

# **Nolan Creek WPP Advisory Stakeholder Meeting – Minutes**

**Date:** Monday, June 20, 2016

**Time:** 11:30 – 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Harker Heights Activity Center, Room A

## **Participants:**

TIAER – Anne McFarland, Leah Taylor

City of Harker Heights – Mark Hyde, Paul Murray, Richard Fierro, Joe Hines

City of Killeen – Kristina Ramirez, Gwynth Udy

City of Nolanville – Kara Escjeda

Bell County WCID1 – Richard Garrett

Fort Hood – Kelly Collins

City of Belton – Paul Romer

Landowner – Scott Brooks

NRCS – Kyle Wright

TPWD – Jennifer Bronson-Warren

TCEQ – Megan Henson

## **Topics Discussed:**

### **Review of Monitoring Plan**

- TIAER provided a review of proposed monitoring plan including a justification for proposed sites based on discussions at the last meeting.
  - Part of the review included addition of site 11912 (off Amy Lane in Harker Heights). This site was selected because it is in between 11912 and 11907. Two sites were also added on Long Branch.
  - TIAER also noted that TCEQ has approved moving sites over the course of the project as long as an amended QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) is approved first. The plan is to about 9 months into monitoring to review monitoring data with the committee, and determine if the committee feels sites should to moved and to where.
- TIAER requested stakeholder feedback on monitoring sites. As no further feedback was received, TIAER will move forward developing a QAPP based on this monitoring plan.
  - Monthly monitoring should begin in September 2016 and will include routine grabs representing primarily base flow conditions. No targeted storm monitoring will occur.
  - The group will then reconvene on data and sites after about nine months of monthly monitoring.

### **Discussion on Monitoring Plan**

- The group will continue to move forward in working with stream team for collecting water quality samples.
- The City of Killeen announced they will be hosting a Stream Teams training event in the City of Killeen – This event will take place the weekend of June 25 – 26, 2016.
  - The training will train people in the Nolan Creek watershed to test water quality samples and is an open event – others invited.

## **Bacteria Source Tracking Update**

- TIAER provided the partnership with a handout/fact sheet of Microbial source tracking (MST). This MST handout was presented to group, because MST was a big topic of discussion at the last meeting as a potential way to better evaluate bacteria sources.
  - MST is more current terminology than BST (Bacteria Source Tracking)
  - EPA – provides good documents on using MST in watershed planning
    - This includes tiered approach that first focuses monitoring to isolate sources rather than jumping straight to MST analysis.
    - MST can then be used to help distinguish between human or other sources of bacteria.
      - If human, there is a higher health risk level.
  - Example of a WPP that utilized MST/BST is the Lampasas WPP
    - The work was done through TAMU with George Di Giovanni.
      - Di Giovanni has helped with creation of a statewide library of genetic markers based on known sources.
      - The Lampasas BST work was somewhat limited in its conclusions as it was done during a time of drought and only one water quality sample was compared to the library.
  - TIAER provided some limitations of MST
    - There can be false positives and negatives
    - Very expensive
    - MST provides relevant frequency/dominance; not exact percent contributions of sources.
  - Questions on MST from the group:
    - The group is still trying to determine which tributaries are the problems? Wouldn't this (MST) study be premature?
    - Feedback from TCEQ included that the partnership needs to be very clear in the WPP of how the information will be used
    - TCEQ indicated that it would support having MST written into the WPP and that it was not necessarily something that needed to be decided at this meeting.
  - At this time, TIAER will not move forward with a proposal for MST within the watershed, but will consider it as something to be represented to the group in the future after further monitoring has been conducted.

## **Activities/Programs already in place**

TIAER voiced the need for an inventory of activities and/or programs already in place in the Nolan Creek watershed area

- Example, OSSFs and the City of Killeen STEP (Septic Tank Elimination Program)
- TIAER discussed the ease in receiving more state and federal funding for programs if it is written into the WPP as a regional effort. Essentially, the entity writing the grant proposal would get “bonus points” if the program is part of an existing WPP.
- Another example brought up was the dog park in City of Killeen and efforts there with pet waste disposal stations to educate the public.
- TIAER asked the partnership to think of other similar types of programs.

- Individuals within the committee then brought up the following at a potential source not earlier noted:
  - Manufactured home communities (MHCs) that maintains their own sewer lines
    - There is at least one that has been fined and the manufactured home community is supposedly working with TCEQ to have their pipes replaced.
      - The MHC of note is located in the City of Killeen on Little Nolan Bank near station 21437 and Roy Reynolds Rd.
      - MHCs may have their own waste system recognized by TCEQ but they are then hooked up to the City of Killeen sewer system.
        - TIAER asked if the group knew what kind of permits these MHCs have. No one specifically knew, but a representative from the City of Killeen indicated they were aware of at least five such MHCs.
          - One was noted to be located off Twin Creek Rd and another off of Hay Branch.
- The partnership was asked if homeless camps were an issue in the watershed.
  - Locations? Options? High concentrations?
    - Homeless were noted to occur within the watershed, often under bridges, but generally individuals rather than “camps” or large groups.
- There is a great possibility of the City of Belton adding a dog park
  - The city is working on parks master plans. Building a dog park keeps coming up in meetings. There are pet waste stations in existing parks.
  - Relocation of ducks – in WPP?
    - TPWD will reach out to the regional biologist for the City of Belton. City of Killeen provided that an example where this was successful was in the City of Lampasas.
- Fort Hood Programs
  - Set porta potty locations during construction. They are very well maintained and not allowed to move.
  - Fort Hood is very in control than what goes on within its facility.
- Other topics discussed as activities and programs in the Nolan Creek watershed area:
  - Feral Hog Control – will be put into WPP but not as large of an issue in urban areas
    - More cows in Fort Hood than hogs – proximity to creek
- TIAER inquired about the area between Harker Heights and Nolanville – Are there large amounts of cattle and/or horses in that area?
  - The partnership responded that there are in fact several large and small horse ranches in area.
- TIAER inquired about urban wildlife in the Nolan Creek watershed area?
  - The partnership responded that this does not seem to be a large issue. There is urban wildlife, but no known large congregating areas.
- TIAER indicated that pulling the municipalities’ MS4s would be the best way bet to see what municipalities have going on for the inventory of activities and programs.

### **EnviroMapper**

TPWD provided information regarding a tool, EnviroMapper, which is attached through EPA Eco website (View self-reporting data)

- Can be used to target some of these areas in site selection in looking at permitted facilities

**Bell Co Health Officer** – TIAER has been unable to get in touch with the office of the Bell County Health Officer

- The group provided that the office was very busy after the floods

### **Questions for Cities**

Interest in Low impact development for dealing with runoff?

TCEQ trying to implement more LID efforts in urban areas.

### **Timeline**

- The next step in the timeline is to get QAPP addressing the monitoring plan approved and implemented.
- TIAER suggested that the next meeting not occur until September. This would give TIAER time to pull together a better inventory of on-going management activities within the watershed.
- Follow up regarding addressing mobile home communities.
  - TCEQ will assist with finding out what kind of permits these facilities have and who needs to be contacted at TCEQ to find out about past violations.
  - TIAER indicated a need to also find out what can be done to assist these facilities.

### **Closing**

The next meeting will be in a September timeframe. The City of Belton has offered to host the next meeting.