

DRAFT Minutes
Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek
Public Meeting
Valley Ranch Library
Irving, Texas
April 22, 2010
1:00 – 2:00 pm

Attendees

Name	Representing
Shane Collier	City of Irving
Jeff Shiflet	City of Irving
Karen Siddall	City of Irving
Jennifer Bronson	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Kathryn Guerra	City of Irving
Tim Wentrcek	DFW Airport
Gregg Moss	City of Grapevine
Tom Moore	City of Irving
Tracy Michel	North Central Texas Council of Governments
Sam Brush	North Central Texas Council of Governments
Mike Garza	City of Coppell

Support staff

John Mummert- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Dania Grundmann- TCEQ
Natalie Bell- TCEQ
Larry Hauck- Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER)
Jimmy Millican- TIAER

Administrative Issues

A meeting on the bacteria TMDLs and RUAs for Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek was conducted on Thursday, April 22, 2010 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm at the Valley Ranch Library in Irving, Texas. The meeting was conducted to inform cities of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and relevant regional and state-level agencies about the status of the bacteria TMDLs and recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) for Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek. Hard-copies of the PowerPoint presentations were provided along with maps.

Introductions

Dania Grundmann from TCEQ opened the meeting and self-introductions were made by support staff and attendees. Larry Hauck from TIAER provided an overview of the materials to be presented at the meeting.

Overview of Recreational Use-Attainability Study

Jimmy Millican from TIAER provided attendees with a brief background on the impairment status of Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek including the current contact recreation criteria used to assess the streams, the changes that have been proposed to the criteria, and the portions of both creeks that are impaired due to elevated bacteria levels. He introduced the attendees to the procedures established by TCEQ in regard to RUAAs. Mr. Millican provided a web link to the location of the document developed by TCEQ that was utilized by TIAER in performing the RUAAs titled "Procedures for a Comprehensive RUAA and a Basic RUAA Survey." He explained the different data collection requirements and goals of a basic RUAA and a comprehensive RUAA and the appropriate selection of the type of RUAA employed for a given stream, which is a comprehensive RUAA for Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek.

Mr. Millican presented a summary of the results obtained from two RUAA surveys conducted on Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek on August 4-8 and 25-29, 2009. Mr. Millican identified the location of the specific sites within each stream where surveys were conducted. Handouts of maps for each stream were also provided for the attendees. Mr. Millican presented an overview of the information obtained during the two surveys for each stream and site location. The information provided included general characteristics of the streams, observed uses, and feedback received from individuals interviewed at the sites.

Attendees were encouraged to complete the surveys for any of the project streams with which they have familiarity since this would be of great value to the TCEQ Water Quality Standards Team and to development of the RUAA report on these streams.

Mr. Millican concluded his presentation by informing the attendees of the remaining work to be performed, which includes a final RUAA survey to be conducted during the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, development of a draft RUAA Comprehensive Report for TCEQ review in the latter part of the summer of 2010, and the finalization of the RUAA report in the fall of 2010.

Overview of Draft TMDL Allocations

Dr. Hauck provided attendees with an overview of the TMDL development process for the impaired portions of Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek. He explained the TMDL allocation process by presenting and defining the components of TMDL allocation equation. He also explained the use and purpose of load duration curves along with guidance on how to interpret information contained on the curves in the context of developing allocations for a TMDL.

The methods used to calculate each pollutant load allocation, which includes wastewater treatment facility loadings, regulated and non-regulated storm water runoff loadings, the margin of safety, and future growth components, were explained to the attendees. Dr. Hauck also presented the actual values calculated for each component of the TMDLs for Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek. He explained that due to the possibility of changes in the contact recreation use criteria additional plots and associated equations have been developed that will aid TCEQ and regulated entities in calculating load allocations in response to new numeric criteria. The plots developed to account for changes in the criteria were presented and guidance on the interpretation of the plots was provided by Dr. Hauck.

Next Steps

Ms. Grundmann informed the attendees of the remaining steps to be completed for the Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek TMDLs and Implementation Plan. A general timeline for completion of each task was provided, which included the continuing process of informing stakeholders, completion of RUAA study, development of a draft and final TMDL document, and the coordination of Implementation Plan development. Mrs. Grundmann presented an overview of the elements of an implementation plan and the current framework in which the implementation plan will be developed. She indicated that the North Central Texas Council of Governments will act as the local facilitator for all TMDL implementation plans in the DFW area with the Upper Trinity River bacteria TMDL being the first plan developed followed by implementation plans for Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek.

Questions and Comments

Q: An attendee asked “What does the acronym MPN mean?”

A: Larry Hauck answered that MPN stands for most probable number and is the unit used for *E. coli* results obtained from the Colilert IDEXX method. He went on to mention that a more common unit used in the past was colony forming units (cfu) which for all practical purposes are considered equivalent units to MPN.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:05 pm.