

# Meeting Summary:

## Improving Austin Streams Implementation Plan Update

March 24, 2022 - 10 A.M. - Noon, via Zoom

### Welcome, introductions, agenda review and updates

After a brief welcome and review of the agenda, each participant introduced him/herself. Suzanne Schwartz, project facilitator, noted that Shoal Creek Conservancy will not be an active participant in the update effort because it is concentrating its efforts on the Shoal Creek Watershed Protection Plan.

### Presentation by Austin Water on sanitary sewer overflows

Kevin Koeller, Managing Engineer for Collection System, presented an overview of Austin Water's (AW) sanitary sewer program for TMDL basins, focusing on an overview of AW's Clean and TV Program; sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs); discussion of Critical Water Quality Zones (CWQZ); sanitary sewer overflows in TMDL basins; and AW's goals and objectives for TMDL basins. The presentation may be found at the [Austin stakeholder group webpage](#).

Following an overview of AW's clean and TV program and sanitary sewer overflows, including required reporting of overflows, Mr. Koeller noted that AW has a goal of fewer than 3.0 for 24-hour reportable overflows per 100 miles of wastewater lines. The number of 24-hour reportable overflows for AW from 2017 to 2021 has fluctuated from as low as 2.09 to a high of 2.65, but has remained below the target of 3.0. Lower numbers indicate a better functioning collection system. Mr. Koeller noted that Austin's wastewater mains have increased from 2,265 miles in 2005 to 2,856 in 2018.

Mr. Koeller was asked to provide benchmarks on SSOs if possible from American Waterworks Association. AW intends to focus on reducing SSOs by focused cleaning TV inspection of lines, targeted investigation on SSOs, targeted sewer system evaluation surveys, key capital improvement projects, and large-diameter line condition assessments.

Discussion included the impact of private laterals. Although AW's lines stop property line, which is often located the same distance from the curb as the water meter, AW tracks any reported private property overflows, because they can be caused by problems in the city's lines. AW and Austin's Water Protection Division (WPD) responds to all overflows, but WPD and the health department have more authority on private land related to leaks. AW responds to odor investigations, which also may reveal leaking private laterals. Private lateral leaks also may be discovered when AW does smoke testing. Luke Metzger noted EPA's [factsheet on green infrastructure and SSOs](#).

AW proposes to use the critical water quality zone (CWQZ) area for each stream to define a cleaning and TV inspection area for TMDL basins. Mr. Koeller also discussed regulations in CWQZs, including buffers.

Mr. Koeller presented slides showing SSOs in the TMDL basins from 2017 through 2021. He then discussed AW's objectives for cleaning and TV inspection for all pipes

directly in or touching the CWQZ in each of the TMDL watersheds and extending inspections to all in-between mains and segments 10 inches and larger.

### **Discuss management measures and control actions to retain or add from current practices, new measures**

Ms. Schwartz noted that the MS4 permittees have generally decided to include their actions primarily through control actions referenced to their permits. They will meet to discuss the format. Some non-governmental organizations and LCRA held a meeting to discuss both management measures they wish to retain and new measures to add. They will be taking recommendations back to their organizations. Another meeting of NGOs will be organized before the management measures are due.

### **Decisions needed for drafting of I-Plan update and status of drafting**

Regarding implementation tracking and water quality indicators, the group considered the potential for meeting the TMDL within the five-year period of the I-Plan update. While the group expressed support for this goal, there is concern that it is unrealistic given the difficulty of reducing bacterial contamination, and hard to predict when attainment would occur. Because so many of the changes will result from actions of the MS4 permittees, those entities will meet separately to discuss possible language and a path forward that they will recommend to the larger stakeholder/coordination council group. Options were discussed, including trying to meet a percentage of the criteria during the plan update period. Louanne Jones of TCEQ noted that the quantification and speed of attaining the TMDL reduction is difficult and that TCEQ is looking for reasonable improvement. Nicole Hall of TCEQ said it is up to stakeholder to decide how to handle water quality indicators and how to track progress. Annual goals may be difficult to set, but realistic five-year goals could possibly be helpful to assess how to move forward in the future. Goals must be measurable. Julie White of Austin WPD noted the difficulty of measuring yearly progress because of the limited number of samples that are collected.

Discussing its communication strategy, participants expressed support for reporting and meeting annually. The MS4 permittees will meet separately to discuss the appropriate dates for reporting and meeting, taking into consideration the MS4 reporting period for each of the entities. The meeting will also focus on the template for the control actions for the permittees.

Discussing input on the draft I-Plan, Ms. Schwartz noted that all current stakeholders have been invited to attend all meetings, and will also be sent the draft I-Plan update. She posed the question of whether a more formal input process should be afforded such stakeholders, and asked the group what, if any, public input they would like for the draft. Ms. White noted that most of the MS4 entities' actions will be afforded public input opportunities via their MS4 permit process. They are required to consider such input, but not obligated to make changes based on such input. She expressed concern that MS4 permits and the I-Plan update are on asynchronous timeframes, which could create confusion for the public if input is offered on both documents. Luke Metzger expressed support for public comment on the I-Plan update itself. The

following people will meet to develop a proposal for input on the I-Plan draft before the May 4 IAS meeting: Nena Anderson, Julie White, Luke Metzger, Mindy McDonough, Joyce Basciano, David Peyton or Robert Quinlan, Tracy Janus or Zach Lanfear, and Louanne Jones. Ms. Schwartz will facilitate the meeting; Ms. Jones will attend as a resource.

