

Texas Watershed Planning Short Course

Course Agenda –2021

Mayan Conference Center, Bandera, Texas

Monday, September 27, 2021

Facilitator: Lucas Gregory

- 11:00 – 1:00 pm **Registration (Distribute Knowledge Assessment)**
A pre-course examination will determine the knowledge level of each participant prior to going through the course. The pre-course exam results will be compared to the post-course exam results to assess course impact/knowledge gained.
- 1:00 – 1:30 pm **Welcome & Introduction.....Gregory**
This session will provide (1) the opportunity for participants to introduce themselves and the watersheds they are working in, (2) information on facilities and ground rules, and (3) an overview of the course and its purpose and structure.
- 1:30 – 2:00 pm **Watershed Basics Glavy**
An introduction to watersheds.
- 2:00 – 2:15 pm **Expectations for Element EMacPherson**
The expectations for and an example of Element E will be reviewed and discussed to provide participants with an understanding of the information/ education components of the WPP.
- 2:15 – 3:15 pm **Working with Stakeholders to Move the Process ForwardMacPherson**
Stakeholders form the backbone of your watershed planning effort. Learn tips on how to get off on the right foot and keep the energy going throughout your watershed planning and implementation program. Topics to be addressed include determining who needs to be involved, making meetings count, diffusing conflict, making decisions using a consensus-based approach, and sustaining the stakeholder group.
- 3:15 – 3:45 pm **Break/Room Check-In**
- 3:45– 4:30 pm **Partnership Building Experiences in Plum Creek Dictson**
Experiences in Plum Creek watershed with getting local involvement, announcing meetings, setting up the committee and subcommittees, publicizing the effort, what needs to be discussed/decided at each meeting, and timelines will be discussed. Sample invitation letters, ground rules, press releases, and other materials will be provided.
- 4:30 – 4:45pm **Expectations for Element ABira**
The expectations for and an example of Element A will be reviewed and discussed to provide participants an understanding of what is necessary to identify causes and sources of water quality impairments and concerns.
- 4:45 – 5:30 pm **Gathering data to assess your watershed.....Hendon**
What data do you need? Where do you find the data? How do you get info from TCEQ and other agencies? This session will examine (1) materials from Chapters 5-6 of the *Handbook*; (2) how GIS may be used for watershed analysis, source identification and watershed characterization; and (3) sources of data in Texas and how best to obtain it.

5:30–6:00 pm **Gathering animal density data Dictson**

6:00 pm **Dinner**

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Facilitator: Nikki Dictson

7:30 – 8:00 am **Breakfast**

8:00 – 8:20 am **Estimating OSSF density in watersheds Glavy**
 This session will discuss an approach to estimating on-site sewage facility (OSSF) numbers and locations in watersheds.

8:20 – 9:20 am **Analyzing Data to Characterize Your Watershed Davenport**
 How do you analyze your data? What tools are available? Is modeling needed? This session will review Chapters 7 and 8.1-8.2 of the *Handbook* in order to provide participants an understanding of the methods/options available for analyzing watershed data and estimating pollutant loads. Simplistic methods for calculating loads and assessing sources will be presented. The session will also examine refining goals, identifying management objectives, and determining load reductions needed (Chapter 9 of the *Handbook*).

9:20 – 10:05 am **Using Outreach to Develop and Implement WPPs MacPherson**
 Outreach is a powerful tool to get stakeholders involved early in the planning process, promote behavior change in the watershed, and enhance implementation of management strategies in the watershed. Learn tips and tools to conduct effective outreach without breaking the bank.

10:05 – 10:35 am **Break**

10:35 – 11:35 am **The Good, the bad, and the Ugly MacPherson**
 Participants will learn techniques to improve their outreach materials and critique samples to determine their effectiveness in reaching the audience and communicating the message

11:35– 12:00 pm **Expectations for Element B Hendon**
 The expectations for Element B will be reviewed and discussed to provide participants with an understanding of the level of detail and effort needed to determine ‘acceptable’ pollutant loadings, and whether or not load reductions are needed to reach acceptable levels.

12:00 – 1:00 pm **Lunch**

1:00 – 1:30 pm **Overview of Models for Estimating Pollutant Loads & Reductions ... Gregory**
 If modeling is needed, what models are available and how do you select a model? This session will provide an overview of models available, expectations for what each model can deliver, costs, and factors to consider when selecting models.

1:30–1:50 pm **Overview and Expectations for Element C Bira**
 This session will provide a discussion of expectations for Element C as well as steps to select management practices.

