



SPRING CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Public Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 3rd, 2020
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

In Attendance:

Organizers:

Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC):
Andrea Tantillo
Rachel Windham

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):
Jessica Uramkin

Attendees:

Becky Martinez (Bayou Land Conservancy)
Brian Koch (Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB))
Christian Rines (Galveston Bay Estuary Program)
Connie Cortina (Resident)
Danielle Cioce (Harris County Engineering)
Diana Foss (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD))
Glenna Sloan (Texas Master Naturalists (TMN) - Heartwood)
Jennifer Seale (TMN - Heartwood)
John Geiger (The Woodlands Township)
Kathie Herrick (Woodlands GREEN)
Kelly Norrid (TPWD)
Kristin DeBone (TCEQ)
Mac Martin (Texas A&M Forest Service)
Monte Parks (Harris County Precinct 4 (HCP4))
Neil Gaynor (Montgomery County MUD 6)
Roberto Vega (Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD))
Steve Ellison (TMN - Heartwood)
Sylvester L. Reeder III (Houston One Voice)
Teri MacArthur (The Woodlands Township)
Tom Douglas (Bayou Preservation Association)
Zach Rosen (RES Environmental)

Meeting Notes:

Welcome and Overview

- Rachel Windham (H-GAC) commenced the meeting at 2:00 pm by welcoming the attendees and providing an overview of the meeting agenda.
- Before starting the presentation, Ms. Windham provided poll questions to gauge engagement and outreach preferences for attendees.
- To refresh the Partnership, Ms. Windham provided brief project background discussing the location of the Spring Creek Watershed, the water quality issues common in the watershed and a general characterization of sources leading to fecal indicator bacteria impairments.

Watershed Protection Plan Updates

- Ms. Windham provided a summary of the contents of the watershed protection plan draft. Sections 1 through 4 (Project Background, Watershed Characterization, Identifying Pollutant Sources, and Improving Water Quality) cover material discussed at early Partnership meetings used to develop the Water Quality Data Analysis Summary Report and Bacteria Monitoring Report (both available on the project website). These sections define water quality challenges specific to the watershed. Sections 5 through 7 (Recommended Solutions, Education and Outreach, and Implementation) detail the implementation strategies for achieving bacteria reduction and water quality improvement in the watershed. Finally, Section 8 (Evaluating Success) details the metrics for gauging the effectiveness of the watershed implementation plan throughout implementation.
- The first major update discussed was the finalization of source-specific reduction targets as decided by the Steering Committee. After a brief explanation of how the overall reduction target was calculated, Ms. Windham described how the Steering Committee decided to distribute implementation effort in order to achieve that goal. For sources including deer and wildlife waste which cannot be directly controlled, associated load burdens were distributed to an increase in pet waste reduction. Additionally, since wastewater treatment facility discharge and horse waste contribute so nominally to the overall instream load, these load burdens were also distributed to increasing efforts in reducing pet waste. It is important to note that though wastewater treatment facilities and horse waste burdens will be accounted for by increases in pet waste reduction, implementation strategies related to these sources are still a focus of the watershed protection plan and loading related to these sources will continue to be monitored.
- Other edits to the watershed protection plan include:

- Clarifying that the estimated number of plans related to agricultural waste mitigation (water quality management plans, conservation plans, etc.) are subject to change with decreasing agricultural land use over time
- Adding sites of concern for trash and illegal dumping including the stormwater drainage channel for the Kenswick Forest subdivision
- Updating the source survey results for onsite sewage facilities potential extent of impact from “moderate” to “minor to moderate (locally)”
- Enhancing Section 5 tables with information about priority areas and references to reduction target calculations
- Reformatting Table 40 and 41 in Section 7 into one table with additional references to reduction targets

Next Steps

- Following this meeting, Ms. Windham will incorporate agency and stakeholder edits into the watershed protection plan. This updated draft will be submitted for final agency review. Ms. Windham will continue to communicate with stakeholders throughout the submission process and will also seek to share news of watershed events.
- As always, the Partnership will seek opportunities to collaborate with partners on environmental and water quality efforts in the watershed.

General Discussion, News and Questions

- Ms. Windham concludes the meeting by calling for any Partnership news and inviting discussion/questions.
- Teri MacArthur (The Woodlands Township) reminded the Partnership about volunteer opportunities with the Township to install storm drain markers. Contact enviro@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov or 281-210-3800 to learn more!

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 pm.

For more information, visit <http://springcreekpartnership.com>,
or contact Rachel Windham at:
Phone: 713-993-2497
Email: rachel.windham@h-gac.com



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