

Follow-up on Action Items from the Gilleland Creek Stakeholders Annual Meeting

May 17, 2021

From: Louanne Jones

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of Water, TMDL Program

To: Gilleland Creek TMDL Implementation Stakeholders

Process to Revise the I-Plan Prior to Year 5

City of Austin asked about the process to revise a TMDL I-Plan prior to the end of the five-year plan period. I spoke with TMDL program management about this, and they agreed that TCEQ does not have a specific process for making mid-course revisions, primarily because no one had yet requested one until now. The adaptive management approach TCEQ uses to implement TMDLs definitely allows for mid-course revisions.

I received confirmation of my statements at the meeting that TCEQ could set up the process in different ways, depending on what is agreeable to the stakeholder group as a whole. For example:

- Revisions with strong support might be possible just through proposals emailed to the group, followed by written comments and response, and an eventual email vote by the stakeholders.
- Stakeholders could choose instead to hold a series of meetings to present, discuss, and decide upon proposed revisions.
- Stakeholders could use a combination of emails followed by a single meeting for discussion and decision.

The list above does not exclude other possibilities for the mid-course revision process.

City of Austin staff said at the May 5 meeting that the City will begin putting together a proposal for revisions, probably related to removing some Management Measures, and adding a Control Action or augmenting the existing MS4 Control Action. City of Austin will submit the proposal to Louanne Jones, who will then distribute it to the stakeholder group to initiate discussion about what process the group would like use to decide on and make the suggested revisions.

Question about which SWMP the Permitted MS4s Should Follow

I spoke with Rebecca Villalba, the leader of the TCEQ Stormwater Team. She confirmed that what we discussed at the meeting about whether to follow your old, approved SWMP or your new, approved SWMP was correct. You are welcome to implement new activities in the SWMPs you submitted in 2019 that are so far unapproved, as long as you are continuing to implement all the activities laid out in your old, approved SWMPs.

Status of MS4 Renewal Applications and SWMP Reviews

See below a table with the status of each city's MS4 renewal application and SWMP.

Rebecca Villalba let me know that basically, everything that could go wrong with the new process has gone wrong. Problems have ranged from insufficient funding to hire contractors to assist with the technical review, to coordinating with EPA on an agreed process for their review of the SWMPs, which is now required.

If it's of any consolation, Gilleland Creek stakeholders are not alone in the problem of unapproved applications and SWMPs. Of the more than 600 renewals received in 2019, the Stormwater Team has completed only about 250 of the applications submitted.

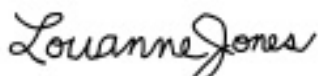
MS4 Name	Permit/ Authorization Number	Application/SWMP Review Status
City of Austin	WQ0004705000	SWMP still under technical review. TCEQ sent first NOD; Austin response was incomplete. Stormwater Team staff have drafted a second NOD and are awaiting management approval to send to the City.
City of Round Rock	TXR040253	SWMP administratively and technically complete, ready for the public notice process.
City of Pflugerville	TXR040078	SWMP is administratively complete. SWMP is pending assignment to Stormwater Team staff for technical review.
City of Manor	TXR040467	SWMP administratively and technically complete, ready for the public notice process.
Travis County	TXR040327	SWMP is administratively complete. Currently in technical review by TCEQ Stormwater Team staff.

Possibility of Adding a New Monitoring Site between Round Rock and Pflugerville

The TCEQ Region 11 office is not able to commit to adding a new monitoring site on Gilleland Creek in FY22. However, Lisa Benton of LCRA and Louanne Jones (TMDL), Rebecca DuPont (CRP), and Robin Cypher (SWQM) of TCEQ have discussed the possibility of LCRA adding the requested site under its Clean Rivers Program agreement in FY22. LCRA staff are open to the idea and are discussing the possibility internally. If they decide they are able to add the new site, they will propose it at the Clean Rivers Program Coordinated Monitoring Meeting for the Colorado River Basin this summer.

In the meantime, LCRA will try to recruit someone in Pflugerville to do CRWN monitoring in the area discussed.

Thanks to all of you for your work to improve water quality in Gilleland Creek and for your participation in the annual status meeting



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