



Perspectives on Watershed Protection Plans Panel Discussion

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Texas Watershed Planning Short Course
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Perspectives on WPPs (Rush/Wendt/Carter/Banks)

- goals & importance of WPPs
- how WPPs fit into local, state & federal objectives & interact with other local, state & federal programs
- current issues affecting watershed planning efforts



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Water Quality in Texas

- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
 - Agricultural & Silvicultural NPS
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
 - Point Source Permitting (WWTF, CAFO, MS4)
 - All other forms of NPS



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Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program



- 5-year strategic plan for managing NPS pollution in Texas
- Required by federal Clean Water Act in order for State to receive §319(h) grant funds from USEPA
- Jointly administered by TSSWCB & TCEQ

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Impetus for WPPs

- State gets ~\$9M in 319(h) monies @ year
 - Equally split between TSSWCB & TCEQ
- EPA 319(h) Grant Guidance promulgated in 2003 describes WPPs & 9 elements
- ½ of 319(h) grant allocation must be used in development or implementation of WPPs for impaired waterbodies

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WPP Program

- CWA §319(h) grants to entities to facilitate WPP development process in specific watersheds
- TSSWCB staff provide technical assistance to local stakeholder groups in developing WPPs to ensure consistency with the 9 elements
- CWA §319(h) grants to implement WPPs

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2008 Texas 303(d) List

- 838 waterbody-pollutant combinations (impairments by AU)
- 387 individual waterbodies impaired
- Need to deal with magnitude of listings through any & all means
 - TMDL, UAA, SWQM, WPP

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Importance of WPPs

- Holistic – protection & restoration
- Coordinated framework of strategies
- Partnerships
- Stakeholder driven = decision-making
- Leverage resources
- Voluntary approach

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WPPs in Texas

TSSWCB Sponsored (red)

- Buck Creek – TWRI & AgriLife
- Concho River – UCRA
- Geronimo Creek – GBRA & AgriLife
- Lake Granger – BRA
- Lampasas River – AgriLife
- Leon River – BRA
- Pecos River – TWRI & AgriLife
- Plum Creek – AgriLife

TCEQ Sponsored (purple)

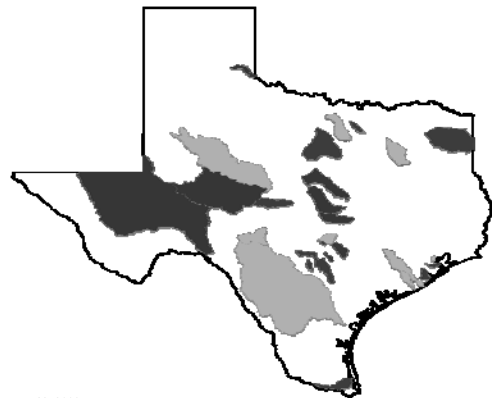
- Arroyo Colorado – TWRI
- Bastrop Bayou – HGAC
- Brady Creek – UCRA
- Caddo Lake – NETMWD
- Cibolo Creek –
- Cypress Creek – RSI
- Dickinson Bayou – TSG
- Lake Granbury – BRA
- Hickory Creek – City of Denton
- Upper San Antonio River – SARA

3rd Party (orange)

- Armand Bayou – TSG & TPL
- Barton Springs – BSEACD
- Caney Creek – CCCF
- Cedar Creek Reservoir – AgriLife & TRWD
- Eagle Mountain Reservoir – AgriLife & TRWD
- Nueces River – USACE
- Upper Colorado River – CRMWD
- San Bernard River – FORSB
- South Llano River – EDF

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Relationship to Major Water Quality Programs In Texas

- Texas NPS Management Program & CWA §319(h) NPS Grants
- Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program & Coastal Management Program
- National Estuary Program & Gulf of Mexico
- Surface Water Quality Monitoring & Texas Clean Rivers Program
- Texas Water Quality Inventory & 303(d) List
- TMDLs & I-Plans
- MOA between TCEQ & TSSWCB regarding TMDLs, I-Plans, & WPPs
- State Water Plan
- Groundwater Management
- Instream Flows & Freshwater Inflows
- Variety of grant programs

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Interaction between TMDLs and WPPs

- Where a TMDL for the affected waters has already been developed & approved or is being developed, the WPP must be designed to achieve the load reductions called for in the TMDL.
- However, where a TMDL has not yet been developed & approved or is not yet being developed for the waters, a WPP may be developed in the absence of the TMDL.
- If a TMDL is completed & approved, the WPP must be modified as appropriate to be consistent with the load allocation contained within the TMDL
- Process to use WPPs as mechanism for reclassifying waterbodies from Category 5 to Category 4b

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TCEQ – TSSWCB MOA



- All WPPs, whether developed before, after, or simultaneously with development of a TMDL for one or more of same waters, will be written or modified to be consistent with load reductions described in TMDL & implementation strategies described in I-Plan
- Neither agency will fund activities to develop a load allocation for a Category 5a impairment through a WPP
- That priority consideration should be given for development of WPPs in watersheds containing Category 5c impairments where a TMDL has not been initiated
- That a WPP under development or implementation will not preclude initiation, development, & establishment of a TMDL
- That TCEQ has a legal responsibility to establish TMDLs in impaired waterbodies & to do so in a timely manner. WPPs to address impairments on the 2006 & future 303(d) lists should be developed within six years after impairment is listed to allow for development of a TMDL within mandated timeframe, should one be necessary

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Issues

- Sustainability
- Tracking & reporting successes & opportunities for improvement
- Adaptive management
- Satisfy & consistent with 9 elements – Federal & State Review
- Training for watershed coordinators – Texas Watershed Planning Short Course
- Training for stakeholders – Texas Watershed Steward Program

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<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>

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