

**Meeting Summary
Peach Creek TMDL Stakeholder Group**

**October 8, 2007
Waelder Community Center
311 Highway 90 West
Waelder, TX
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM**

The purpose of the meeting is to inform the stakeholders of the status of work for a TMDL Project on Peach Creek and to provide an opportunity for input. Because of time limits, this meeting is about the Peach Creek Bacteria TMDL Project work only. If other issues arise, we will see that they are passed along to the appropriate individual(s).
(Time Allotments Are Approximate)

Preliminary Steps

Welcome/Meeting Logistics	(1:30 – 1:35)
Introduction of Participants	(1:35 – 1:45)
Meeting Purpose and Ground Rules	(1:45 – 1:55)

Discussion of TMDL

Bacteria Task Force Report	(1:55 – 2:10)
TMDL Report for Public Comment	(2:10 – 2:30)
Adaptive Implementation/Management	(2:30 – 3:00)

Next Steps

Approval/Adoption and TSSWCB Sponsored Projects	(3:00 – 3:30)
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Adjourn

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Richard Eyster, P.G.	Texas Department of Agriculture
Harold Grauke	Tyson

Abelardo	Ibarra	City Utility Worker, City of Waelder
Kendria	Ray	TSSWCB
Calvin	Spacek	Gonzales County SCTWAC-EAA
Debbie	Magin	Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)
Aaron	Wendt	TSSWCB
Wain	Fiarchild	Tyson's Foods
James	Grimm	Texas Poultry Federation
Bill	Hyman	Independent Cattlemen's Association
* Jason	Skaggs	Texas & SW Cattle Raisers Association
* Stephen	Twidwell	TX Parks and Wildlife Department

* Alternate representative

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Posey and Mary	Alford	Landowner
John	Carey	TX A&M Poultry Science
John	Foster	TSSWCB
M.G.	Hodges	Cal-Maine
Shari	Johnson	Gonzales County Soil & Water Conservation District
Barry	Miller	Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District
Jack	Pavlas	City of Flatonia
Thomas	Read	Landowner
Julie	Reiley	Landowner
Ed	Small	Southwestern Texas Cattle Raisers Association
Sonny	Vela	USDA-NRCS
Mark	Walker	Gonzales USDA-NRCS
Steven	Winton	Landowner

SUPPORT TEAM PRESENT: Kerry Niemann (TCEQ), Faith Hambleton, Clyde Bohmfalk, Earlene Lambeth

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lawrence	Brown, Jr.	TSSWCB - Wharton
B.J.	Carpenter	Tyson Foods
Mitch	Conine	TX State Soil & Water Conservation Board
Lee	Gudgell	GBRA
Brian	Koch	TX State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Reg	Othold	Cal-Maine

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Kerry Niemann opened the meeting and introduced himself, took role of the stakeholders and passed around handouts. Kerry presented a brief overview of the bacteria project being performed on Peach Creek initiated by the TCEQ. He explained what had been going on with the project in the last few months and that included a Bacteria Task Force Report, released in June 2007. Kerry said that the modeling report had been posted and available on line at the projects' web site.

A copy of the entire handout and presentation can be viewed on line at the following web page:

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/implementation/water/tmdl/34peach/34-peachcreek-oct07pres.pdf>

Faith Hambleton spoke next on the water quality standards, its' process, and the involvement of the TCEQ, the EPA and how local stakeholders in a watershed can be involved. She reported that water quality standards and its uses has been an issue that has come up across the state. She said the applicability of the water quality standards for bacteria concerning many streams "one-size-fits all" that we currently have are not suitable for many waterbodies. At the present time, all waterbodies in the state of Texas have the same numeric value for bacteria. The revision to the Water Quality Standards happens every 3 years. A work group is looking into different levels of contact recreation and uses such as wading, swimming, etc. and that should continue into 2009. If accepted by the TCEQ Commissioners, the package would then be sent to the EPA in Dallas who has the final approval. It is certainly possibly that it could be the year 2011 before any standard is changed within the state. At this time the EPA has not approved the 2000 water quality standards.

