



DOUBLE BAYOU WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

SECOND MEETING

Thursday, July 18, 2013

5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

**Double Bayou Community Building
2211 Eagle Ferry Road
Double Bayou, TX**

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: David Abernathy, Raymond Anders (Resident/Fire Chief), David Boyd, Linda Broach (TCEQ), Caleb Cooper, Clay Dean, Karla Dean, Tom Douglas, Leroy Ezer, Norma Ezer, Sher Fahrung, Tom Fahrung, Becky Fancher, Clint Fancher, Tyler Fitzgerald (Texas AgriLife Chambers County), Dianne Gradney, Nolan Gradney, Janet Hood, Aaron Humphrey, Chester Humphrey, Joe Humphrey, Willie Humphrey, Elga Jackson, Charles Johnson, Scott Jones (GBF), Janet Lagow, Jean Lagow, Jim Lester (HARC), Regina Lewis, David Manthei (USDA-NRCS), Brandt Mannchen (Houston Sierra Club), Ollie Mayes, Tom McNeely, Creola Moore, Daryl Morris (CLCND), Wayne Morris, Alice Rivon, Jerry Shadden, Alva Standley, Mary Beth Stengler, Don Stevenson, Phillip Stewart (USDA-NRCS), David Thruston (Oak Island Double Bayou VFD), Bill Tinnerman, Blake Turner, Otho Turner, Gary Weaver, Bertha White, Dave Wilcox, Kay Willcox (Citizen), and Pudge Willcox (Citizen)

Contractors: Kristi Alexander (Shead), T.J. Helton (TSSWCB), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Linda Shead (Shead), Danielle Vinette (Shead)

1. Welcome

Karla Dean welcomed the meeting attendees.

2. Introduction and Agenda Review

Linda Shead thanked Karla for her welcome; Commissioner Abernathy and Chambers County for providing the meeting room, the screen and PA system; and the Navigation District for providing the food. Linda introduced herself as the watershed coordinator member of the Double Bayou project team (with other members of the team also present), initiated self-introductions, and briefly summarized the agenda.

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Double Bayou Watershed Partnership is a project of the following entities:



HARC



3. Overview of the Double Bayou WPP Project

Brian Koch gave a brief explanation of what a watershed is, as well as providing an explanation of TSSWCB's role in watershed planning. He outlined that TSSWCB is the lead agency in Texas, responsible for planning, implementing and managing agricultural and silviculture NPS pollution, and it uses local knowledge from landowners to help achieve conservation goals. Brian then went on to give a brief overview of the impairments in Double Bayou and stated that the goal of this watershed protection plan is to improve the water quality of Double Bayou. He stated that Stephanie Glenn and Linda Shead will be taking the stakeholders' ideas and incorporating them in a plan, emphasizing that this process is community-based and collaborative. The final plan is meant to be inclusive, not just focusing on improving the bacteria problem, but improving aspects of water quality deemed significant by the stakeholders.

4. Water Quality and Double Bayou

Stephanie Glenn presented an overview of water quality in Double Bayou, including the chemical, biological, and physical aspects of water quality. She discussed the Clean Water Act, which requires that each State monitor the status of water quality in relation to set standards, explaining that the standards and criteria are designated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), which then reports back to the EPA. She discussed the different categories of water usage as defined by the TCEQ, which then affect the standards that are applied to the water body. She then gave an overview of the rigorous process of water quality testing, including different kinds of sampling and which parameters (characteristics) can be measured in the field and which must be analyzed in the laboratory.

Focusing specifically on Double Bayou, Stephanie showed the 2012 Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality that was submitted by TCEQ to the EPA. The West Fork has been listed as impaired for low dissolved oxygen since 2004 and for high levels of bacteria since 2006. (Listings are based on the most recent seven years of data.) The East Fork is of concern, but not yet listed as impaired. She explained the sampling methodology and gave more detail on the process of defining how a stream is designated as impaired.

5. Q & A on Water Quality

At the end of Stephanie's presentation, Linda encouraged everyone to take two minutes to write down any questions they have about the water quality in Double Bayou. Linda then passed the microphone around, so that everyone who wanted to ask questions orally had a chance to do so. Linda finished by saying that the project partners will collect all the questions – both those asked during the meeting and those on the cards – and will provide written answers. The method for dissemination may depend on the number of questions. One option might be to prepare a handout for future meetings, and another might be to post them on the Double Bayou website (www.doublebayou.org).

6. Stakeholder Input on Watershed Characteristics

Linda outlined a map exercise to enter written input from attendees on watershed characteristics onto maps of the watershed. She explained that these maps are based on interpretation of aerial photography, and the team wants to know if whether the depiction of the watershed's different characteristics and land uses is accurate and current. Attendees wrote on and discussed the maps.

7. Forming the Double Bayou WPP Steering Committee

Linda focused on forming the stakeholder and workgroup committees of the Double Bayou Watershed Partnership. Linda invited everyone to add their ideas as to what the characteristics of a successful project would be. Ideas included:

- Soil samples in tidal and fresh
- Source difference between East and West for chemical contamination
- Issues from tidal waters
- Expanding and increasing sampling to the north
- Pinpoint some of sources
- Get off 303(d) list
- Feral hog issue
- Identify the problem so it can be fixed
- Test soil bottoms in Lake Anahuac
- Test soil bottoms in canal along Hwy 65
- Text water near the incinerator

Identifying the problems is a key objective of this project. First, the team is giving information on what is known up until now; then the informed group can work through the problems and solutions.

Linda explained that usually, in watershed protection planning, there is a partnership consisting of stakeholders, with a representative decision-making body. Additionally, workgroups are needed, consisting of people with special knowledge and interests, as well as people with technical expertise and access. A stakeholder is anyone who is affected by, or has an interest in, or who could influence the results of this project. Stakeholders are people who may be responsible for implementing the plan or may be just affected by the plan.

Participants contributed their ideas on the categories of stakeholders that exist in the watershed, and the different kinds of interests:

- Landowners
- County officials
- TBCD
- Ag Producers
- City of Anahuac officials
- Waste disposal facilities
- Recreational fishing
- Navigation District
- Commercial fishing
- Oil and gas
- Residents
- Nonprofit organizations
- Elected officials

The purpose of the decision-making body is to represent stakeholders, get the word out, and lead the effort to implement the plan. If people wanted to serve on the steering committee, they were asked to sign up with Karla Dean. (Since the meeting was running over time, this task will be continued at the next meeting.)

The group will need to discuss and consider how the workgroups will be formed during the next meeting. Linda provided some examples of workgroups, to give ideas for the attendees to start thinking about.

8. Wrap-Up

During the September meeting, the list of potential steering committee members will be reviewed. Additionally, the elements of operating procedures will be discussed; work groups will begin to be developed; and there will be presentations on the Texas Stream Team and on PCBs and dioxins.

Since after-school activities begin during September, consensus was reached that the third Tuesday of every other month works better than the third Thursday of every other month. The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, the 17th of September. There was a consensus that the meeting should be held in the same location as this meeting. The matter of how to provide food was undecided, with another option being a pot luck style. If anyone has ideas on how to provide food, they were invited to tell them to Linda.

Linda thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.