

# North Bosque River TMDL Public Meeting

Monday October 4, 2021, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

## Meeting Summary

### **Welcome and Introductions – Lori Hamilton, TCEQ**

Lori Hamilton, the Deputy Director of the Water Quality Planning Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) introduced herself and TCEQ staff at the meeting, including Office of Water Director Earl Lott. Ms. Hamilton welcomed stakeholders to the meeting.

### **Presentation:**

#### **Overview of the TMDL and I-Plan – Louanne Jones, TCEQ**

The TCEQ Project Manager (PM), Louanne Jones, presented an overview and brief history of the TMDL and I-Plan measures for the North Bosque River.

#### **Current Status of the TMDL I-Plan Management Measures – Louanne Jones, TCEQ**

The TCEQ PM presented the status of I-Plan measure implementation. All measures in the I-Plan, along with several voluntary measures that were not in the plan, have been implemented or are ongoing. The Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Science (TIAER) continues to monitor water quality at seven sites under contract with TCEQ.

#### **Water Quality Status – Jimmy Millican, TIAER**

The TCEQ PM introduced Jimmy Millican, the TIAER PM for the North Bosque River implementation monitoring. Mr. Millican opened his presentation with an update of the Geographic Information System (GIS) Inventory that is developed for the watershed each year. He noted that the inventory indicated that there has been an overall drop in “active” fields for waste application and an increase in “historical” fields. This indicates that there is much less disposal activity on WAFs in the watershed since the TMDL was first established. Additionally, Mr. Millican presented an overall status on water quality at each of the five index sites established under the I-Plan for goal tracking, along with two supplemental sites on the North Bosque River. He said that water quality has improved in the watershed, but all water quality goals are not yet met. He noted that the goals are met at the three most downstream index sites, are close to being met at the site below the Stephenville wastewater treatment facility, and are not yet being met at the most upstream site above Stephenville. However, there is a very small but statistically significant downward trend in phosphorus concentrations at the most upstream site.

#### ***Call for Questions***

Stakeholders had no questions about the presentations on the I-Plan and water quality status presentations.

#### **Recommendations of the North Bosque River TMDL Work Group**

Louanne Jones noted that at the suggestion of stakeholders at the September 2020 meeting, TCEQ formed a work group of watershed stakeholders to consider progress toward goal attainment and recommend next steps. TCEQ formed the work group in October 2020; the work group concluded its work in March 2021. All 16 members were volunteers, representing 13 organizations, along with three landowners representing private interests in the watershed.

Ms. Jones summarized the types of information that the group reviewed and their general discussions. She then presented the recommendations of the group, which were primarily to reduce the frequency of routine monitoring at all sites in the watershed but to maintain stormwater monitoring at the current frequency. The group made other recommendations, including that TIAER should continue to keep GIS data current, TCEQ should publish a short story about progress and successes in the

watershed, and TCEQ should explore conducting future studies that would aid in understanding the instream dynamics of phosphorus and chlorophyll *a*.

Ms. Jones reported that TCEQ has already begun collecting data at the recommended frequency at five of the seven monitoring sites. TCEQ will examine the data collected from September 2021 through August 2022 to look for anomalies that could result from changing the monitoring frequency. If none are found, TCEQ will collect data at the reduced frequency at all seven sites beginning in September 2022.

### ***Call for Questions***

The stakeholders voiced no questions about the Work Group's recommendations.

### **Next Meeting – Louanne Jones, TCEQ**

The TCEQ PM confirmed that TCEQ intends to continue yearly status meetings with stakeholders. No other action items came out of the meeting.

There being no other business, Ms. Jones thanked the stakeholders for their time and adjourned the meeting.

### **Attendee List**

(in order of joining the meeting)

Louanne Jones, TCEQ, TMDL Program, Project Manager

Jimmy Millican, TIAER Project Manager

Lori Hamilton, TCEQ, Water Quality Planning Division, Deputy Director

Kerry Niemann, TCEQ, Planning and Implementation Section, Manager

Joe Yelderman, Baylor University

Earl Lott, TCEQ, Office of Water, Director

Jay Bragg, Texas Farm Bureau

Nicole Hall, TCEQ, TMDL Program, Team Leader

Laurie Fleet, TCEQ, Office of Water, Special Assistant

Elaine Fagner, McLennan Community College

Nora Schell, City of Waco

Jill Csekitz, TCEQ, Water Quality Planning Division, Technical Specialist

Sarah Whitley, TCEQ, Surface Water Quality Monitoring Team, Aquatic Scientist

Lauren Kalisek, Attorney for the City of Waco at Lloyd, Gosselink, Rochelle, & Townsend

Jenna Olson, Brazos River Authority

Charlie Olson, Landowner and Attorney at Haley and Olson

Britt Dean, U.S. EPA Region 6 TMDL Program

Peyton Schumann, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

Daniele Baker, Anchor QEA, Consultant to the City of Waco

Arden Kemler, LFG Biogas Development, LLC

Jim Bradbury, Attorney for the Texas Association of Dairymen

Jennifer Bronson-Warren, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Anne McFarland, Landowner and former North Bosque River project manager at TIAER

Ron Duckworth, Volunteer at Waco Wetlands

Jim Drake, U.S. EPA Region 6, Nonpoint Source Program

Jaehak Jeong, Texas AgriLife Blackland Research Center

Paul Cain, City of Waco

Jenna Walker, Bosque River Coalition and the Meadows Center

Dan Opdyke, Anchor QEA, Consultant to the City of Waco

Joseph Essler, Texas Poultry Federation

Darren Turley, Texas Association of Dairymen

Thomas Northcutt, Texas Department of Agriculture

Molly Mohler, TCEQ, Watermaster for Brazos River

Steve Junot, City of Waco Water Quality Laboratory

Derek Gonseaux, Candor Midstream Solutions