

# Tributaries of the Neches River Below Lake Palestine (Middle Neches) Water Quality Meeting

November 22, 2019 10:00am  
Texas Forestry Service Building  
1903 Atkinson Drive  
Lufkin, TX

## Meeting Summary

### Welcome, introductions and agendas

Anna Gitter (TWRI) welcomed meeting attendees. Attendees were asked to briefly introduce themselves.

### Water Quality Planning and Implementation in Texas

Dania Grundmann (TCEQ) provided a presentation about the general water quality planning process as it pertains to Texas. Information was provided about the standards and assessments pertaining to Tributaries of the Neches River below Lake Palestine, including segments Jack (0604C), Cedar (0604A), Hurricane (0604B) and Biloxi (0604M) creeks. These areas have contact recreation use impairments (Jack Creek has a concern) due to elevated levels of indicator bacteria.

### Tributaries of the Neches River below Lake Palestine Watershed Characterization

Anna Gitter (TWRI) provided a presentation on watershed characteristics. She initially presented a general watershed map that displayed each subwatershed and the assessment units that are listed as impaired. The presentation included a discussion of watershed statistics (acres, estimated population, estimated number of on-site sewage facilities and discharge permits), land cover and population. Anna discussed the 2016 assessment results for each water body, noting that primary contact recreation is the predominant impairment, but that Biloxi Creek also has an aquatic life use impairment.

### Tributaries of the Neches River below Lake Palestine Watershed Characterization Quality

Carla Ethridge (ANRA) provided a presentation on historical water quality for the watershed. Water quality parameters reviewed included bacteria, flow and nutrients. All impaired water bodies have assessment units that historically exceed the 126 cfu/100 mL bacteria standard for primary contact recreation. Carla also discussed the sampling locations for each water body.

### Next Steps: Developing a Technical Support Document

Anna Gitter (TWRI) provided a brief presentation of the next steps for the project, which includes developing a technical support document (TSD). The components of a TSD was

described as well as broad review of load duration curves and their use for assessing bacteria loads in a watershed.

### **Approaches to Address Water Quality & Stakeholder Involvement**

Lucas Gregory (TWRI) explained the general strategies available for stakeholders (TMDL/I-Plan, Watershed Protection Plan [WPP]). This was followed up with a discussion of stakeholder and decision-making structures.

Stakeholders had a question regarding where the next meetings would occur. It was explained that meetings would occur in Lufkin and that the next meeting is planned to occur in late spring/early summer.

Adjournment

### **Attendees**

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Lucas Gregory	TWRI
Michael Schramm	TWRI
Anna Gitter	TWRI
Allison McElroy	ANRA
Carla Ethridge	ANRA
David Wells	Landowner/Stakeholder
Jeremiah Poling	ANRA
Martha Moffett	City of Lufkin
Dania Grundmann	TCEQ
Harold Wood	Upper Neches SWCD
Scott Griffith	TCEQ
Ronnie Lyles	City of Nacogdoches
Callie Pratt	NRCS
Thomas Dimmitt	TFS
Case Oppermac	City of Nacogdoches
Linda Jones	City of Lufkin WWTP
Claudia Ebeler	City of Lufkin WWTP
Justin Parks	USDA-NRCS
Mike Prater	TCEQ