

Implementation Plan (I-Plan) Evaluation for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Dissolved Oxygen Lake O' the Pines Meeting

Lucas Gregory and Nikki Dictson

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Water Quality 101

- **Federal Clean Water Act (CWA)**
 - Main goal is to “restore and maintain the biological, chemical and physical integrity of the Nation’s waters.”
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) administers and implements
 - Requires individual states to set water quality standards
- **Goal of CWA is to provide water quality suitable for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife while providing for recreation in an on the water.**



TMDL Project Overview

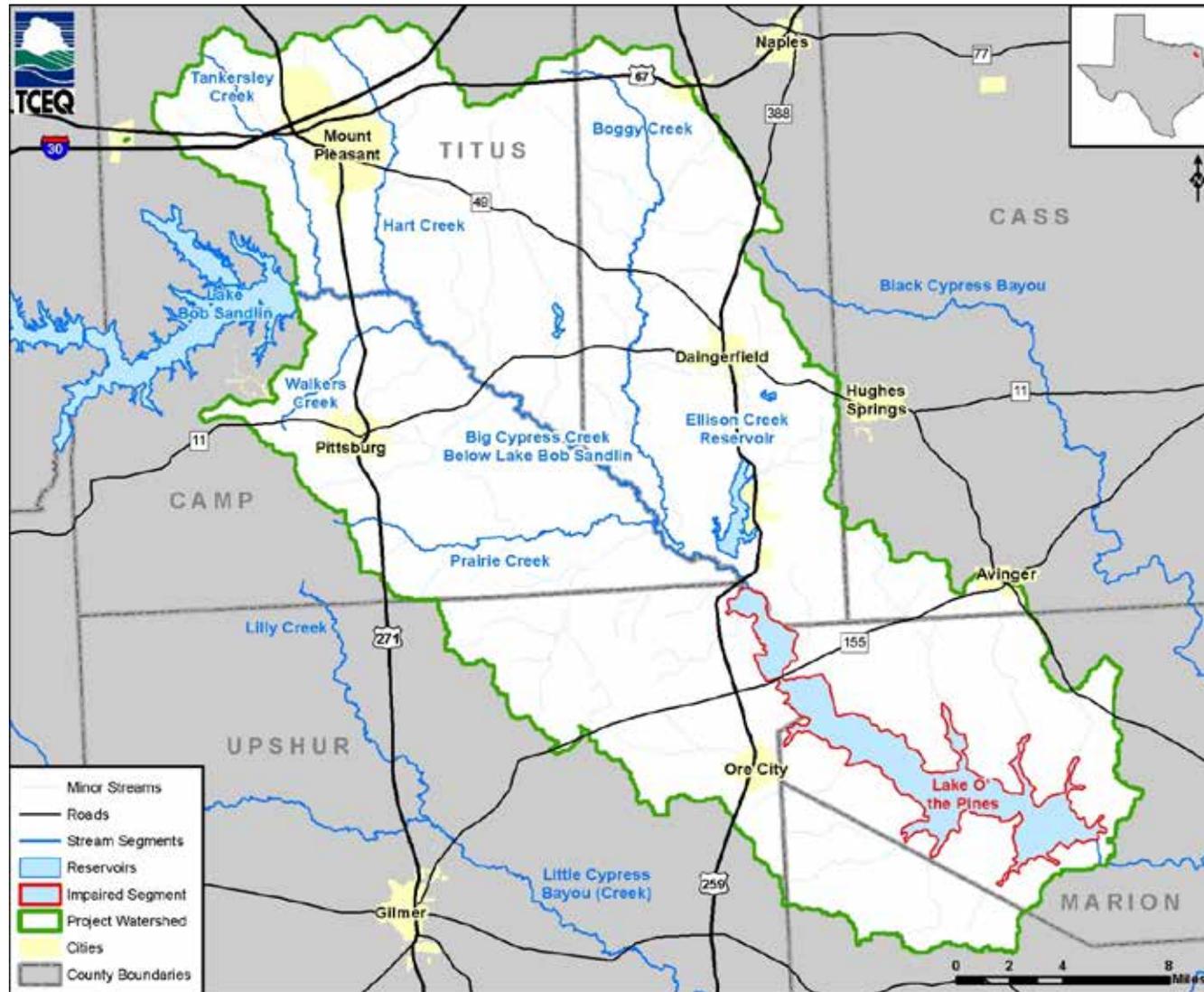
- The TMDL determined that low dissolved oxygen concentrations in Lake O' the Pines result from photosynthesis and respiration in the lake and that phosphorus is the limiting nutrient in the reservoir.
- Existing loadings of phosphorus to Lake O' the Pines from point and nonpoint sources were determined through inspection of permits, field sampling, and watershed modeling.
- Analyses of water quality data from the reservoir were used to determine its capacity to assimilate phosphorus loadings.
- Comparisons of the existing loadings to the reservoir's assimilative capacity (amount the lake could handle) determined that a 56% reduction in phosphorus loadings is needed to restore water quality conditions in the lake.

