

Sandy Creek and Wolf Creek Water Quality Meetings

November 21, 2019 1:00 p.m. and 3:30.p.m.

Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veteran's Way, Woodville, Texas and

Jasper County Courthouse Annex, 271 E. Lamar St. Jasper, Texas

Meeting Summary

Welcome, Introductions and Agendas

Michael Schramm (TWRI) welcomed meeting attendees. Attendees were asked to briefly introduce themselves.

Water Quality Planning and Implementation in Texas

Dania Grundmann (TCEQ) provided a presentation about the general water quality planning process as it pertains to Texas. Information was provided about the standards and assessments pertaining to Sandy Creek and Wolf Creek.

A question prompted additional clarification on the Recreational Use Attainability Assessment process. It was noted that input from local stakeholders indicate recreation is present and warrants the primary contact use.

Wolf and Sandy Creek Water Quality

Michael Schramm (TWRI) provided maps to stakeholders for additional reference of watershed locations, sampling stations, etc. Michael also discussed the 2016 assessment results for each water body, noting contact recreation was the only impairment. Stakeholders were also shown a figure of the full *E. coli* assessment data indicating a relative steady geomean above 126 cfu/100mL.

One question was asked about the reason for the geomean falling around 2011-2012. Michael noted that there is typically a relationship between runoff and bacteria concentrations; however, the conclusion couldn't be drawn that was fully from the drought in 2011 because the geomean represents the previous seven-years of data.

Approaches to Address Water Quality and Stakeholder Involvement

Lucas Gregory explained the general strategies available for stakeholders (TMDL/I-Plan, Watershed Protection Plan [WPP]). This was followed up with a discussion of stakeholder and decision-making structures. A questionnaire was provided to attendees to garner feedback on desired paths forward and general watershed and water quality related concerns. Michael Schramm followed up to discuss the near-term steps in the project.

Stakeholders had questions regarding how many meetings and how long the process could take. It was explained that the number of meetings is generally dependent on the needs of the stakeholder group but TWRI will facilitate meeting as efficiently as possible recognizing the efforts put in by stakeholders. The general timeline for

stakeholder meeting might be around one year, with the agency review processes for the documents taking around an additional year.

A question regarding the costs of implementation and reducing bacteria came up. Grundmann answered the question explaining that there are a diverse set of options for stakeholders and that TCEQ recognizes that the process for achieving bacteria reductions can take a long time. There is not an expectation that local entities implement management measures immediately but to take an iterative approach at implementation.

A question was also asked about how future meetings would be communicated with stakeholders. Schramm answered that generally meetings are communicated via direct email, news releases, communication with local agencies and the local county agent. It was noted that for individuals without email, a direct mail correspondence is needed. TWRI will make sure to contact those individuals directly going forward.

Adjournment

Attendees

Attendee	Organization
Jeannie Bowlen	LNVA
Angela Caraway	Jasper Newton County Public Health District
Jerry Clark	Texas Master Naturalists
Laura Clark	Texas Master Naturalists
Caula Ethridge	ANRA
Bob Gary	City of Jasper
Anna Gitter	TWRI
Lucas Gregory	TWRI
Dania Grundmann	TCEQ
Charles Ivy	Jasper/Newton County Forest Landowners Association
Greg Kelly	City of Jasper
Don Martindale	Jasper-Newton SWCD
Allison McElroy	ANRA
Eric Rogers	City of Jasper
Michael Schramm	TWRI
Jacob Spivey	AgriLife
Cody Turner	US Army Corp of Engineers
Jason Watson	LNVA