

texas watershed planning training

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Comprehensive watershed protection plans that outline ways to preserve or restore watersheds are a voluntary and accepted approach to protecting Texas surface waters. Using a watershed approach to restore impaired water bodies addresses the problems in a holistic manner, and stakeholders in the watershed are actively involved in developing the management strategies and plans.

Proper training of watershed coordinators and water professionals is needed to ensure that watershed protection efforts are adequately planned, coordinated and implemented, and results are properly assessed and reported.

The **Texas Watershed Planning Training** project provides the needed training and promotes sustainable proactive approaches to managing water quality throughout the state. The main course is the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course and is weeklong course that provides participants with guidance on stakeholder coordination, education and outreach; meeting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) nine key elements of a watershed protection plan; data collection and analysis; and the tools available for plan development. This information is presented through lectures and case studies.

After completing the short course, participants are invited to attend Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtables, held biannually, to discuss current issues and updates to watershed protection plans, discuss strategies for successful implementation and answer questions or concerns.

Additional workshops are offered to further assist watershed coordinators with effective stakeholder engagement to address watershed issues. The Stakeholder Facilitation Training aims to highlight tools used to effectively identify, engage and involve stakeholders throughout a watershed to restore and maintain healthy environmental conditions. Other courses developed include an Introduction to Modeling training; training on the use of Load Duration Curves (LDC) and the Spatially Explicit Load Enrichment Calculation Tool (SELECT); and Fundamentals of Developing a Water Quality Monitoring Plan.

Objectives

- Develop and conduct three weeklong Texas Watershed Planning Short Courses focused on developing each of the nine key elements of a watershed protection plan
- Host Watershed Coordinator Roundtables biannually
- Coordinate two Stakeholder Facilitation Trainings



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- Develop and conduct two of the following courses: Introduction to Modeling; the use of LDC and the SELECT; and Fundamentals of Developing a Water Quality Monitoring Plan

Accomplishments

- Conducted three Texas Watershed Planning Short Courses with more than 61 participants
- Conducted two Stakeholder Facilitation Trainings with more than 68 participants
- Conducted five Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtables with more than 365 attendees
- Developed three new courses: Introduction to Modeling; Watershed Modeling using LDC and SELECT; and Fundamentals of Developing a Water Quality Monitoring Plan
- Conducted two Introduction to Modeling courses with over 46 attendees
- Conducted two LDC and SELECT Trainings with more than 44 attendees
- Conducted two Fundamentals of Developing a Water Quality Monitoring Trainings with more than 52 attendees
- Educated more than 636 water professionals through the Texas Watershed Planning Training Project from July 2011–November 2013

Collaborators

- Texas Water Resources Institute
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Texas A&M AgriLife Research
- Texas A&M University Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department
- Texas A&M University Spatial Sciences Lab
- Texas Institute of Applied Environmental Research
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Funding Agencies

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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