

Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting Notes

Dornak revisions highlighted

February 12, 2015

Lockhart, TX

Meeting convened at 6:32 on Thursday, February 12, 2015 in the Lockhart City Hall Chambers located at 217 S Main Street in Lockhart Texas. Caldwell County Commissioner Munoz welcomed everyone and the meeting was called to order. Nick Dornak introduced Dr. Terry Gentry from Texas A&M who spoke to the group concerning the Use of Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) to Characterize Texas Watersheds.

BST is used to determine the sources of fecal contamination based on the uniqueness of the bacteria from individual sources. BST targeted organisms are E. coli, Bacteroidales, Bacteriophage, Human viruses, and chemical. A history of BST Use in Texas was given to include the Lake Waco/Belton Project that was funded by Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) in 2002 which confirmed ERIC-RP as the recommended method.

Different animal feces were used to create a DNA fingerprint so that a library or a reference could be set up; each animal finger print was given a barcode. In this way through the study it could be determined whether the E. coli was largely wildlife, human, or livestock if using for a limited study. For a larger scale study, it could be determined to be: human, pets, cattle, other livestock- avian, other livestock- non-avian, wildlife- avian, wildlife-non-avian.

It was discussed that a BST study could be done for Plum Creek, also discussed were approximate costs that would be incurred. An example of 3 sites was given with monthly sampling events x 5 isolates per sample at \$250 per isolate the total cost would be approximately \$45,000. This figure does not include sample collection and transport to the lab.

At 7:25 Nick Dornak turned meeting toward the Steering Committee and completed a brief history on the Plum Creek Watershed including the fact that the watershed covered 397 square miles and is a tributary of the San Marcos River. Plum Creek was placed on the Texas 303D list in 2004 for exceeding the primary contact recreation water quality standard for bacteria. To date, all 3 segments remain impaired for bacteria. The Plum Creek Watershed ~~Protection~~ Partnership was established in 2006. In 2010 TCEQ's integrated report reclassified Plum Creek from a 5c to a 4b showing the improvements that have been voluntarily made thus far. 2012 report still target concerns for DO, Habitat, Nitrate, Ortho-phosphorus, and Total Phosphorus.

Partnership updates were discussed. PCWP works closely with Keep Lockhart Beautiful. The 2015 Governor's Community Achievement Award will be giving a \$160,000 award for the top city in Lockhart's division (pop. 9,001 to 15,000). Lockhart received second place in 2014. First place winner from previous year is not eligible to compete the following year.

On February 21st there will be a Community Tire Collection Event from 8-12 a.m. at 423 San Marcos Hwy in Luling. Last year 8,640 tires were collected, helping to approve another grant for this year.

Nick introduced a drawing of the proposed Caldwell County Justice Center that implements Low Impact Development (LID), introducing landscaping, a detention pond, and rainwater harvesting set up to be an educational structure to future developers. Grant is in TCEQ EPA review.

Nick discussed CHAMP- Caldwell Hays County Feral Hog Action Plan highlighted from October 2013 to August 31, 2014 the successful collection of 4,438 hogs, estimating a 74.6% elimination of the population. To be competitive for a new TDA grant program, CHOMP, to be awarded for feral hog management and education success from September 1- November 30 2014, the local bounty added some incentives, upping the amount given for hog tails from \$5 to \$10 if the hunter-participant would attend one of the 10 feral hog workshop that were provided. During this time, CHOMP collected 1,360 hogs. A total of 509 individuals received at least 1-hour of feral hog education certified by the County including a youth education program given at high schools within the community.

New business that was introduced included Liza Marshall from TSSWCB introducing documentation stating the need for a vote on a new computer needed by Nick as the coordinator as the computer would cost over \$1000. Total cost for computer is \$1900+ and would include all Microsoft office and publisher needs. Diane Wassenich made motion to purchase; motion was seconded by Lee Weatherford, City of Lockhart Lockhart representative. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Nick introduced the round table discussions asking if the committee wished for him to further pursue information including technical, financial and funding for a and pricing on the BST study for Plum Creek. It was agreed that he should obtain more information.

Susan Meckel, landowner, briefed group on Crosswinds WWTF which has changed ownership. Jason Biemer, City of Kyle, from Kyle noting noted that no definite plan for the discharge/reuse is in place as of yet. Per last known plan of Crosswinds, it was decided that a letter of backing would be given by PCWP PCWS, it was agreed that the letter would be written to state PCWS's-PCWP's backing of the plan as it last stood under direction of Crosswind.

Mr. Biemer Jason also spoke about the new permit for Kyle wastewater plant/Aqua Texas. States new permit should be ready within 60 days and fully expects permit will be more stringent.

Nick invited all who were interested to the Kyle-Plum Creek Clean-Up being held on February 28, 2015. Also stated San Marcos was having their first ever that the San Marcos River Clean-Up was scheduled for on March 7, 2015.

Due to closing of library, meeting adjourned at 8:15 without discussion of Electro Purification Developments in Hays County and any new business being brought to the attention of the committee.