding percentage of forest area
 - Work Group asked AgriLife Research to separate forestland based on elevation, hilltops/cliffs and usable land

❖ Sources and Distribution of Nonpoint Source Pollutions

- Livestock Population estimates
 - USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service
 - Stocking Rate estimates applied managed and rangeland across entire watershed
 -
 - ◆
 - 1 Animal Unit =
 - ◆ 5 Goats
 - ◆ 3 Sheep
 - ◆ 1.8 Horse
 - ◆ 1 Cow/Calf pair
 - Work Group selected a 1:20 (AU:Acres) stocking rate
 - ◆ Cattle are rotated between pastures

- Feral Hogs
 - One landowner trapped 300 in 2 year period on Lampasas River
 - Working with Wildlife Management Association on estimate numbers
 - Some landowners may be bringing in feral hogs from outside the watershed to provide game hunts
 - It is against the law in 5 states to cross state lines with feral hogs
- Because areas of interest for the Agricultural Issues Work Group cross over into the Habitat & Wildlife Work Group, it was recommended by members to consolidate the two work groups

- ❖ Data Needed
 - Fertilizer Rates
 - AgriLife Research will visit with fertilizer companies to gather estimates of purchases, uses and application rates
 - Agro Tech Services

 - Crops Planted : Acres Planted
 - Haygrazer
 - Grains

- ❖ Next Steps
 - Discussion of Plum Creek Watershed and their use of the SELECT model
 - Presented preliminary SELECT outputs for cattle distribution
 - Cattle Density
 - Potential E. coli Load for Cattle
 - These same outputs will be created for possible source i.e. deer, hog, cattle, etc.
 - Lampasas' utilization of the SELECT model will be similar to Plum Creek
 - Lisa Prcin announced Wastewater Infrastructure Work Group requested to be combined with Urban/Suburban Issues Work Group. Urban/Suburban Issues Work Group to meet Wednesday, April 21 from 2pm – 5pm in Killeen
 - Meeting schedule
 - Agricultural Issues Work Group requested to combine with the Habitat and Wildlife Work Group

- Habitat and Wildlife Work Group members will be contacted over the phone if they would like to combine with Agricultural Issues Work Group
- Next meeting scheduled tentatively May 17, 2010, 6pm – 9pm, Lampasas County Farm Bureau
- Steering Committee will need to vote on combining the groups

- ❖ Adjourn
 - 9:00 pm