### **Identify next steps for moving forward, next meeting agenda, and meeting dates**

Drafts of portions of the I-Plan are to be submitted by April 1, April 15 and April 19 pursuant to Attachment A. Several sub-group meetings (previously noted) are being organized before drafting deadlines or the May 4 meeting and are reflected in the action item list at the end of these notes.

### **Wrap-up: meeting review and action items**

Action items are noted following the list of attendees.

### **Attendees**

The quorum requirements were met at this meeting. *(For purposes of determining a quorum, Coordination Committee representative or their alternates are indicated with an asterisk.)*

Julie White*	City of Austin, Water Protection Division (WPD), TPDES
Tammy West*	Austin Water
Kevin Koeller	Austin Water
D'Anne Williams*	City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department
Julia Hill	City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department
Nena Anderson*	UT Austin Environmental Health Service
David Peyton	Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources
Robert Quinlan*	Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources
Tracy Janus*	Texas Department of Transportation
Zach Lanfear	Texas Department of Transportation
Shane Rotter	Texas Department of Transportation
Lisa Benton*	Lower Colorado River Authority
Aaron Richter	Lower Colorado River Authority
Joyce Basciano*	Austin Neighborhoods Council
Chris Perkes*	Waterloo Greenway Conservancy
Luke Metzger*	Environment Texas
Hank Smith*	Home Builders' Association of Greater Austin
Louanne Jones	Project Manager, TMDL TCEQ
Nicole Hall	Team Leader, TCEQ TMDL Program, Office of Water
Lori Hamilton	Deputy Director, TCEQ Water Quality Planning Division, Office of Water
Mindy McDonough	Stormwater Inspector, MS4, TCEQ Regin 12 Office
Suzanne Schwartz	Facilitator

**Action Items**

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHO</b>
Identify new measures to add to I-Plan.	4-15-22	All organizations
Meet to make recommendation on public and other input on draft I-Plan update.	4-15-22	Nena Anderson, Julie While, Luke Metzger, Mindy McDonough, Joyce Basciano, Travis County and TxDOT reps.
Meet to discuss (1) the template for handling control actions in the I-Plan, (2) developing draft I-Plan language related to water quality indicators in the I-Plan, and (3) appropriate period for I-Plan implementation annual reporting.	4-4-22	MS4 entities
Draft content for I-Plan update, as assigned.	4-1-22 through 4-19-22	See Attachment A
Send AWWA benchmarks for SSOs to stakeholders		Kevin Koeller
Meet with NGOs to discuss management measures.	4-12-22	Suzanne Schwartz

<b>I-Plan Update Outline of Required Sections</b> <i>May include additional sections or sub-sections at discretion of the Stakeholders.</i>	<b>Assigned to:</b>	<b>Date due:</b>
<b>I. Contents:</b> Table of Contents, List of Figures, List of Tables, Abbreviations	CPPDR	4/20
<b>II. Executive Summary</b> <i>Example text available for modification.</i>	Tammy West	4/19
<b>III. Introduction</b> - Include one or more watershed maps that may be referenced throughout the document as needed. <i>Example text available for modification.</i>	Travis County	4/01
<b>IV. TMDL Summary</b> - Introductory paragraph and the following two tables. <i>Example text available for modification.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table 1. TMDL Allocation Summary for Impaired AUs [Use Table 27 for Austin TMDLs from the adopted TMDL.]</li> <li>• Table 2. TMDL Allocation Summary for AUs of Concern [Use Table 28 for Austin TMDLs from the adopted TMDL.]</li> </ul>	Julie White	4/01
<b>V. Implementation Progress</b> through Dec. 2020	Becca Oliver	4/01
<b>VI. Implementation Strategy Summary</b> - Adaptive Implementation; Management Measures Summary; Control Actions Summary	Suzanne Schwartz	4/19
<b>VII. Summary and Discussion of Data Used in the Update</b>	Andrew Clamann	4/01
<b>VIII. Management Measure 1.0: [Name]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-Measures 1.1, 1.2, etc.1 if applicable</li> <li>• Management Measure 2.0: [Name]</li> <li>• Sub-Measures 2.1, 2.2, etc. if applicable</li> </ul>	Organization(s) responsible for each measure	4/15
<b>IX. Control Action 1.0: [Name]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-Actions 1.1, 1.2, etc. if applicable</li> <li>• Control Action 2.0: [Name]</li> <li>• Sub-Actions 2.1, 2.2, etc. if applicable</li> </ul>	Organizations responsible for each action	4/15
<b>X. Implementation Tracking, Sustainability, and Milestones</b> ( <i>Explain why tracking is done and how effort is sustained. Example text available for modification.</i> )	Facilitator to draft	4/15
<b>XI. Water Quality Indicators</b> ( <i>Summarize the water quality criteria that will indicate success of the plan. Example text available for modification.</i> )	Content decisions at upcoming IAS meeting, then facilitator drafts	4/01
<b>XII. Communications Strategy</b> ( <i>Brief discussion indicating how stakeholders and TCEQ will communicate progress to the community, including a schedule for meetings to assess progress. Example text available for modification.</i> )	Content decisions at upcoming IAS meeting, then facilitator drafts	4/01
<b>XIII. References</b>	CPPDR	4/20