

watershed planning short course

watershedplanning.tamu.edu

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 Short Course provides the needed training and promotes sustainable proactive approaches to managing water quality throughout the state. This weeklong course 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 bi-annually, to discuss current issues and updates in regards to watershed protection plans, strategies for successful implementation, as well as answer questions or concerns.

Additional workshops are offered to further assist watershed coordinators with watershed management

tools provided by EPA. The Getting In Step Workshop aims to improve the effectiveness of nonpoint source (NPS) outreach in Texas to reduce nonpoint source and stormwater pollution, improve water quality on a priority watershed basis, and facilitate greater NPS Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and watershed-based plan implementation. The Key EPA Internet Tools for Watershed Management course familiarizes users with powerful watershed management tools provided online by EPA.

Objectives

- Develop and conduct four weeklong watershed planning short courses focused on developing each of the nine key elements of a watershed protection plan
- Conduct one weeklong Applied Fluvial Geomorphology (AFG) short course
- Host Watershed Coordinator Roundtables bi-annually
- Coordinate Getting In Step and Key EPA Internet Tools workshops



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Accomplishments

- Held AFG course Jan. 28 - Feb.1,2008 with 44 students participating
- Developed and conducted four Watershed Protection Planning Short Courses with more than 150 participants
- Developed project website
- Conducted four Getting In Step Workshops with more than 100 participants
- Conducted two Key EPA Internet Tools Courses with more than 35 participants
- Conducted three Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtables with more than 150 attendees

Collaborators

- Texas Water Resources Institute
- Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- Texas AgriLife Research
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- River Systems Institute – Texas State University
- Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research

Funding Agencies

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



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