

Tributaries of the Neches River Below Lake Palestine (Middle Neches)
Stakeholder Meeting
November 30, 2020 2:00pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Meeting Summary

Welcome, introductions and housekeeping items

Anna Gitter (TWRI) welcomed meeting attendees and went over a few housekeeping items for the online meeting. Due to the webinar style of the meeting, attendees did not introduce themselves, but Anna introduced the speakers/moderators, which included herself, Dr. Lucas Gregory (TWRI Assistant Director), Tim Cawthon (TCEQ TMDL Project Manager), and Nicole Reed (TCEQ TMDL I-Plan Project Manager).

Technical Support Document Findings

Anna Gitter provided an overview of the project location, water bodies, watersheds and historical bacteria data. The presentation focused on summarizing the contents of the Technical Support Document being used to guide the TMDL and I-Plan development. The TSD utilizes load duration curves to characterize load exceedances and identify the percent reductions needed to achieve water quality standards. It also includes estimates of potential sources of bacteria such as permitted sources, livestock, pets, OSSFs (septic systems), wildlife and other sources. A brief summary of the sources was provided.

Stakeholder Involvement

The second part of the presentation by Anna Gitter started with an overview of the TMDL/I-Plan planning process. She discussed the role of stakeholders in the process and stakeholder structures discussed at the previous meeting. Based on previous feedback a workgroup/coordination committee structure was desired by stakeholders. A link to a webform was shared so that stakeholders interested in participating in a workgroup, such as for agriculture, wastewater, stormwater or septic, could provide their information to be contacted.

Initial feedback from the webform included four stakeholders who indicated they would each be interested in participating in one of the workgroups. Follow-up communication to see if any other stakeholders are interested in participating will occur before the next meeting.

TCEQ TMDL & I-Plan Update

To wrap up the meeting, Tim Cawthon and Nicole Reed of the TCEQ TMDL team introduced themselves and gave a brief project update.

Next Steps

Anna Gitter followed up with some of the next steps in the project. The next meeting will include further discussion of the I-Plan, such as identifying management measures to address the bacteria impairments. Before

the next meeting, Anna Gitter indicated that she would share a draft of ground rules to be reviewed by stakeholders participating in the workgroups/coordination committee.

No questions were asked at the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30.

Attendee	Organization
Gary Barton	City of Lufkin Wastewater Department
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture
Sarah Bailey	Texas A&M Forest Service
Carla Ethridge	ANRA
Jeremiah Poling	ANRA
Nicole Reed	TCEQ
Tim Cawthon	TCEQ
Donna Work	Texas A&M Forest Service
Adam Whisenant	TPWD
Anna Gitter	TWRI
Michael Schramm	TWRI
Lucas Gregory	TWRI