



Dickinson Bayou Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Bacteria Bridge Document

Water Body	Dickinson Bayou (1103, 1103A, 1103B, 1103C, 1104)
Location	Dickinson
River Basin	San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin (11)
Contractor	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (TALE)
Project Period	July 22, 2015 to February 28, 2017
Project Total	\$166,667 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

Background

Dickinson Bayou is listed on the 303(d) list for high levels of bacteria and low levels of dissolved oxygen. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (TALE) has been working with the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership for a number of years to address sources of pollution in the watershed. A draft watershed protection plan (WPP), bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), TMDL support document, and a TCEQ approved Bacteria Implementation Plan (I-Plan) have been created for the watershed. However, these do not meet the EPA criteria for an approved watershed-based plan (WBP). An approved WBP opens the door for many additional sources of funding for implementation efforts in the watershed. This project aims to use the existing documents as well as the existing watershed partnership structure to create a Bridge Document that will meet the EPA criteria and can be accepted by the EPA as a WBP. Prior planning efforts in the Dickinson Bayou watershed have demonstrated the willingness of key watershed stakeholders to address water quality impairments and issues.

Project Description

TALE will oversee this project working with the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research and the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership to create a Bridge Document for the Dickinson Bayou watershed. This project will use existing work including two documents created with considerable stakeholder effort: the draft WPP and the Bacteria I-Plan. It will also rely heavily on the bacteria TMDL and TMDL support document.

The bridge document will clearly present the analytical framework used to evaluate water quality conditions in the watershed and the plan-of-action developed to address bacteria impairments. Documentation of the selection of management practices will include an inventory of existing management practices, an evaluation of the effectiveness of these practices, and an identification and prioritization of needs and opportunities to implement enhanced water quality management



practices. The plan-of-action will identify management measures, responsible parties, an implementation schedule, estimated costs, technical assistance needs, and the evaluation process.

Current Status

The contract has been executed and the Quality Assurance Project Plan has been approved.

Public Participation

Stakeholders will be involved through the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership public meetings and topic specific workgroup meetings. A stakeholder meeting was held on March 3, 2016. Information about public meetings can be found at <http://tcwp.tamu.edu/>.

For More Information

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Project Highlights

- 07/2015 – Contract signed
- 12/2015 – Draft QAPP submitted
- 03/2016 – Stakeholder meeting held