Question: Is the COG in Houston the facilitator on this - or a stakeholder group?

Answer: It is the Houston-Galveston Area Council and they have gone out for bid to help them set the standards. H-GAC is a facilitator but they are very aware of the issues. The contractor is in place and it is my (Faith) understanding that some preliminary studies have been done. Anyone can have input through the water quality revision standards. Faith said she would be happy to give out contact information at the end of the meeting if anyone would like and talk directly with them. She encouraged the public to have input and be involved in the process.

Various people continued to give their thoughts on the water quality standards, various streams, and different characteristics throughout the states. It is charting new territory. Clyde also said that the program that works on the standards at the agency have a group of stakeholders that meet fairly regular and the rural and agricultural areas of the state are well represented on the group. Clyde pointed out that whether it is a concrete lined ditch in Houston or a slow moving stream in central Texas – the standard is the same. There is a process and proposals are going to be made but all input and support is encouraged.

Kerry continued the presentation by covering what is a TMDL, OSSFs (on-site septic facilities), wildlife in the area, etc. He explained that the model identified failing OSSFs as a potential source of bacteria. Failing OSSFs can be addressed by bringing failing systems within the 300 ft riparian corridor of Peach Creek into compliance with design and disposal requirements.

Question: How many of these failing systems are in the watershed?

Answer: The failure rate for this region of the state is roughly 12%. A little over 2,000 OSSFs are in the study area. According to the model 4 failing OSSFs are within the 300 ft corridor. This can be confirmed and addressed in implementation.

Question: Define riparian corridor?

Answer: 300 ft. from the center of the stream. 150 ft, on each side of the segment.

Kerry reported that during the implementation phase of the project there would be funds made available through various sources to assist in bringing this watershed into compliance with the TMDL.

A discussion was held among the stakeholders and the TCEQ.

The next topic was wildlife. Kerry reminded the stakeholders that this was only looking at non-point source load allocations. He explained why wildlife could not be taken off the top of the load allocation. They discussed feral hogs, avian, etc. and various scenarios. .

Kerry asked Richard Eyster with the (TDA) Texas Department of Agriculture if he would like to speak about a couple of projects the TDA has underway, specifically concerning feral hog control. Richard said that TDA had contracts in place to try and figure out the best hog traps. He said they were actually doing some field testing now with preliminary results due in about 6 months. Kerry asked Richard if a local Peach Creek rancher could be found in the area to possibly be a candidate or pilot for the test traps. Richard said he could find out and Richard would report back to the stakeholders during the next stakeholders meeting.

After a short break the meeting continued. Kerry wanted to remind the group that the model was not based on the BST (Bacteria Source Tracking) results. He reported that land use was much more reliable.

The next phase is the continued development of the TMDL Peach Creek report which will go out for public comment. After comments are addressed the adoption process will begin. Implementation can be and has been started already in the watershed through the TSSWCB Aaron Wendt with the TSSWCB (Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board) gave a brief overview of the on-going projects associated with the watershed and work being done by our partner agency.

Another topic discussed was the point (waste) load allocation from Waelder and Flatonia. Kerry reported values found at wastewater treatment plants were discharging values that meet the water quality standards. Richard Eyster asked why they (plants) were permitted to discharge so much. Kerry pointed out to Richard that during the monitoring phase of the TMDL, the City of Waelder and Flatonia were both monitored. On July 27-28, 2004, samples collected under baseflow conditions at Flatonia and Waelder WWTFs showed mean counts of 3 org/100 ml and 32 org/100 ml respectively. On April 24-27, 2004, samples collected under runoff conditions at Flatonia and Waelder WWTFs showed

mean counts of 17 org/100 ml and 26 org/100 ml respectively. On June 5-8, 2004, samples collected under runoff conditions at Flatonia and Waelder WWTFs showed mean counts of <1 org/100 ml and 46 org/100 ml respectively. All values are well below the water quality standard for contact recreation. Kerry reminded the group that at this time there is no TMDL. After the TMDL is adopted – consideration for permits will be more stringent and/or discharge limits considered because of the approved TMDL.

The meeting was adjourned.