

Meeting Summary: Improving Austin Streams Implementation Plan Update

June 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m. via TEAMS

Welcome and Introductions

Louanne Jones of TCEQ welcomed the participants to the first meeting for updating the implementation plan for four Austin streams, called Improving Austin Streams. Each participant introduced him/herself and shared a highlight and lowlight for this last week. Ms. Schwartz then reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the meeting goals of discussing the process and next steps for updating the I-Plan, and of positioning the group to move forward with update process.

Review Water Quality Data

Louanne Jones used several slides to show the *E. coli* levels at water quality monitoring sites in the watersheds covered by the I-Plan. The data covered the period from January 1, 2008 through March 1, 2020, and included flow levels and the water quality standard for *E.coli*. The data indicate a generally downward trend in *E.coli* levels, except at the site located on Waller Creek at Avenue H. Participants noted there was no direct correlation of *E-Coli* levels with high flows in the graphs. Ms. Jones noted that sampling occurred quarterly. Participants asked about a data gap for the years 2011 through 2015. City of Austin submits data to TCEQ for Austin-area streams under an informal agreement with the Lower Colorado River Authority, using quality assurance methods defined in LCRA's Clean Rivers Program guidance. Andrew Clamann of City of Austin will investigate the availability of the missing data.

Discuss Process for Updating the I-Plan

Review process used to develop existing I-Plan

Ms. Schwartz reviewed the timeline and highlights of the process used to develop the current I-Plan, which TCEQ approved in spring 2014. Ms. Jones noted that updates to the I-Plan are approved by TCEQ staff only, and do not require Commission approval. The Environmental Protection Agency does not review or approve TMDL I-Plans, but they must approve TMDL allocations.

Discuss how to move forward with update process

What's important in updating the I-Plan: participants and TCEQ share thoughts

Participants noted the following as important in updating the I-Plan:

- Having sufficient data to understand *E. coli* contamination; working with City of Austin to get data.
- Having data in a form that the average resident can understand.
- Being aware that MS4 permits held by several participant entities will now incorporate I-Plan management measures related to stormwater, thereby effectively making such measures regulatory rather than voluntary.
- Focusing "Scoop-the-Poop" efforts on multifamily units.

- Considering development that has occurred in the watershed since TCEQ approved the I-Plan.

Outline of I-Plan update

Louanne Jones showed an outline of the areas to be covered by the I-Plan update.

Adding additional stakeholders?

Participants discussed the interests and participants to include in the effort to update the I-Plan. The following suggestions were made for updating the list of interests and participants in the expired I-Plan:

- ***Environmental:*** **Suzanne Schwartz** to contact Sierra Club for a possible representative; also consider adding Environment Texas.
- ***Community/Neighborhood:*** **Suzanne Schwartz** to contact PODER for continued representation.
- ***Austin Environmental Commission:*** **Matt Hollon** will reach out to secure their participation.
- ***Parks:*** **Suzanne Schwartz** will contact Charles Vaclavik about his continued interest in participating, and **Andrew Clamann** will reach out to see if Kristine Schenol or Lee Ann Ishcomer are interested in participating from City of Austin Parks and Recreation. **Suzanne Schwartz** will also contact representatives of Shoal Creek Conservancy and Pease Park Conservancy concerning their desire to continue participating.
- ***Dog off-leash (or other dog owner) interests:*** **David Peyton** will talk to Tim Speyer to recruit a representative.
- ***Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):*** **Louanne Jones** will look into possible representation by their MS4 program coordinator.
- ***Developers and businesses:*** **Suzanne Schwartz** to contact organizations.

The group decided that a representative of lower Waller Creek was not needed, since water in that part of the creek (Waller Creek Tunnel) is pumped from Lady Bird Lake and recirculated, so is not affected much by upstream activities.

Use of workgroups

Suzanne noted that the original I-Plan development used four workgroups and noted their interest areas.

Timeline

The I-Plan update effort is funded through August 2022. Other stakeholder groups have taken from 8 to 18 months to update their plans. It is possible to extend funding to support the Austin Streams I-Plan update beyond August 2022 if needed.

Other Issues Participants Want to Discuss?

No other issues were raised.

Next Steps: date for next meeting, information needs, action items

Suzanne Schwartz will send out a Doodle poll to explore a possible meeting date during the end of July or the first three weeks of August. Some items that might be included: discussion of sources of pollution and review of existing management

measures and last six years of work under the I-Plan. A goal could be to complete review of the existing I-Plan and data.

Louanne Jones asked whether stakeholders wanted to hold meetings in person or preferred to meet virtually. Some participants expressed an interest in having in-person meetings when possible; others suggested having the option to attend virtually even if in-person meetings are held. Participants showed general support for using a combination of in-person and online meetings.

Action Items

1. **Andrew Clamann**, City of Austin to review missing data for 2011 to 2015.
2. **Participant recruitment**: See actions noted in bold under “Adding additional stakeholders.” People with action items are Suzanne Schwartz, Andrew Clamann, David Peyton, and Louanne Jones.
3. **Suzanne Schwartz** will send Doodle poll for scheduling next meeting.
4. **All participants**: Send confirmation of people from each organization who will be participating in the I-Plan update
5. **People willing to assist in developing meeting agendas and the update process** should send an email to Suzanne.

Attendees

Roxanne Jackson,	City of Austin, Water Protection Division (WPD)
Julie White	City of Austin, WPD, TPDES
Andrew Clamann	City of Austin, WPD
Matt Hollon	City of Austin, WPD
Tammy West	Austin Water
Reyna Holmes	Austin Water
Soo Koon Soon	Austin Water
Yanjun (Julia) Chu	Austin Water
Tejashri Kyle	UT Environmental Health Services
Irezama (Nena) Anderson	UT Environmental Health Services
Bob Quinlan	Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources
David Peyton	Travis County
Kathleen Barron	Austin Parks Foundation
Lisa Benton	Lower Colorado River Authority
Joyce Basciano	Austin Neighborhoods Council
Louanne Jones	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Mindy McDonough	TCEQ Region 11 Stormwater Inspector, MS4
Suzanne Schwartz	Facilitator