

Texas Watershed Planning Short Course

Course Agenda – August 17-21, 2009

Monday, August 17, 2009

Facilitator: Kevin Wagner

- 11:00 – 1:00 pm **Registration (Distribute Knowledge Assessment)**
A pre-course examination will determine the knowledge level of each participant prior to going through the course. The pre-course exam results will be compared to the post-course exam results to assess course impact/knowledge gained.
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm **Introduction..... K. Wagner**
This session will provide the group (1) the opportunity to introduce themselves and the watersheds they are working in, (2) information on facilities and ground rules, (3) an overview of the course, its purpose and structure and (4) a brief discussion of *The Best Watershed-Based Plans in the Nation* and its implications on the training. It will also provide an introduction to the watershed planning process as described in Chapter 2 of EPA's *Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters (Handbook)* and briefly discuss why plans should be developed, how watershed protection plans (WPPs) interact with other water resources planning processes, and background on watershed plans/planning.
- 2:00 – 2:30 pm **Nine Elements of a Watershed Protection Plan Crocker**
Provide an in-depth overview of the Nine Elements to be included in a WPP as outlined in Chapter 2 of the *Handbook*.
- 2:30 – 3:30 pm **Perspectives on WPPsPanel**
A panel composed of Phil Crocker (EPA), Aaron Wendt (TSSWCB), Kerry Niemann (TCEQ), and Ken Banks (City of Denton) will discuss (1) the goals and importance of WPPs, (2) how WPPs fit into local, state and federal objectives and interact with other local, state and federal programs, and (3) current issues affecting watershed planning efforts.
- 3:30 – 3:50 pm **Break**
- 3:50 – 5:15 pm **Working with Stakeholders to Move the Process ForwardMacPherson**
Stakeholders form the backbone of your watershed planning effort. Learn tips on how to get off on the right foot and keep the energy going throughout your watershed planning and implementation program. Topics to be addressed include: determining who needs to be involved, making meetings count, diffusing conflict, making decisions using a consensus-based approach, and sustaining the stakeholder group. This session will focus on Chapter 3 of the *Handbook*.
- 6:45 pm **Dinner**
- 8:00 – 9:00 pm
(optional) **Q & A Dictson**
This session provides participants new to the watershed protection planning process the opportunity to discuss issues and questions regarding partnership building, the nine key elements, and WPP perspectives with other watershed coordinators, EPA, TCEQ and TSSWCB. Participants will also review a list of commonly used acronyms in watershed planning.

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Facilitator: Nikki Dictson

- 8:00 – 8:45 am **Breakfast**
- 8:45 – 9:30 am **Partnership Building Experiences in Plum Creek..... Dictson**
Experiences in Plum Creek watershed with getting local involvement, announcing meetings, setting up the committee and subcommittees, publicizing the effort, what needs to be discussed/decided at each meeting, and timelines will be discussed. Sample invitation letters, ground rules, press releases, and other materials will be provided.
- 9:30 – 10:15 am **Defining the Scope of the WPPWendt**
This session will discuss identifying issues of concern, developing preliminary goals, and selecting indicators of environmental conditions as outlined in Chapter 4 of the *Handbook*.
- 10:15 – 10:35 am **Break**
- 10:35 – 11:45 am **Gathering data to assess your watershed..... Dictson/K. Wagner**
What data do you need? Where do you find the data? How do you get info from TCEQ and other agencies? This session will examine (1) materials from Chapters 5-6 of the *Handbook*; (2) how GIS may be used for watershed analysis, source identification and watershed characterization; and (3) sources of data in Texas and how best to obtain it.
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm **Lunch**
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm **Using Outreach to Develop & Implement WPPs - Element E.....MacPherson**
Outreach is a powerful tool to get stakeholders involved early in the planning process, promoting behavior change in the watershed, and enhancing the implementation of your management strategies in the watershed. Learn tips and tools to conduct effective outreach without breaking the bank. This session will focus on Chapter 12.2 of the *Handbook*.
- 2:00 – 3:10 pm **Analyzing Data to Characterize Your WatershedDavenport**
How do you analyze your data? What tools are available? Is modeling needed? This session will concentrate on materials from Chapters 7 and 8.1-8.2 of the *Handbook* in order to provide the group an understanding of the methods/options available for analyzing watershed data and estimating pollutant loads. Simplistic methods for calculating loads and assessing sources will be presented. The session will also examine refining goals, identifying management objectives, and determining load reductions needed as described in Chapter 9 of the *Handbook*.
- 3:10 – 3:30 pm **Break**
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm **The Good, the Bad, and the UglyMacPherson**
Participants will learn techniques to improve their outreach materials and critique samples to determine their effectiveness in reaching the audience and communicating the message.

