



Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Colorado County Agriculture Building
Columbus, Texas
Thursday, June 7, 2007

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Today's Agenda Items

- Welcome and Introductions
- TCEQ Supplemental Environmental Projects Funding
-Chandra Eggemeyer- TCEQ SEP
- Overview of Adams and Cow Bayous TMDLs
-Miles Hall- Sabine River Authority
- Waterbody Selection for WPP Development-Review
and Discussion of Comments Received
-Brian Koch- TSSWCB
- Path Forward
- Adjourn

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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development

- The following are parameters that we used in the selection of Plum Creek as a pilot watershed for WPP development
- These parameters have been updated with more current information and comments that were received

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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development

- Impairment
 - Utilize draft 2006 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
 - Multiple impairments carry more weight appropriate for WPP development
 - Protection from potential impairments
 - EPA priorities and concerns
 - EPA PAMS Measure W priority watersheds
 - 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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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development

- Planning Status
 - Planned TMDL or WPP
 - Ongoing TMDL or WPP
 - No TMDL or WPP
- LULC
 - 2001 NLCD is available
 - Use all three agriculture (cropland, rangeland, forestland)
 - Compare agriculture to developed versus just % agriculture
 - Higher Urban NPS potential would carry less weight
 - 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

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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development

- Size
 - Watershed size for realistic management
 - High WPP potential for watersheds within target range
 - Originally 100-1000 mi²
 - 75-500 mi² or 40,000-250,000 acres (average HUC-10)
- Ag NPS Potential
 - 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
 - Limited to the HUC 8 scale

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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development

- 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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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development

- Coastal Zone
 - Simply Yes or No
 - Majority of the watershed in delineated Coastal Zone
- Stakeholder Buy-in
 - Of these ten "simple" parameters, this one turned into most complex
 - Three Parameters will be weighed
 - Citizen and local government will be self-ranked by WCSC member entity
 - SWCD will be assessed by TSSWCB Field Representatives
 - TCE assess County Faculty in each watershed

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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development-Comments Received

- Aq NPS Potential - If the objectives of the project are to work in a rural watershed, you might want to include a criterion that gauges Urban PS/NPS Potential. This could be measured by population density or permitted wastewater flow volumes. Higher points would be given to watersheds with low Urban PS/NPS Potential.

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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development-Comments Received

- Stakeholder Buy-in - This is a tough one. The issue is not limited to stakeholder buy-in, but also the existence of an organization capable of implementing the plan over time. It seems that establishing and institutionalizing local WPP infrastructure should be emphasized. Could local SWCDs play a larger role by sponsoring the WPP? They could take the lead in establishing the local steering committee and providing guidance to the state agencies.

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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development-Comments Received

- If local SWCDs and other stakeholders can be educated on the need and the benefits of pro-active cooperation and on the WPP process, they might be willing to take the lead on the WPP. You may want to consider narrowing the number of candidate watersheds using the criteria already established. In each of the top five candidate areas, for example, TSSWCB, TCE and others would conduct a 1/2-day WPP training workshop. During the workshop, local SWCDs and other stakeholders would be encouraged to form a steering committee and develop a WPP proposal. TSSWCB funding and technical assistance would be awarded based upon the merits of the proposals.

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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development

- Role of the WCSC- identify watershed that would benefit most from WPP development
- Assess the citizen/local government buy-in

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Waterbody Selection for WPP

- Role of Texas Watershed Steward (TWS) Program-provide stakeholder education in selected watershed for WPP development

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Texas Watershed Steward

- Roll out of Statewide Texas Watershed Steward Program - one day educational program
- Conduct TWS in Plum Creek and the next selected watershed in the Wharton Region
- Need assistance to select 10 other locations for TWS Statewide for the next two years
- We plan to conduct 6 TWS programs a year starting this fall requiring about 3 months of lead time for each to advertise

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Texas Watershed Steward

- We would like to solicit your top two watersheds that could benefit from TWS
- An email will be sent out to the entire group requesting feedback on the top two watersheds
- From the responses ~ 10 watersheds will be selected and scheduled for following 2 years.
- We appreciate your time and input into this process

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Waterbody Selection for WPP Development

- The task of plan development is to be determined, and should be given to the entity that would be most appropriate for facilitation (i.e. river authority, local SWCD, local County Extension Office, etc...)

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Path Forward

- Watershed Coordinator use comments and updated information to refine selection process for WPP
- Collect any new information needed to begin evaluation on selected criteria
- After September WCSC, members select 3 priority watersheds, and provide stakeholder buy-in
- Newsletter
 - Articles, Announcements, and/or Comments
- Next WCSC meeting September 6, 2007
- Other Announcements

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Adjourn

Thanks!

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