Four Austin Streams Annual Stakeholders Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions – Nicole Reed, TCEQ

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Project Manager (PM) and meeting participants introduced themselves.

Presentation:
Status of TMDL Implementation Activities – Nicole Reed, TCEQ

The TCEQ PM presented an overview of the I-Plan measures and the status that had been reported for each by the stakeholders. Some detail from the status reports submitted was not included in the presentation for the sake of brevity but will be included on the status report that is posted on TCEQ's Austin Streams webpage. Positive progress on most measures was reported. Bob Quinlan with Travis County noted regarding Management Measure 5.5 that Travis County now has 26 ponds. They have all been monitored and some were out of compliance, which has been addressed. Dana Lappin with City of Austin noted that she has additional updates for Management Measures 2.1 and 3.2 for Year 4, and will send those to the TCEQ PM. TCEQ PM encouraged all stakeholders to send additional updates as needed, and that she will incorporate those before the final summary is posted on TCEQ's webpage.

Revision Process in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021

Nicole Reed introduced Suzanne Schwartz, who will be working under contract with the U.T. Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution (UTCPPDR) to facilitate the upcoming effort in FY21 to update the I-Plan for the next five years. Suzanne noted that she facilitated the original I-Plan development and is pleased to hear how it has been going and to be involved in the update. She then asked the stakeholders to consider the following questions:

- What do you hope for from the revision of the I-Plan?
- What benefits do you see from revising the plan?
- What concerns do you have about revising the plan?
- What is most important to you in the revision process?
- What about representation? Who do you want to involve?
- Do you think it's good to have a small subcommittee that guides the process between general stakeholder meetings?

Open Discussion about the I-Plan Revision

Tejashri Kyle with U.T. noted that they will want to add more measures with more specifics to the revised plan, and that they are looking forward to the collaboration.

Matt Hollon with City of Austin Planning asked for clarification on the process and schedule. Louanne Jones at TCEQ, who will be the PM for the I-Plan revision, noted that TCEQ has not yet issued a notice to proceed on the contract, and is not likely to do so until around the end of September. She noted that the process can then move as slowly or quickly as the stakeholders and circumstances dictate. She said that stakeholders usually revise a plan in one to two years, but that there is no hard deadline. She also noted that the Gilleland plan was revised in about 16 months, and that the contract with UTCPPDR for FY21 is open ended to allow work to continue into FY22 if needed. David Peyton with Travis County noted that the process used for the Gilleland Creek I-Plan revisions worked well and recommended use of something similar. It was noted that the Gilleland project had a large general group and a smaller guiding committee.

Matt Hollon asked if we had information about what is working in other watersheds, and noted that bacteria is a very elusive pollutant to work on. Louanne Jones at TCEQ, who will be PM for the Austin Streams I-Plan revision, said she plans to provide an update on data and trends, if any, related to the

four streams at the first stakeholder meeting to revise the plan, and that she will also draw up something on what measures are being used in other watersheds.

Louanne Jones said that stakeholders will be notified by email when the contract is in place to begin work on the I-Plan revision.

Next Steps: – Nicole Reed, TCEQ

The TCEQ project manager noted that the most recent I-Plan Status Update Report will be posted on the TCEQ's Austin Streams TMDL project page, along with information presented at the meeting.

Adjournment