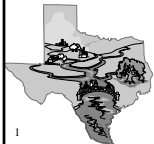


# Watershed Protection Plans – State Perspectives

Texas Watershed Planning Short Course  
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TCEQ



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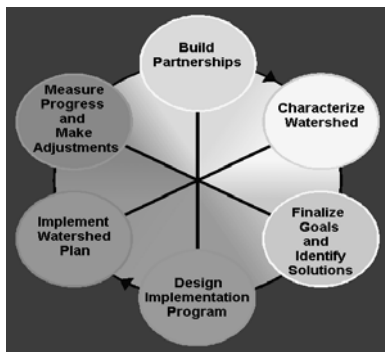
## Introduction: TCEQ Reorganized

- Nonpoint Source (NPS) Team (319h + 604b)
  - > Planning and Implementation Section
    - + TMDL, Bays and Estuaries Programs
  - Important link to TMDL process
  - > Water Quality Planning Division
    - + Monitoring: Clean Rivers, SWQM, Standards, Laboratory
  - > Chief Engineer's Office
  - > Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



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## Watershed Planning Steps



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## Watershed Approach

**The watershed approach is commonly characterized by four principles:**

- Active stakeholder involvement at a local level.
- A specific geographic focus.
- Action driven by environmental objectives and by strong science and data.
- Coordinated priority setting and integrated solutions.



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## Striking a Balance

- Need enough information to understand the problem and measures necessary to achieve goals.
- Balanced approach between gathering information and beginning implementation.
- Preliminary information and estimates will probably need to be modified over time.
- Often will require a number of years of diligent implementation for a project to achieve goals.



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## Issues 1: Priorities

Getting a Handle on an Enormous Task

- Data: Survey Available Data & Ground Truth
- Sources: Largest, Most Easily Measured & Isolated
- Analysis: Get a Handle on Relative Contributions
  - Proportional comparison of known & unknown sources
  - Linkage between source loading and water body load
- Geographic: Identify Critical Areas
  - Riparian and contributing zones
  - Unprotected wetlands and sensitive areas
  - Any concentration of potential sources
  - Any area vulnerable to primary stressors



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## Issue 2: Get Help!

### Getting a Handle on Information and Process

- Data Sources: TCEQ, River Authorities, Other Agencies, ...
- Ground Truth: Diverse Stakeholders
- Analysis: TCEQ, Universities, Consultants, Other WPP Lead Organizations, ...
- Planning: Councils of Government, River Authorities, ...
- Facilitation of Stakeholder Process



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## Issues 3

### Sustainability of the watershed effort

- Watershed Coordinator
- Dedicated public or nonprofit organization
- Diverse ongoing & temporary funding sources

### Sustainability of the state program effort

- Tracking and reporting successes and opportunities for improvement (PAMs, 303(d), 4b)
- Adaptive management



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## Key References

- Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect our Waters  
[http://www.epa.gov/nps/watershed\\_handbook/](http://www.epa.gov/nps/watershed_handbook/)
- 2004 NPS Program and Grants Guidelines  
<http://www.epa.gov/EPA-WATER/2003/October/Day-23/w26755.htm>



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## Questions

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