Project Overview

- Lake O' the Pines' dissolved oxygen (DO) levels are commonly below the minimum DO standard set to support aquatic life and as a result, the lake's aquatic life use is considered impaired.
- The Lake O' the Pines Watershed had a TMDL approved in June 2006 and an I-Plan in July 2008.
- The goal of the I-Plan is to restore water quality.



Lake O' the Pines Watershed



Why are We Here Today?

- We would like to bring those involved in the past back to the table to review and revise the 2008 I-Plan .
- The local stakeholders will review the I-Plan, evaluate implementation progress, and revise I-Plan as appropriate.





Project Leadership

- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)**
 - Funding Agency
 - Approves TMDL and TMDL Implementation Plan
- **Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)**
 - Coordinates stakeholder involvement
 - Facilitate Review and Revision of TMDL Implementation Plan



Coordination Committee Overview

Coordination Committee:

- Formed from a core group of watershed stakeholders
- Goal is to be equally representative of watershed stakeholders in the review of the Implementation Plan (I-Plan)
- Facilitates active coordination amongst stakeholder interest groups



Proposed Committee Representatives

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Landowners
 - Rural: Larger Landowners
 - Homeowners
- Marine Sanitation
- On Site Septic
- CAFOs and AFOs
- Land Application Permit
- Wastewater
- Wildlife
- Storm Water
- Others?
 - Suggestions?
 - Deletions?



Coordination Committee Suggestions

- Are there any critical groups that we need to include in the process?
- Groups listed that should be removed?
- Any specific person(s) that should be included to better represent the listed groups?
- Other Ideas or Discussion?



Coordination Committee Governance

Bylaws
or
Ground Rules

Coordination Committee Will Decide How to Proceed for the Process

Formal

- } Establish bylaws that govern the actions of the committee
- } Adhere to Open Meeting Act Requirements

Informal

- } Develop a set of ground rules that will be used to govern the committee
- } Committee members approve ground rules and their use

Bylaws Example

Bylaws Outline

- Organization
- Voting membership
- Selection of additional groups/members
- Designated alternates
- Meeting
- Decision making
- Compensation
- Adopting and amending bylaws

Lake Granbury Watershed Protection Plan

STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

BYLAWS

Adopted
March 24, 2006
Amended
February 13, 2007

Ground Rules Examples

Gilleland Creek

- Goals
- Timeframe
- Participants
- Steering Committee
- Work groups
- Science and Monitoring advisory group
- Approved meeting minutes and action items

Plum Creek and Geronimo Creek

- Goals
- Powers
- Timeframe
- Membership selection
- Steering committee
- Work group
- Technical advisory
- Replacement/additions
- Alternates
- Decision making
- Quorum
- Facilitators

Ground Rules Example

Upper Gulf Coast Oyster Waters

- Speak up
- Disagree respectfully
- Silence is presumed consent
- Listen during discussions
- Respect opinions and don't criticize people
- Be open to new ideas
- Silence cell phones
- Have fun



What is Best for Lake O' the Pines?