4:30 – 5:00 pm	Revising the Texas Water Quality StandardsJ. Davenport What can watershed groups do if they think, after completing data analysis for Element A, that the water quality standards are not appropriate and it might be advisable to do a Use Attainability Analysis? This session will outline the steps that must take place as well as the status of current triennial standards review, especially as related to standard for contact recreation/bacteria.
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Web-Based Tools for Watershed Assessment & Management McDonnell Web-based tools available from EPA to support watershed planning will be reviewed.
6:00 – 6:30 pm	Expectations for Element ALamb The expectations for and an example of Element A will be reviewed and discussed to provide the group an understanding of what is necessary to identify causes and sources of water quality impairments and concerns.
6:45 pm	Dinner
8:00 – 9:00 pm (optional)	Q & A McDonnell This session provides participants the opportunity to discuss issues and questions regarding Web-based tools to support watershed planning.

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Facilitator: Kevin Wagner

8:00 – 8:45 am	Breakfast
8:45 – 10:00 am	Overview of Models for Estimating Pollutant Loads & ReductionsHauck If modeling is needed, what models are available and how do you select a model? This session will present materials from Chapter 8.3-8.5 of the <i>Handbook</i> to give the group an overview of the models available, expectations for what each model can deliver (i.e. what you can and cannot get from them), costs, and factors to consider when selecting models (i.e. timelines and data needs for complex watershed models).
10:00 – 10:30 am	Simple Tools for Estimating Loads and Load Reductions..... Kenimer This session will demonstrate how to use load duration curves (LDC) to determine needed pollutant load reductions and assess potential sources of the pollutants.
10:30 – 12:00 pm	Water Quality Monitoring: Harmel/Banks Practical Guidelines & Lessons Learned An overview of the how to use automated samplers and data sondes will be discussed. Practical guidance on installation and operation will be presented along with information on difficulties encountered and data uncertainty.
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Expectations for Element BWendt The expectations for Element B will be reviewed and discussed to provide the group with an understanding of the level of detail and effort needed to determine

‘acceptable’ pollutant loadings, and whether or not load reductions are needed to reach acceptable levels.

- 1:30 – 2:00 pm **Pollutant Fate and Transport Mechanisms..... Kenimer**
Knowing the fate and transport mechanisms of the pollutant(s) being addressed will help decision-makers select the most appropriate BMPs for their watershed. This session will discuss the fate and transport mechanisms for major pollutants encountered in the state and what types of practices are most appropriate for addressing them.
- 2:00 – 2:45 pm **Urban NPS Measures Davenport**
This session will provide an overview of (1) urban NPS measures, (2) how to develop a preliminary list of urban BMPs to address the issues of concern, (3) finding information on the effectiveness of urban BMPs, (4) estimating BMP implementation costs; and (5) stormwater permitting.
- 2:45 – 3:30 pm **Agricultural NPS Measures K. Wagner**
Agricultural NPS measures in Texas are typically implemented through the SWCDs, TSSWCB, and NRCS as part of a Water Quality Management Plan or Resource Management System. This session provides an overview of (1) agricultural BMPs and these plans, (2) how to develop a preliminary list of agricultural BMPs to address the issues of concern, (3) finding information on the effectiveness of agricultural BMPs, and (4) estimating BMP implementation costs.
- 3:30 – 3:50 pm **Break**
- 3:50 – 4:30 pm **Wastewater Treatment Systems Lesikar**
This session provides a brief overview of wastewater treatment systems (WWTFs and OSSFs), their impacts, and effectiveness in removing pollutants.
- 4:30 – 5:00 pm **Wastewater Issues James**
Learn how to help identify and address wastewater treatment system issues in your watershed.
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm **Texas Watershed Steward Program and Online Modules..... Dictson**
This session provides an overview of the Texas Watershed Steward Program, a sciences-based, watershed education designed to help citizens identify and take action to address local water quality issues. Online Educational Modules on wastewater treatment plants, onsite wastewater treatment systems and fats, oils, and grease. Incorporation of this program into WPP efforts empowers stakeholders by providing them with the knowledge to make informed decisions about water resources.
- 6:00 – 6:15 pm **Using Volunteer Monitoring For Assessment and Outreach..... Pinchback**
This session provides an overview of Texas Stream Team (formerly Texas Watch), a statewide network of volunteers, partners, and institutions that promote a healthy and safe environment through education, data collection, and community action. This session will describe how voluntary efforts such as Texas Stream Team may be a valuable component to any WPP.
- 6:45 pm **Dinner**

