

Public Invited to Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Meeting on November 10

The Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Steering Committee will meet Tuesday, November 10 in Lampasas to discuss water quality monitoring in the watershed and the Partnership's framework.

The meeting will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lampasas High School Lecture Hall, 2716 S. Hwy 281. Light refreshments and meeting sign-in will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The Lampasas River watershed encompasses parts of Bell, Burnet, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills, and Williamson Counties. "A watershed includes the main stem of the river and all of the tributaries that drain into it, all of which are affected by what happens in the surrounding cities and communities," said Dirk Aaron, AgriLife Extension agent for Bell County.

According to the "2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List," the Lampasas River is impaired by elevated bacteria concentrations making it unsuitable for contact recreation use. North Fork Rocky Creek, a tributary of the Lampasas River, is also impaired for depressed dissolved oxygen.

Texas AgriLife Research and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board are partnering with landowners in the Lampasas River watershed to protect and improve the area's water quality through the development of a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP). A WPP is a cooperative partnership that holistically addresses all sources of water quality impairment and prioritizes best management practices and restoration strategies that assure the long term health of the watershed. "Through the WPP process, stakeholders will be able to make informed decisions to develop management recommendations that will protect and improve water quality in the Lampasas River watershed," said Lisa Prcin, Lampasas River Watershed Coordinator with Texas AgriLife Research.

The upcoming meeting will focus on building the Partnership by confirming members of the Steering Committee and establishing Work Groups focused on areas such as wastewater infrastructure, agricultural issues, habitat and wildlife, urban/suburban issues and outreach and education as they relate to water quality within the Lampasas River watershed. "We're encouraging anyone with expertise or an interest in any of these areas to attend the Steering Committee meeting and join a Work Group," said Prcin.

"A Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source grant was provided to Texas AgriLife Research by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to facilitate the development of this WPP," noted Pamela Casebolt, project manager with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

For more information on the meeting, please contact Prcin at 254.774.6030 or lprcin@brc.tamus.edu, or Casebolt at 254.773.2250, ext 247, pcasebolt@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

More information on the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership can be found at <http://www.lampasasriver.org>.