Bylaws

- Formal meetings
- Open meetings act
- Official meeting notices required
- Can not discuss items outside of public meeting

Ground Rules

- Orderly, but non-formal meetings
- Adhere to agreed upon ground rules
- Still seek approval of meeting minutes from members and post meeting notices on web and through media

LOP Coordination Committee will Determine the Method of Governance

- The LOP Coordination Committee will vote to determine if they would like to move forward with Bylaws or Ground Rules.
- They will also choose one of the example frameworks
 - Bylaws:
 - Granbury
 - Ground Rules:
 - Geronimo Creek
 - Gilleland Creek
 - Upper Gulf Coast



Decision Making Strategies

Options for the Implementation Plan Development Process

Importance of Decisions

- Decision making process is critical to the development of the I-Plan
- Mechanisms used effect the efficiency of the process
- Number of decision makers can have a significant influence
- Decision making process dictates what is included in the TMDL I-Plan



Decision Making Options

Consensus Building

- Discuss all ideas
- Discuss issues of concern
- Come up with recommendations that everyone can tolerate

Majority Vote

- Requires a quorum
- Discussion
- Formal individual votes
- Majority rules



Work Groups Used in Other Watersheds

- Agriculture Nonpoint Source
- Coordination and Policy
- Education and Outreach
- Habitat
- On-Site Sewage
- Ordinance and Planning
- Natural Resource Management
- Science and Monitoring
- Storm Water
- Urban Nonpoint Source
- Wastewater Infrastructure
- Wildlife



Suggested Work Group Structure

- Members should provide adequate representation from needed parties
- Have at least 1 work group member serve on Coordination Committee
 - Liaison to Coordination Committee that provides work group updates
- Adhere to same ground rules as Coordination Committee



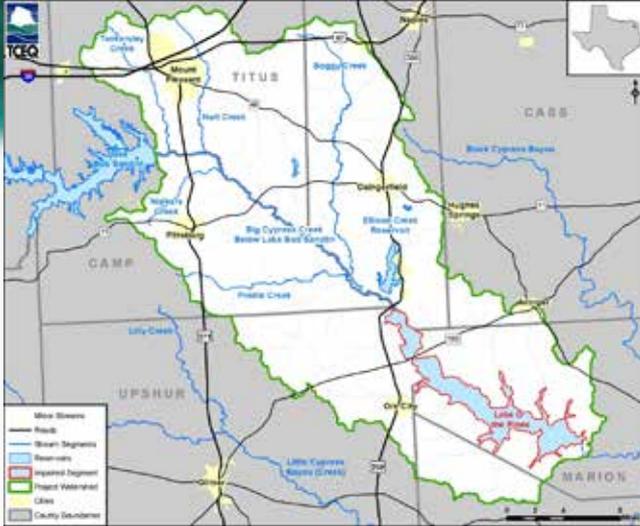
Work Group Roles

- Responsible for assisting with the I-Plan review, determining progress, and coming up with recommended implementation strategies to include in the I-Plan
- Each work group will only focus on work group specific issues
 - Example: Natural Resources group focuses on solutions to agriculture, habitat and wildlife related *E. coli* loading
- Work with project facilitator to draft ideas into work group specific report



Determine What You Want at the Next Meeting?

- Determine Coordination Committee representation
- What Work Groups are Needed?
 - Education & Outreach?
 - Natural Resources?
 - On-Site Septic?
 - Planning & Development?
 - Storm Water?
 - Waste Water?



Next Steps

Where does the project go from here?



Stakeholder Meeting Timeline

- General stakeholder meeting before Thanksgiving in November; possibly November 8 or 13th?
- Recap watershed issues, need for action, planned approach
- Discuss steering committee and work group ideas

Draft Timeline of Project





Next Steps

- **Develop Coordination Committee**
 - Work toward finalizing coordination committee membership
- **Vote on governance and decision making strategies**
- **Set general meeting schedule/intervals**
- **Discuss work group membership needs**



Future Work Group Meetings

- Initiate work group meetings following next coordination committee meeting
- Host meeting with all work groups & members present
- Set work group membership
- Set meeting times for respective work groups

Thanks! Questions?

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