

Gilleland Creek Annual Stakeholders Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2020, 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions – Louanne Jones, TCEQ

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) staff and meeting participants introduced themselves.

Presentation:

Water Quality Status and Implementation Activities – Louanne Jones, TCEQ

The TCEQ Project Manager (PM) presented an overview of the Gilleland Creek watershed including information on the status of all assessment unit (AU) impairments. This information specifically included general water quality geomean data related to the current draft 2020 Texas Integrated Report (IR) and previous IRs for the impaired AUs. A brief overview of wastewater treatment facility (WWTFs) compliance history in the watershed was given as well. The TCEQ PM concluded the presentation with the highlights from the I-Plan Status Report and requested any additional updates be sent as soon as possible.

Open Discussion

Stakeholders discussed possible causes of rising bacteria levels in AU_04 and AU_01. Stakeholders mentioned the increase in geomean could be a result of nonpoint source (NPS) runoff from unregulated agriculture in the area. Two particular operations along the creek in Pflugerville were mentioned. Based on stakeholder discussion, Louanne Jones will contact the LCRA Creekside Conservation program coordinator about whether direct outreach with agricultural landowners near the creek could be done.

Also, stakeholders questioned whether water quality data trends in AU 1428C_04 and 1428C_01 showed a constant increase or presented spiking data results throughout the assessment period. Louanne Jones agreed to discuss the data from the TCEQ monitoring station in Northeast Metropolitan Park and the volunteer monitoring stations in the city of Pflugerville with the TCEQ's assessor for the Colorado River Basin and report back to stakeholders. Louanne Jones, TCEQ, will contact the CRWN coordinator at LCRA to see if volunteer collected data could be analyzed for informational purposes for AU 1428C_04. A stakeholder mentioned that from their knowledge the bacteria tends to spike as the creek flows into Northeast Metropolitan Park upstream of the monitoring station.

Stakeholders expressed concern about whether I-Plan management measures might become regulatory requirements in MS4 permits. Stakeholders requested clarification of the TCEQ I-Plan revision process and TCEQ's policy regarding the voluntary nature of management measures. Louanne Jones agreed to discuss the relationship between I-Plans and MS4 SWMPs with TCEQ's Stormwater Team and report back to stakeholders.

Next Steps:

I-Plan Status Update – Louanne Jones, TCEQ

The TCEQ project manager notified stakeholders that the most recent I-Plan Status Update Report will be posted on the Gilleland Creek TMDL project page, along with information presented at the meeting, and verified TCEQ action items from the meeting.

Adjournment