

Nolan Creek WPP Advisory Stakeholder Meeting – Minutes

Date: Monday October 30, 2017

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 am

Location: Harker Heights Activity Center, Room D

Participants:

TIAER – Anne McFarland, Leah Taylor

City of Harker Heights – Mark Hyde, Joe Hines

City of Killeen – Christopher Noll

City of Nolanville – Kara Escejeda

TCEQ – Megan Henson

TSSWCB – Mitch Conine

Bell County WCID #1 – Ricky Garrett

Bell County WCID #6 – Glen Grandy

Texas A&M Forest Service – Lori Hazel

Fort Hood – Riki Young

Yalgo Engineering – Scott Brooks

TPWD – Jennifer Bronson-Warren

Topics Discussed:

Water quality monitoring – an update will not be provided at this meeting to keep the focus on management measures. Monthly data to date are available on the Nolan Creek WPP website:

<http://www.nolancreekwpp.com/home.html>

Overview of previous and current projects –

TIAER provided an overview of the previous Nolan Creek Characterization project. To view the presentation that provides the update, please visit:

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/6a4cf765e2896c846058eec1cd52f8c4?AccessKeyId=D291B218237505B931BF&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Slide 4: The area outlined in red indicate the two areas that the project prioritizes (AUs 1218_02 and 1218C) as impaired for elevated bacteria concentrations.
- Slide 5: Besides bacteria, there are concerns for elevated nutrients and total phosphorus
- Slide 6: Shows the TCEQ 2014 Assessment concentrations for the various assessment units (AUs) in the Nolan Creek watershed in comparison to the 126 cfu/100 mL criterion.
- Slides 7 & 8: Nutrient issues discussed as more of a point source than nonpoint source issue largely associated with WWTF discharges in that storm events show a dilution rather than increase in nutrient concentrations.
- Slide 11: Nine Elements of a WPP presented. Elements in red have been largely addressed in the previous Nolan Creek Characterization project. It is now time to focus and prioritize the other elements.
 - Side note on element C: While management measures have been described, we need to prioritize how to accomplish them.
- Slide 17: There is a large concern from the public regarding unauthorized discharges in the watershed. The slide shown is not up to date and much has been done by the various

municipalities to mitigate SSOs, but this is a concern as a contributor of bacteria from human waste to the bacteria impairment.

- Slides 25-31: Megan Henson, TCEQ, provided two examples of what TCEQ deems “Success Stories” – this means the management measures implemented helped remove the AU(s) from the impaired water bodies list. Watershed protection plans must follow a clear plan to be a success story. The two success stories presented each present combined represent many of the same management measures discussed for the Nolan Creek watershed.
 - Slides 27 and 28: Example 1 – The Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake
 - TCEQ noted that the 319 funds did not (and cannot) fund improvements to the wastewater collection infrastructures, but the Nolan Creek WPP could include this type of practice, which might increase potential funding from other sources if in the plan.
 - TCEQ also noted the creek clean up events were very popular with the Guadalupe River above Canyon Lake watershed.

Questions asked by stakeholders during this portion of the presentation (blue). Answers are in orange.

- Was the effectiveness measured in a quantified way to what best management practice actually (BMP) worked?
 - In some ways, yes, but having everything together is what made the difference in the water body.
- Could we use a bird deterrent structure?
 - TxDOT will no longer support the use of the bird deterrent structure because of the high cost, set up, and upkeep associated with the structure.
- Slides 29 and 30: Example 2 – Leon River
 - All water quality management plans are voluntary and specifically geared towards individual landowners – funded through TSSWCB to help the producer save money
 - Hamilton County was able to replace more than 100 failing septic systems and Coryell County 15 by placing this implementation activity in the Leon River WPP.
 - Septic system repair and replacement can use 319 funds

Management Measures –

To view:

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/1d0dbd0552e4977be1f634330379d250?AccessKeyId=D291B218237505B931BF&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

A table of management measures was provided to the advisory committee group. The group was asked to “rank” each management measure by priority and mark the area within the watershed that they are representing.

Notes from the management measure handout includes:

- TCEQ 319 funds can fund implementation activities on public land areas but not private.

- Management Area Activity “If populations of a sufficient density, work with TxDot to explore deterrent options” will be modified due to TxDot unwillingness to continue to support this type of activity.
- It is really important for the group to consider a watershed coordinator for the project. This person would be someone that is housed within the watershed. Their salary could be covered in part under 319 funds, but municipalities or some other entity would need to come up with the needed match (60% federal to 40% match).
- Urban Stormwater – There is a lot of emphasis on promoting green spaces. Would this be something the group would be interested in?
- There are lots of management measures that the cities are already implementing largely through their Stormwater Management Plans. But, is there something or multiple things that can be added to the water quality plan to help support or improve upon implementation activities already being implemented?
- Clear desire within the Nolan Creek WPP for water quality to tie in the recreational plans for Hike & Bike Trails, flood plan management planning, and stormwater management plans.

The group was asked to review the management measures and provide TIAER with their priorities the day of the meeting or within the next week.

Questions on the management activities:

- Anne, what are your top 3 focus areas?
 - Sewer lines and lift stations with regard to human waste, dog waste, and OSSFs. Discussion noted that broken clean outs at individual homes are also a large problem and might be combined in dealing with OSSFs in targeting education and responsibilities of individual homeowners.
- Megan, what would you emphasize?
 - Riparian enhancement & low impact development

Additional Comments:

- Public education needs to increase – people assume certain things (such as broken clean outs, dog feces) are the city’s problem and not the individual’s responsibility for cleaning/fixing
 - A group member shared an activity completed in another watershed where dog feces was pinned in a park area near the creek and then GPS coordinates were made of each pin. Dog feces was then picked up, and this activity was repeated monthly for about six months. This provided a visual to the media and ultimately to the watershed stakeholders that lead to a decrease in dog feces within the park area.
- Demographics of the watershed are difficult – many people are only in the area a short period of time before moving on, they are renting and have a “not my house, not my problem” attitude. Also lots of low income areas, so hard to get people to care about water quality when they have larger more pressing problems, such as paying bills. Also some discussion on why fliers in with bills may not be the best way to reach folks as they are ignored or many people pay on-line and even use autopay.

- It was shared with group that a management measure might be to hire a marketing expert (company or individual) who could help the group create marketing materials that will target the watershed audience
 - TCEQ provided that the Galveston Bay WPP hired a company called [Texas Creative](#) to help assist with marketing materials

Next Steps – Once management measures are prioritized and added to the WPP, potential funding sources for each activity will need to be determined. This can come from the cities or another source. Question to the cities within the Nolan Creek watershed: What is your city willing to fund? What grants and other opportunities may be out there?

Closing

The next Nolan Creek/South Nolan Creek Advisory Committee Group will likely be held in January 2018. In between now and the next meeting, Anne and/or Leah will likely be in touch with various members of the group to further discuss management measures that focus on specific portions of the watershed.