

Phased Approach to Watershed Planning

Before committing to the development of a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) it is important to ensure sufficient data is available to characterize pollutant sources and address any obvious sources of pollution through means other than a WPP. To make this determination the TCEQ Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program recommends a phased approach. Each phase will culminate with the development of a final report whose findings will influence the outcome, and if need be the development of the next phase. The following phases should take approximately two (2) years each to complete: (1) data collection, (2) watershed characterization, and (3) WPP. This approach will allow ample time for the completion of each phase and the review of the project phase's final report. Recommended project phases are as follows:

- 1) Watershed Characterization – Monitoring (Data Collection)
With support from agency staff and contractors, stakeholders will:
 - a) Assemble and analyze existing data and information;
 - b) establish the analytical method that will be used to identify pollutant sources and quantify pollutant loadings from pollutant sources in the watershed;
 - c) identify gaps in the data needed to support the selected analytical method;
 - d) develop monitoring, quality assurance, and other plans needed to support data collection activities, and
 - e) collect, analyze, and report the collected data and the results of analyses

- 2) Watershed Characterization – Modeling (Pollutant Load Estimation)
 - a) Utilize the analytical method to identify and quantify the sources of pollution in the watershed contributing to water quality impairments and issues.
 - b) Meet Element A

- 3) Watershed Protection Plan (WPP)
 - a) Establish water quality goals, estimate the pollutant load reductions needed to achieve water quality standards and goals, and identify the NPS management measures that will be implemented to achieve the necessary pollutant load reductions;
 - b) Identify the technical and financial assistance that will be needed to implement the identified management measures, the education program that will be used to support pollutant load reductions, the schedule for implementing the NPS management measures, the interim milestones that will be used to track implementation of the management measures, the criteria that will be used to determine progress toward meeting the pollutant load reductions, and the monitoring program that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts.
 - c) Meet Elements B -I