Thursday, August 20, 2009

Facilitator: Eric Mendelman

- 8:00 – 8:45 am **Breakfast**
- 8:45 – 9:30 am **Cedar Creek Reservoir Case Study Wolfe**
This session will discuss evaluating and selecting management practices for Cedar Creek Reservoir. Session will also discuss developing decision criteria and summarizing evaluation results for presentation to stakeholders, obtaining feedback from stakeholders, ranking preferences, and selecting the final management strategy.
- 9:30 – 10:30 am **Overview and Expectations for Element C Lamb**
This session will provide a discussion of expectations for Element C as well as steps to select management practices as described in Chapter 10 of the *Handbook*.
- 10:30 – 10:50 am **Break**
- 10:50 – 12:00 pm **Targeting Critical Areas and Scheduling Implementation Davenport**
To achieve the most effective and immediate benefit, BMP implementation must be targeted to the most critical areas. This session discusses the targeting of control measures and the importance of this effort to the ultimate success of the WPP. This session also discusses scheduling implementation efforts (Element F) as described in the final management strategy (Chapter 12.3 of the *Handbook*).
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm **Lunch**
- 1:00 – 1:45 pm **Developing Interim Milestones & Criteria to Measure Progress Davenport**
This component of the WPP is where you define in realistic terms how you will determine (1) if you are on track and making progress or not, (2) how/when you evaluate your progress, and (3) what to do if watershed improvements are not on track. This session will discuss developing interim measurable milestones (Element G) and establishing a set of criteria to measure progress (Element H) toward meeting water quality goals as presented in Chapter 12.4-12.5 of the *Handbook*.
- 1:45 – 2:45 pm **Designing & Implementing Effectiveness Monitoring – Element I Hauck**
This session will provide guidance on developing Element I as described in Chapter 12.6 of the *Handbook*. Selecting an appropriate experimental design that incorporates previous and ongoing monitoring efforts will be discussed.
- 2:45 – 3:05 pm **Break**
- 3:05 – 3:35 pm **Expectations for Element D Lamb**
This session will discuss expectations for Element D which describes the financial and technical assistance needs and identifies the sources/authorities that will be relied on for implementation as described in Chapter 12.7 of the *Handbook* (Element D). Funding sources in Texas will be discussed along with match requirements and the mechanisms for requesting it.
- 3:35 – 4:20 pm **Hickory Creek – Implementation Strategies for BMPs Banks**
This session will provide an overview of the Watershed Protection Plan for Hickory Creek, with specific emphasis on approaches for implementing

“optimized” best management practices (BMPs) using cost-benefit approaches and stakeholder input. Specific examples of implementation strategies using BMP optimization at a variety of difference spatial scales will be presented. The analytical framework used in the Hickory Creek plan provides a good example for watershed coordinators to achieve the expectations for Element D.

- 4:20 – 5:15 pm **Watershed Protection Plan Implementation in Oklahoma..... Phillips**
 This session will focus on watershed protection plan development and implementation efforts in Oklahoma, their experiences, and lessons learned.
- 5:15 – 6:15 pm **Other Approaches to Managing Pollutant Sources Jacob**
 In addition to conventional treatment methods, other options exist for achieving water quality protection and improvement. Among these are low impact development, urban planning and zoning, and development and protection of wetlands and riparian areas. This session will discuss these and other approaches and how to incorporate them into WPPs.
- 6:45 pm **Dinner**
- 8:00 – 9:00 pm
 (optional) **Q & A**
 This session will be optional and open to the questions on the “discussion board”.

Friday, August 21, 2009

Facilitator: Nikki Dictson

- 8:00 – 8:45 am **Breakfast**
- 8:45 – 10:30 am **Sustaining Watershed Groups for Implementation Success Jarocki**
 This session will provide an overview of Plan2Fund, Plan2Fund OPT, and the Directory of Watershed Resources developed by the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Network for helping implement watershed plans.
- 10:30 – 10:50 am **Break**
- 10:50 – 11:15 am **Putting It All Together Dictson**
 This session will discuss assembling a WPP, gaining stakeholder approval, submitting the WPP for state and federal review, developing an evaluation framework and devising a method for tracking progress as described in Chapter 12.8-12.11 of the *Handbook*.
- 11:15 – 11:45 am **Implementing Your WPP – Arroyo Colorado Case StudyC. Wagner**
 This session will focus on Arroyo Colorado watershed protection plan implementation efforts built upon the stakeholder efforts and partnerships developed during the WPP development process. Topics include implementation strategies, adaptive management, and approaches to addressing long-term sustainability of your WPP (i.e. grant writing, developing 501(c)(3), merging/collaborating with existing organizations and creating community level commitment).
- 11:45 – 12:00 pm **National Perspectives on Watershed Group Organization Berg**
 As watershed protection efforts move beyond planning stages, transition to implementation and maintaining public involvement raise some challenges with

implications on long-term sustainability. By keeping an eye on watershed groups across the nation, we can learn what approaches may (and may not) pay off.

12:00 – 12:05 pm **Course Wrap-Up..... K. Wagner**

12:05 – 12:30 pm **Knowledge Assessment/Course Evaluation**
A post-course examination will be distributed and the results compared to the pre-course exam in order to determine course impact and knowledge gained. A course evaluation will also be distributed to gain feedback on how to improve the course.

12:30 pm **Adjourn; Lunch**
Certificates will be distributed as the class turns in their post-course exam and course evaluations.