

Minutes
Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek Bacteria TMDLs
Public Meeting
Valley Ranch Library
401 Cimarron Trail
Irving, TX 75063
September 24, 2009
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Attendees

Name	Representing
Jeff Shiflet	City of Irving
Muhammad Rafique	DFW Airport
Tim Wentreck	DFW Airport
Melissa Tidmore	Tx. Parks and Wildlife Dept.
Jennifer M. Bronson	Tx. Parks and Wildlife Dept.
Shane Collier	City of Irving
Gregg Moss	City of Grapevine
Ken Griffin	City of Coppell
Tom Moore	City of Irving
Sam Brush	North Central Texas Council of Government
Glenn W. Lubke	USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service
Zach Kinsey	KaufmanVan Zandt Soil Water Conservation District
Glenn Harwell	United States Geological Survey
Rick Bordges	Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District

Support staff

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

Administrative Issues

A meeting on the Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek bacteria TMDLs was conducted on Thursday, September 24, 2009 from 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm at the Valley Ranch Library in Irving, Texas. The meeting was conducted to inform cities of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex with political boundaries within the two project watersheds and regional and state-level agencies about the status of the recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) study and two TMDLs. Hard-copies of the PowerPoint presentations were provided as handouts.

Introductions

Dania Grundmann, the project manager from TCEQ, opened the meeting and self-introductions were made by support staff and attendees.

Overview of TMDL Process

Mrs. Grundmann presented an update on developments within TCEQ and EPA affecting Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and delivered a general introduction to the RUAA process in Texas. She described proposed bacteria standards revisions and proposed contact recreation use subcategories. She explained how the proposed change to 206 cfu/100 ml for primary contact recreation would impact bacteria TMDLs and allow the TCEQ to focus its efforts on water bodies that are not anticipated to meet the new standard. Mrs. Grundmann then stated that the RUAA process enables TCEQ to streamline TMDL efforts around the state by categorizing segments according to the intensity of aquatic recreation determined to occur in them.

Status of Ongoing RUAA and TMDL Work

Larry Hauck presented an overview of the procedures for conducting RUAAs in Texas and the different goals and methods of Basic and Comprehensive RUAAs. He discussed habitat and stream data collection as well as procedures for conducting interviews with the public to determine the level of recreational use in a water body. Site selection, sampling conditions, and reporting procedures were also discussed.

Dr. Hauck next presented an overview of the RUAA study that is being performed on Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek. The attendees were informed that two surveys were conducted in August 2009 and a third survey is scheduled for the spring or summer of 2010. Preliminary results from the first two surveys were presented to the attendees. The remaining steps to be performed in regard to the RUAA study were also presented.

Dr. Hauck also provided an update to the status of the Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek TMDLs. Background information was presented in regards to the current 303(d) listing of these streams and proposed *E. coli* criteria revisions. An overview of the monitoring that was conducted by TIAER in 2008 including *E. coli* data results from both streams was also presented. Dr. Hauck explained the TMDL allocation process by presenting and defining the components of the allocation process equation. The steps in developing bacteria load duration curves were also explained. Finally, he also explained the desire to have developed an Implementation Plan for the two watersheds with local interests being the key in such development.

319 Grant Program Overview

Mark Palmie presented information regarding the Texas Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program and 2010 grant cycle. Mr. Palmie defined what constituted a Clean Water Act §319(h) grant and that the purpose of the grants was to implement the Texas NPS Management Program. Mr. Palmie went on to explain the project selection criteria TCEQ is implementing for 2010. He gave examples of best management practices that are commonly used as a part of the Texas nonpoint source program. He also provided examples of 319(h) grants that were specific to urbanized areas. Mr. Palmie concluded his presentation by providing information in regards to the TCEQ 319 grant cycle for 2010 including the amount of funding available and the grant cycle schedule.

Close of Meeting

Ms. Grunmann provided closing comments and encouraged attendees to consider participating in development of an Implementation Plan. She further indicated that she would contact individuals from the cities and other entities represented at the meeting regarding initiation of the process to develop an Implementation Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Questions and Comments

The following captures the important questions and responses that occurred throughout the meeting.

