



DOUBLE BAYOU WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

STAKEHOLDER MEETING 4

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Double Bayou Community Building

2211 Eagle Ferry Road

Double Bayou, TX

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Hon. Bubba Abernathy (landowner), Linda Broach (TCEQ), David Boyd, Tom Douglas (paddler), Alice Durst, Keith Durst, Leroy Ezer, Norma Ezer, Becky Fancher (landowner), Clint Fancher (landowner), DeAnna Humphrey, Steve Humphrey, Guy Robert Jackson, Charles Johnson, Kim Laird (TCEQ), Sidney Lewis (Chambers County), Travis Lovelace, David Manthei (USDA-NRCS), Bob Scherer (retired), Mary Beth Stengler (CLCND), Otho Turner, Toby Winslow, Pudge Willcox, Catherine Williams (CHART)

Team Members: Kristi Alexander (Shead), Stephanie Glenn (HARC), Brian Koch (TSSWCB), Sam Rendon (USGS), Linda Shead (Shead), Danielle Vinette (Shead)

1. Welcome

Mary Beth Stengler, General Manager, Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigation District, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Introductions and Agenda Review

Kristi Alexander welcomed everyone, thanked all those who had contributed to the meeting, and reminded everyone to sign in and to have some refreshments, provided by CLCND. She also noted the documents available from previous meetings and other watershed protection plans. Kristi then introduced Commissioner Abernathy and passed around the microphone for self-introductions.

3. Workgroups: Reports / Feedback / Next Meetings

Linda Shead provided a shorter version of the presentation given to the workgroups on: stream water sources, pollution sources, purpose of workgroups, the role of water quality modeling, and the importance of stakeholder input. Then the results of each workgroup meeting were presented.

4800 Research Forest Drive The Woodlands, Texas 77381 Tel: 281-367-1348 www.doublebayou.org

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



HARC



Recreation / Hunting. Linda S. presented the results of the Recreation workgroup meeting:

- *Activities*
 - Hunting (upland game birds, ducks & geese, deer, feral hogs, alligator)
 - Camping / RV
 - Fishing
 - Boating (power boating, sailing, paddling)
 - Shooting Ranges
 - Birding / Nature Photography / Wildlife Viewing
- *Potential Bacteria Sources*
 - Marine Sanitation Devices
 - Concentration of Scavengers
 - Disposal of Carcasses
 - Lack of Sanitation Facilities
- *Other Water Pollution Issues*
 - Vehicle Maintenance Issues
 - Litter
 - Oil Sheen from Motorboats
 - Lead from Shooting Ranges & Sinkers
 - Sediment from Erosion (ATVs...)
 - Loss of Vegetation (ATVs...)

Attendees decided that feral hogs would be considered in this group as well as the Ag workgroup, since the hogs are often hunted. No new issues were identified.

Wastewater / Septic Systems. Stephanie Glenn presented the results of the Wastewater workgroup meeting:

- *Potential Bacteria Sources*
 - Aerobic Septic Systems
 - Anaerobic Septic Systems
 - Anahuac Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Anahuac Collection System
 - Straight Pipe Discharges
 - Urban Runoff
 - New: TBCD Collection System
- *Other*
 - Resource Limitations
 - Collection System for Oak Island

Regarding sources, an attendee noted that the city is having some problems, especially after heavy rains. The team is checking on the City's information and about the age and effectiveness of the infrastructure, including the collection system. It was also noted that TBCD has a wastewater collection system in the watershed.

Ag / Wildlife / Feral Hogs. Brian Koch presented the results of the Ag workgroup meeting:

- *Potential Bacteria Sources*
 - Waterfowl
 - Feral Hogs
 - Goats & Horses – Confined
 - Nesting Birds
 - Livestock (goats/cattle/horses)
 - Deer
 - Small Mammals (squirrels/rabbits)
 - Scavenger Roosts
 - Coyotes
- *Other Water Quality Issues*
 - Collection of Vegetation in Stream
 - Red Tide
 - Water Hyacinth
 - Alligator Weed
 - Chinese Tallow
 - Sword Grass
 - Giant Salvinia
 - New: Fertilizer Use

The main focus is on bacteria that are likely to cause people to become sick, which means bacteria from warm-blooded animals (including humans), and not from other animals such as alligators. Fertilizer Use was added as another water quality issue.

Other Workgroups and Follow-up. Linda S. mentioned the other two workgroups that have not met yet: Residential / Urban / Dumping and Business /Industry.

The maps of the watershed boundary and the land cover are being updated with new data; then the stakeholders will edit that data and verify it.

Linda S. is still working on the dates for the next meetings, and making sure they will not conflict with anything else. She will be following up with everyone about this.

4. Answering Stakeholder Water Quality Questions

Stephanie Glenn introduced this topic by noting that related questions had been grouped based on topic, and that this first set of 14 relates to sampling requirements and history of sampling in the watershed. Stephanie and Linda Broach proceeded to go through the questions and discuss the answers for the first set. A handout of the questions and answers was also available and will be posted on the website.

In addition to the questions in the handout, Linda B. and Stephanie addressed follow-up questions during the meeting presentation:

- In the summer, the heat causes there to be less oxygen in the water, and, with algae blooms, there is even less oxygen at night. Plus, the animals in the water are also more active, causing them to use more oxygen. Sometimes the oxygen level can dip

so low as to result in the death of many fish. The more nutrients in the water, the more extreme the fluctuations of oxygen in the water.

- Looking back at the data, Linda B. found that the chlorophyll levels were not particularly bad in Double Bayou, but the East Fork was still looking better than the West Fork.
- It is important to get samples during low, medium, and high flow to get a complete reading of water quality. TCEQ does not measure the flow, because overall, it is not that important for their evaluations. But the WPP does measure the flow, to help with the modeling of sources and solutions.
- To be notified of TCEQ meetings about setting water quality standards and such, there is a place to sign up on the TCEQ website. The meetings are held in Austin.

[Note: The weblink to sign up for notifications:

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTCEQ/subscriber/new? \]](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTCEQ/subscriber/new?)

- Errors do happen. Generally, decisions are not made based on a single reading, but hundreds of readings, so any inaccurate data do not have a significant effect. TCEQ will be updating their assessment, correcting the error that was found during the study of Double Bayou data.

5. Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Q&A: Linda S. invited everyone to ask or send in more questions. Team members will continue answering some of the questions until they are all answered.

Review: Many attendees felt that going over basic concepts several times is a waste of time for majority of the attendees. The team will consider encouraging new people to come at 5:00 p.m., so the team can catch them up on information without slowing down the rest of the group. As a whole, the question-and-answer session on water quality was liked.

Mapping and Data Collection: Linda S. encouraged everyone to mark up the maps with ideas and corrections.

Next Public Meeting: Returning to third Tuesdays, the next meeting was scheduled for February 18, 2014.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned early, at 7:00 p.m.