

# Nolan Creek WPP Advisory Stakeholder Meeting – Minutes

**Date:** Monday May 9, 2017

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. – 12:10 pm

**Location:** Central Texas COG in Belton

**Participants:**

TIAER – Anne McFarland, Elaine Smith

City of Harker Heights – Mark Hyde, Joe Hines, Richard Fierro, Billy Cude

City of Killeen – Kristina Ramirez

City of Belton – Jerri Gauntt

NRCS – Kyle Wright

TCEQ – Megan Henson

CTCOG – John Weber, Jason Deckman, Cheryl Maxwell, Kendra Coufal

City of Nolanville – Kara Escajeda, Daniel Parter

Yalgo Engineering – Scott Brooks

Hog for a Cause – David Haehn

Jacob Sanchez – reporter Temple Daily Telegram

Bob Blair – Killeen resident

John Rigdon – Waller Creek Conservancy

**Presentation by Mr John Rigdon, Director of Planing & Design with the Waller Creek Conservancy in Austin:**

Waller Creek Conservatory Project - Overview

Waller Creek is a misused and forgotten waterway on the east side of downtown Austin that is undergoing a major transformation. As a flood zone, little development has been established in the floodplain of this creek. The conservancy was established to create a non-profit alliance with the City of Austin to create a chain of parks along a restored and revamped Waller Creek. Funding is through the city, grants, and private philanthropy.

The city built a one and one-half mile concrete tunnel beneath the creek bed to channel flood waters into Lady Bird Lake. A pump is in place to send water back up the pipe during dry periods to create a constant flow in the creek in cooperation with the Lower Colorado River Authority. Debris catching equipment and other labor intensive processes are being used to keep the flow in the pipe clear of trash. An international competition was held to design the layout for connecting existing parks and creating new ones for a green area along the creek. Foremost importance is given to the bike and hike trails and natural flood control. Great effort is going forth to create park spaces with function and that provide recreation opportunities for the community.

Key lessons learned he wished to share in managing a project of this caliber:

- Need Champions – In both city entities and private citizens.
- Strong Partnerships – Vital to have solid working agreements with all concerned.
- An Intentional, Clear Process – Stay ahead of the game with excellent information and data at the ready.
- Well defined, predictable plan with concise vision – “elevator pitch.”
- Framework Plan – Have a detailed plan so everyone knows what to expect and how to react. They used both overhead and cross-sectioned renderings to demonstrate the details

of their plan. As an example, these were used to show how the stream banks would be altered and existing structures reused in specific locations along the creek.

- This project does not address water quality, but efforts with vegetation distribution and erosion control may affect bacteria levels in the creek. Also, the constant flow of water instead of time of flood and other times of dry creek bed should also have an impact on bacteria levels. There is another effort in the Waller Creek watershed focused on bacteria, as the creek, similar to Nolan Creek, is listed as impaired for bacteria.

To learn more about the Waller Creek Conservancy: <https://www.wallercreek.org/>

### **Introduction of Mr Dave Haehn with Hogs for a Cause in Belton:**

Dave Haehn representing Hogs for a Cause located in Belton – a nonprofit feral hog capture organization which provides meat to struggling families. Mr Haehn gave an overview of the work his organization does to aid in the control of feral hogs in the area and answered several questions regarding the proper disposal of feral hogs and the processing of their meat. The work of this organization is pertinent to the Nolan Creek WPP in the removal of a source of bacteria to the creek and will be added to the WPP as a resource for landowners dealing with feral hog problems. While a nonprofit, Hogs for a Cause charges about \$10 a head largely to just recoup their costs. The hogs must be caught live for meat processing as they fall under USDA meat inspection guidelines. The Hogs for a Cause organization currently has a processor willing to work with them to process the hogs, but they are looking to build their own processing plant dedicated to this endeavor.

To learn more about Hogs for a Cause: <http://www.hogsforacause.org/>

### **Discussion of Nolan Creek Monitoring Data by Anne McFarland:**

Data through April show no real change in bacteria levels from the current monitoring stations. Stakeholders were asked to consider where the allotted ten monitoring sites should be in the future. Any changes to the current monitoring plan will need to be decided upon at the next meeting in July. Scott Brooks suggested along North Nolan as it is not currently monitored and seems to be a cleaner part of the creek. Monitoring North Nolan might give us an idea of background or dilution levels provided by this major tributary. Kristina Ramirez said she would be curious if there are any springs or groundwater entering North Nolan Creek, which would dilute the impairment. The question was raised if we could get access to Fort Hood monitoring data, if such exists. Anne indicated that she was in contact with the new environmental specialist for Fort Hood and would follow up on this.

### **Announcements**

The Floodplain management project is having an initial meeting sometime in May to “kick off” that project. The group will be apprised of when a public meeting is held with more information on this project.

### **Closing**

The next Nolan Creek/South Nolan Creek Advisory Committee Group will likely be held in July 2017 and focus on evaluation of the monitoring plan. This will be an opportunity to discuss moving some monitoring stations to alternate locations.

### **Attachment**

1. Nolan Creek/South Nolan Creek Water Quality Update