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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH | EXTENSION

Possible Stakeholder Organizational Frameworks and Decision-Making Processes

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Goals for Today

Initiate discussions on how best to organize stakeholders to maximize local input

- Possible frameworks

- Possible members

- Possible processes for decision making

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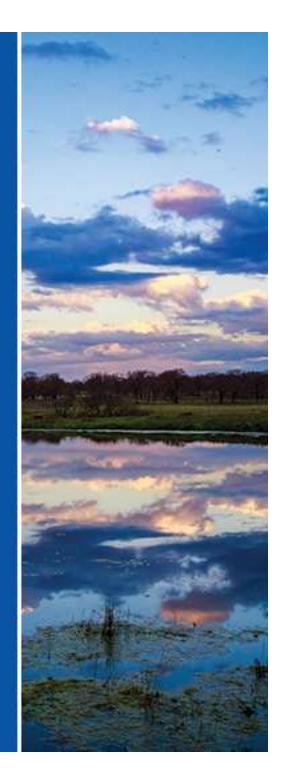*make every drop count*

What is a stakeholder?

A group or individual who:

- Has the responsibility for implementing a decision

- Is affected by the decision

- Assists with problem identification

- Promotes awareness, education, and action

- Facilitates implementation of solutions

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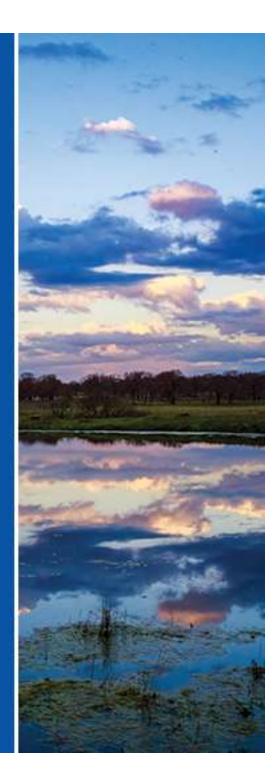*make every drop count*

Types of Stakeholders

- Landowners and homeowners
- County or regional representatives
- Local municipal representatives
- State and federal agencies
- Business and industry representatives
- Citizen groups
- Community service and Religious organizations
- Universities, colleges, and schools
- Environmental and conservation groups
- Soil and water conservation districts

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Keys to developing successful strategies

- Involvement of a diversity of interests

- Collaborative decision-making

- Joint goals and priorities for partnership initiatives

- Decision-making based on sound science and accurate information

- Strong communication and outreach

- Short-term doable action items and long-term objectives/goals

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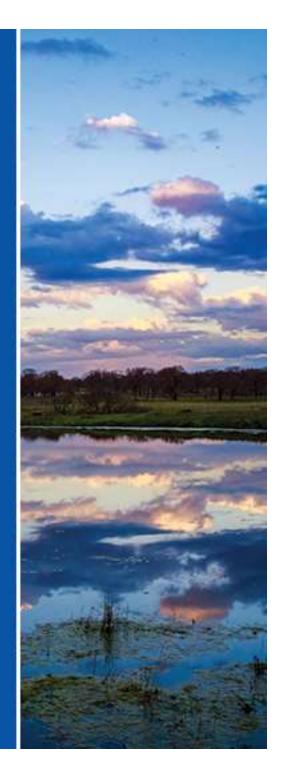Resources Institute
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Stakeholder Tasks

- Provide guidance and input on potential sources of bacteria and estimated pollutant loads

- Set goals and objectives

- Guide identification of measures that could be implemented to address bacteria

- Identify level of implementation that's reasonable

- Identify outreach and education that is needed

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Stakeholder Group Frameworks

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Reasons for stakeholder structure

- To gain as much input and support from the local stakeholders as possible

- Decision making process is critical to the development of the Watershed Protection Plan

- Mechanisms used affect the efficiency of the process

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Key definitions

- Stakeholder Group – The general body of individuals who participate in public meetings

- Coordination (Steering) Committee – A decision making body made up of stakeholders from diverse interest/backgrounds

- Workgroup – Groups made up of stakeholders of a similar interest/background

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Possible Committee Members – If Needed

Homeowners, HOAs

Landowners

City of Nacogdoches

Stephen F. Austin State University

Angelina and Neches River Authority

Nacogdoches County Extension Agent

Nacogdoches County Judge or Commissioner

Soil and Water Conservation District

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Others

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Recent Examples

Mid & Lower Cibolo Creek WPP

- General Stakeholder Meetings
    - Workgroup Meetings
- Meetings for County and local SWCDs to engage stakeholders

Bois d'Arc Lake WPP

- General Stakeholder Meetings

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Possible Workgroups – If Needed

- Agriculture & Wildlife

- Wastewater

- Urban Runoff

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Decision Making Process

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Decision Making Process

Formal

- Establish bylaws that govern the committee

- Adhere to Open Meeting Act Requirements

Informal

- Develop a simple set of ground rules that will be used to govern the committee
- Committee members approve ground rules and their use

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Ground Rules Examples

- Geronimo Creek – More Formal
  - Goals
  - Powers
  - Timeframe
  - Membership Selection
  - Steering Committee
  - Workgroup
  - Technical advisory
  - Replacement/additions
  - Alternates
  - Decision making
  - Quorum
  - Facilitators

- Upper Gulf Coast Oyster Waters – Less Formal
  - Speak up
  - Disagree respectfully
  - Silence is presumed consent
  - Listen during discussions
  - Respect opinions and don't criticize people
  - Be open to new ideas
  - Silence cell phones
  - Have fun

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Thank you – questions?

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