

# Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee

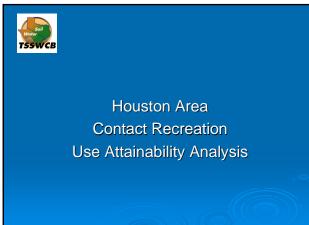
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Colorado County Agriculture Building Columbus, Texas Thursday, December 6, 2007

#### Water TSSWCB

#### Today's Agenda Items

- > Welcome and Introductions
- Houston Area Contact Recreation Use Attainability Analysis
- Selecting a Watershed for WPP Development
- Path Forward
- > Adjournment





Selecting a Watershed for WPP Development



## Overview of Selection Process

#### Set of Criteria

- Impairment
- Planning Status
- LULC
- Implementation Status
- Size
- Ag NPS Potential
- Threat or LULC Change or Census Change
- Member Priority
- Coastal Zone
- Stakeholder Buy-In



#### **Overview of Selection Process**

- > WCSC members submitted 3 priority watersheds in their respective jurisdiction
- > Significant agricultural land use component
- > Assess Potential for Stakeholder Buy-in
- Watershed will be chosen from Top 5 of the assessment through discussion with WCSC
- Select watershed based on consensus of WCSC<sup>6</sup>



### The Top 5 Watersheds

- 1. Geronimo Creek
- 2. Mustang Creek
- 3. Double Bayou
- 4. Chocolate Bayou
- 5. Skull Creek



Chart of Top 5 vs. Criteria Scores	
Waterbody	Total Score
Geronimo Creek	733.47
Mustang Creek	701.11
Double Bayou	698.85
Chocolate Bayou	694.00
Skull Creek	659.44
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#### Discussion on the Top 5 Watersheds

- > What are the pros and cons for each candidate watershed?
- > Probability for success (de-listing)?
- > What are other important factors for a WPP besides impairments and/or concerns?

#### Path Forward on Selected Watershed

- > December 2007 WCSC identifies priority watershed for WPP development
- January 2008 work with regional entities to develop proposed scope of work
- February-August 2008 Regional Watershed Coordinator collects background information and data on selected watershed
- September 2008 if scope of work selected for funding, begin WPP development process with local stakeholders

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#### CWA §319(h) NPS Grant

- TSSWCB Request-for-Proposals (RFP) for FY2008
  Clean Water Act §319(h) NPS Grant projects will be published in the *Texas Register* tomorrow, December 7, 2007
- > Priority Project Activities to be Funded
- Implement WPPs and TMDL I-Plans
- WPP Development Initiatives
  Including watershed identified by this WCSC
- Support use of Farm Bill Programs through Cooperative Conservation
- Clarification of Category 5c bacteria impairments through SWQM

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### **Current Grant Opportunities**

- > EPA Environmental Education Grant
- TWDB Flood Protection Planning
- http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/requestforproposals/FY0 8EloodProtection asp
- TWDB Regional Wastewater Facility Planning
  <a href="http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/requestforproposals/FY0">http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/requestforproposals/FY0</a>
- 8\_regional.asp > USFWS NAWCA Grants
- http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAV
- NFWF Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants
  - http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Browse\_All\_Prog rams&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID =30&ContentID=7593



#### Update on Programs Supporting Watershed Protection Planning

- Fexas Watershed Steward Program
  - http://tws.tamu.edu/
  - December 4, Kyle (Plum Creek) recap
  - January 24, Wellington (Buck Creek)
  - · Need to identify additional locations/dates
- > Texas Watershed Planning Short Course
  - http://watershedplanning.tamu.edu/
  - June 2008, Winter 2008, and Spring 2009 in Bandera
- > Watershed Coordinator Roundtable
  - First roundtable held August 20 in Terr
  - Need for another in early 2008?

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# State Guidance on WPPs and TMDLs

- TSSWCB/TCEQ staff updating 1999 TMDL
  Program guidance and incorporating Bacteria
  TMDL Task Force recommendations adopted by
  Board and Commission
- > TSSWCB/TCEQ staff developing WPP Program guidance

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#### Path Forward

- > Begin work on next WCSC-prioritized watershed
- Newsletter
- Articles, Announcements, and/or Comments
- > Next WCSC meeting March 6, 2008
- > Other Announcements



#### Expressing Daily Loads in TMDLs - EPA Webcast

- Today, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Introduce EPA's recently released draft document, *Options for Expressing Daily Loads in TMDLs* Designed to provide information to TMDL practitioners regarding options for developing appropriate daily load expressions during the TMDL process Address the calculation of daily loads for TMDLs that use allocation time trames that are greater than daily (e.g., annual, seasonal)

- Review the process for developing daily load expressions
  Provide examples and highlight the implementation benefits of identifying daily loads Address impacts of the daily loads requirement to the NPDES
- Provide the opportunity to pose questions to EPA staff and program experts



