

Meeting notes

Hillebrandt Bayou and Neches Tidal I-Plan Education and Outreach Workgroup Meeting

Date: January 12, 2021

Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Location: Online via WebEx

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

Michael Schramm (TWRI) began the meeting with introductions of attendees and workgroup members followed by a brief meeting agenda.

TMDL I-Plan Status

Schramm provided a brief review of the goals of the I-Plan and TMDL process. Tim Cawthon (TCEQ) updated the TMDL status, indicating the Hillebrandt Bayou TMDL will be reviewed by the commission on Feb. 10th and will be followed by a public comment period and public meeting. The Neches Tidal TMDL draft is in internal peer review at TCEQ.

Education and Outreach Management Measures

Schramm indicated that while the I-Plan and TMDL are geared to addressing bacteria loads, that many education and outreach management measures address general water quality. The management measures are intended as voluntary. A summary of example I-Plans from similar watersheds was sent earlier to provide examples of what other groups have done.

Schramm shared a spreadsheet that indicated the needed info for each management measure that will be required for the I-Plan and by TCEQ. Some example management measures were provided with examples of the needed data.

Carla Ethridge (ANRA) discussed ANRA's approach on education and outreach and described septic system mailing, Texas Stream Team, and quarterly stream clean up efforts. Jeannie Bowlen (LNVA) discussed some of LNVA's programs, including CRP program, Neches River Rally, and Stream Team. Nikki Fitzgerald (AgriLife Extension and Texas Sea Grant) provided an update on Extension efforts including youth watershed training with EnviroScapes, YouTube videos and an upcoming STEM watershed education program in collaboration with Big Thicket Association. Lucas Gregory (TWRI) indicated that Joel Ardoin with Orange County will need to be contacted regarding OSSF education efforts.

Further discussion on Texas Stream Team volunteer monitoring efforts indicated more work will be needed to quantify progress. ANRA and LNVA member indicated they can work together on getting trainings in the area. Gregory indicated that Stream Team data has been useful for College Station MS4 permit reporting, City of Beaumont and other may find it useful and it might be an avenue to share costs.

Schramm provided an overview of the available watershed education programs that can be incorporated into management measures.

The meeting members decided that further work on quantifying goals and scheduling implementation is needed. Schramm will work with individual members to develop that information. Consensus was to carry

Attendees

Attendee	Organization
Nikki Fitzgerald	Jefferson County Extension/Texas Sea Grant
Nicole Reed	TCEQ
Jerimiah Poling	ANRA
Carla Ethridge	ANRA
Jeannie Bowlen	LNVA
Tim Cawthon	TCEQ
Lucas Gregory	TWRI
Anna Gitter	TWRI