1:50–2:30 pm	Agricultural NPS Measures Koch Agricultural nonpoint source measures in Texas are typically implemented through SWCDs, TSSWCB, and NRCS. This session discusses (1) agricultural BMPs, (2) how to develop a preliminary list of agricultural BMPs to address the issues of concern, (3) finding information on the effectiveness of agricultural BMPs, and (4) estimating BMP implementation costs.
2:30–3:00 pm	Break
3:00 –3:40 pm	Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystems..... Dictson This session will present information on riparian and stream ecosystems and their function and benefits.
3:40 – 4:30 pm	Urban NPS Measures Davenport This session will provide an overview of (1) urban NPS measures, (2) how to develop a preliminary list of urban BMPs to address the issues of concern, (3) finding information on the effectiveness of urban BMPs, (4) estimating BMP implementation costs; and (5) stormwater permitting.
4:30 – 5:15 pm	Estimating Load Reductions from BMPs & Assignment 1..... Gregory
6:00 pm	Dinner

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Facilitator: Lucas Gregory

7:30 – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 – 8:30 am	Wastewater Treatment Systems, Issues, and Permits Glavy This session briefly reviews wastewater treatment systems (WWTFs and OSSFs), their impacts, and effectiveness in removing pollutants in addition to identifying and addressing wastewater treatment system issues in your watershed.
8:30 – 9:00 am	Other Common Measures (Wildlife, Pets, etc.)..... Dictson
9:00 – 9:50 am	Targeting Critical Areas Davenport To achieve the most effective and immediate benefit, BMP implementation must be targeted to the most critical areas. This session discusses the targeting of control measures and the importance of this to the ultimate success of the WPP.
9:50 – 10:10 am	Break
10:10- 10:40 am	Watershed Resources and Tools Available..... Dictson Presentation provides an overview of watershed resources and tools available, kiosks, online modules, web apps, and TWRI’s watershed planning website.
10:40 – 11:20 am	Introduction to Load Duration Curve (LDC) and Demonstration Gregory
11:20 – 12:00 pm	Expectations for Elements F, G, and H & Assignment 2 Exercise..... Bira The expectations for Element F, G, and H will be reviewed to provide insight on the level of detail and effort needed to schedule implementation, describe interim milestones, and establish criteria to determine if load reductions are achieved.

12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00- 1:45 pm	Designing & Implementing Effectiveness Monitoring – Element I.....Gregory This session will provide guidance on selecting an appropriate experimental design that incorporates previous and ongoing monitoring efforts.
1:45– 2:45 pm	Developing Interim Milestones & Criteria to Measure ProgressDavenport This session will discuss developing interim measurable milestones (Element G) and establishing a set of criteria to measure progress (Element H) toward meeting water quality goals (Chapter 12.4-12.5 of the <i>Handbook</i>). This is the point in the WPP where you define in realistic terms how you will determine (1) if you are on track and making progress or not, (2) how/when you evaluate your progress, and (3) what to do if watershed improvements are not on track.
2:45 – 3:15 pm	The Do’s & Don’ts’s of Presentations.....Ling This session will discuss tips and tricks on how to give an effective presentation. Session will also provide some examples on what to avoid when giving presentations
3:15 – 3:45 pm	Break
3:45 – 4:00 pm	Hayride Transportation to River for Outdoor Presentations <i>Please note: This is a light field exercise at the onsite creek. Appropriate field attire for expected weather is recommended.</i>
4:00 – 5:30 pm	Water Quality Monitoring: Practical Guidelines & Lessons Learned..... TWRI/Meadows Center An overview of the how to use automated samplers, multi-probes, flow meters, and Texas Stream Team volunteer monitoring will be provided. <i>*Sessions are 45 minutes each</i>
5:30 – 6:00 pm	Hayride Transportation Back to Mayan Facilities for Dinner
6:00 pm	Dinner

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Facilitator: Nikki Dictson

7:30 – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 – 8:15 am	Overview & Discussion of Assignment 1 on Load CalculationsGregory
8:15 – 9:30 am	Assignment 2: Consistency Review of Elements F, G, and H & Discussion
9:30 – 10:00 am	Scheduling Management Measure Implementation Ling
10:00 – 10:30 am	Expectations for Element DBira This session will discuss expectations for Element D, which describes the financial and technical assistance needs and identifies the sources/authorities that will be relied on for implementation (Chapter 12.7 of the <i>Handbook</i>).
10:00 – 11:00 am	Implementation Costs and Sources of Funding Ling

This session will discuss sources of funding in Texas for implementation of WPPs along with match requirements and the mechanisms for requesting it.

11:00 – 11:20 am **Putting it All Together and Next Steps.....Dictson**
This session will discuss assembling a WPP, gaining stakeholder approval, and submitting the WPP for state and federal review.

11:20 – 11:50 am **Short Course Wrap Up: Benefits of the WPP Process.....Ling**

11:50 – 12:00 pm **Knowledge Assessment/Course Evaluation**
A post-course examination will be distributed to determine course impact and knowledge gained. A course evaluation will also be distributed to gain feedback on how to improve the course.

12:00 pm **Adjourn, Check Out, and Lunch**
Certificates will be distributed as the class turns in their post-course exam and course evaluations. Lunch is available prior to heading home.