Q: John Rath representing the Sierra Club asked what the rationale was for raising the criteria from 126 to 206.

A: Larry Hauck answered that the rationale was risk based. Dr. Hauck went on to explain that based on studies performed in the past it was calculated that the risk of gastrointestinal illness from contact recreation was approximately 8 out of 1,000 people when *E. coli* concentrations were at 126, and 10 out of 1,000 people at concentrations of 206. Dr. Hauck also indicated that both risk of illness were deemed acceptable by EPA and after public and stakeholder input at public meetings on TCEQ standards revisions the 206 criteria were recommended.

Q: Mr. Rath asked when were the illness risk studies performed.

A: Dr. Hauck answered that the studies were performed in the 1980s and were mainly conducted on beach areas associated with lakes. Dr. Hauck also explained that the 206 criteria has not been formerly adopted and would still have to be approved by TCEQ and ultimately the EPA.

Q: An attendee asked if the margin of safety would also be applied to a TMDL that utilized the new proposed criteria.

A: Dr. Hauck answered that the margin of safety component of the TMDL would still be applied when calculating allocations.

Q: Rick Bordges of Dallas County Utility Reclamation District (DCURD) asked about the criteria used to determine when sampling occurred in the Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek project.

A: Dr. Hauck explained that flow data from the nearby White Rock Creek gauge was plotted along with bacteria data associated with each sampling location. This plot was then utilized to determine where sample data were sparse in relation to the flow curve. When sample data were sparse or missing from a certain flow range, that specific flow range was monitored via the USGS web site. When flows occurred that were in that range, a sampling event was initiated.

Q: Mr. Bordges asked if TIAER was still using the White Rock gauge, and if so why did TIAER not install a gauge on each stream.

A: Dr. Hauck indicated that there were cost restraints and time constraints involved since long-term flow data of several years duration were required.

Q: Mr. Bordges asked about data collected in 2009.

A: Dr. Hauck answered that TIAER did not sample Grapevine Creek and Cottonwood Branch in 2009. John Mummert added that the Fort Worth TCEQ regional office had recently begun sampling at Cottonwood Branch on North Story Road (Station 17166) in response to a sewer line repair that had occurred at that site.

Q: Mr. Bordges asked if both streams originated on DFW Airport property, and if DFW Airport was monitoring those streams.

A: Dr. Hauck answered that both streams do originate on DFW Airport property. Tim Wentrecek with DFW Airport added that the Airport has been and currently is monitoring those streams and that the USGS has also conducted a study on those streams.

Q: Glenn Lubke of the Natural Resources Conservation Service asked about the number of bridges on Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek.

A: Dr. Hauck answered that TIAER had not counted the number of bridges on the streams.

Q: Mr. Rath asked how many streams would be taken off the 303(d) list due to the proposed criteria increase to 206 cfu/100 ml, and how many RUAA's will be performed.

A: Dr. Hauck answered that the number of streams removed from the 303(d) list would not be known until after the RUAA studies were completed and that there were hundreds of RUAA's that would be performed. Mr. Sam Brush with NTCOG and Mrs. Grundmann added that there are many streams that just do not have much data and their water quality is largely unknown.

Q: Larry Hauck asked if 319 grants could be used to fund educational BMP's.

A: Mark Palmie answered that 319 grants do have an educational component.

Q: Mr. Brush asked if funding for 319 grants had increased this year.

A: Mark Palmie answered that funding was near what was normally received from EPA.

**AGENDA
COTTONWOOD BRANCH AND GRAPEVINE CREEK
BACTERIA TMDLs PUBLIC MEETING
VALLEY RANCH LIBRARY
401 CIMARRON TRAIL
IRVING, TX 75063
Thursday, September 24, 2009
1:00 – 3:30 P.M.**

- 1. Welcome & Introductions**
- 2. Overview of TMDL Process**
- 3. Status of Ongoing TMDL Work**
- 4. 319 Grant Program Overview**
- 5. Adjourn**

The TCEQ web page for this TMDL project may be found at:
www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/66_cottongrape_bacteria.html
The web page includes the project overview, meeting information,
meeting summaries, and project documents