



# Watershed Coordination Steering Committee

## Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Colorado County Agriculture Building  
Columbus, Texas  
Thursday, March 8, 2007

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### Today's Agenda Items

- Welcome and Introductions
- Wharton Region Watershed Protection Plan Updates
- Programs Targeted for Feral Hog control and Research
- Review of Criteria in Selecting the next Watershed for WPP development
- Path Forward
- Adjourn

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### Wharton Region WPP Updates

- Plum Creek  
-Brian Koch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Armand Bayou  
-Hollie Swick, Trust for Public Land
- Dickinson Bayou  
-Bud Solmonsson, Texas Sea Grant
- Bastrop Bayou  
-Carl Masterson, Houston-Galveston Area Council
- Upper San Antonio River  
-Steve Lusk, San Antonio River Authority

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## Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Update

- Workgroup meetings November and January
  - discussions on potential BMPs for WPP implementation
  - discussion on refinement of the LDC and SELECT modeling
  - GBRAs outreach to 760 Fourth Grade Students in the Watershed, through a water quality testing campaign
- Steering Committee Meeting in December
  - initial LDC and SELECT results for *E. coli*: 59% reduction at Uhland, 12% at Lockhart, and 58% at Luling (no impairment on 2004 303d list below Lockhart)
  - Stakeholders committed to review this data, results to be presented at next Steering Committee Meeting this evening
- First Draft of WPP out to Stakeholders in February
  - initial review, comments addressed at March Steering Committee Meeting
- Upcoming Steering Committee Meeting
  - stakeholder comments on first draft of the WPP
  - address stakeholder concerns/comments on modeling from December meeting
- First Draft of complete WPP Document August 2007

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## Criteria Review for WPP Selection

- The following are parameters that we used in the selection of Plum Creek as a pilot watershed for WPP development
- What if any changes, adjustments, or edits would any of you as a WCSC member like to suggest to improve and/or refine of this selection process of Watershed for WPP development

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## Criteria Review for WPP Selection

- Impairment
  - Utilize draft 2004 303(d) and 305(b) list and Secondary concerns list
  - Assess points per assigned category (e.g. 4a, 4b, 4c, etc...)
  - Split 4a and 5a between those with TMDLs underway and those without
  - High points for 5a w/o, 4a w/o IP, secondary concern, threat/trend
  - Medium points for 5b, 5c, 1, 2, 3, 5a w/, 4a w/
  - Review data for trends
  - Protection from potential impairments
  - EPA priorities and concerns
  - If multiple segments and listings within watershed, use category with highest point value
  - Change title from "Impairment" (negative) to "Waterbody 305(b) Status" (more positive)

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## Criteria Review for WPP Selection

- Planning Status
  - Planned TMDL or WPP
- LULC
  - 2001 LULC is available
  - Use only cropland or all three agriculture (cropland, rangeland, forestland)
  - Compare agriculture to developed versus just % agriculture
  - Use agriculture statistics from NASS survey
  - Number of permitted dischargers (high # = low WPP potential)
- Implementation Status
  - To evaluate the potential for implementation of BMPs in watershed
  - Use TSSWCB Water Quality Management Plan acreage compared to agriculture acreage from LULC above
  - HUC-12 is now available for most of the region except for some coastal basins

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## Criteria Review for WPP Selection

- Size
  - Watershed size for realistic management
  - High WPP potential for watersheds within target range
  - 100 to 1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>
  - Also 1 million acres (about 1,600 mi<sup>2</sup>) suggested as maximum
- Ag NPS Potential
  - Limitation because best resolution is HUC-8 in some coastal basins, HUC-12 is available for most of the region
  - Evaluated and ranked watershed potential from 1997 USDA NRCS nation-wide study
  - Study examined parameters such as climate, soil characteristics, pesticides and nitrogen loadings from ag sources

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## Criteria Review for WPP Selection

- Threat or LULC Change
  - Best would be 2001 NLCD, which is available
  - Next option use US Census Bureau population data
  - 1990-2000 change in county with most area in watershed
  - Use projections as well as historic change
  - Use density versus population change
  - Eliminate irregularities by using block-level data instead of county (COGs should be able to help with this)
- Member Priority
  - WCSC Member entity
  - Select top three watersheds within jurisdiction for WPP

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## Criteria Review for WPP Selection

- Coastal Zone
  - Simply Yes or No
  - Any part of the watershed in delineated Coastal Zone
- Stakeholder Buy-in
  - Of these ten "simple" parameters, this one turned into most complex
  - Combination of points in four different sub-categories: citizen interest, local government, WCSC member support, and local SWCD interest
  - First three (citizen, local government, and WCSC) will be self-ranked by WCSC member entity
  - SWCD will be assessed by TSSWCB Field Representatives
  - To tie to Texas Watershed Steward, should also include evaluation of TCE County Faculty in each watershed

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## Criteria Review for WPP Selection

- Criteria for previous selected watershed sent out
- All comments in by April 30, 2007, to ensure all will be addressed by June WCSC meeting
- After June WCSC refine criteria spreadsheet
- September WCSC ask entities for priority watersheds to be prioritized through the spreadsheet
- December WCSC select watershed for WPP development; dependent on TSSWCB FY08 319 RFP dollars

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## Path Forward

- Take comments on refinement of priority assessment for selection of next watershed for WPP development
- Newsletter
  - Articles, Announcements, and/or Comments
- Next WCSC meeting June 7, 2007
- Other Announcements

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Adjourn

Thanks!

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