

Upper Llano Watershed Protection Plan Coordinating Committee Meeting #2 Summary February 21, 2013

Coordination Committee Members Present

Dandy Kothmann, Ward Whitworth, Tom Vandivier, Souli Shanklin, Andy Murr, Marty Graham, Marvin Ensor, Bob Lyons, Marvin Ivy, Znobias Wootan, Brady Richardson, Lynne Richardson (alternate), Daryl Stanley (alternate), Melissa Parker, and Jerry Kirby

Updates on Activities and Review of Water Quality Data

Emily Seldomridge, TTU Llano River Field Station

- The Research Team is conducting the third quarterly sampling through February 28th. Sampling includes water quality, flow, fish and macroinvertebrate monitoring, and habitat assessment.
- Water quality from the previous two quarters indicates the Llano River is in a healthy condition. Threats of *E. coli* were present at two sites, but this is expected during drought conditions at sites with large livestock, deer, and hog populations. A guide to understanding water quality conditions and standards will be reviewed in the upcoming newsletter.
- Save the dates for future events:
 - March 8: Texas Water Symposium
 - March 9: 700 Springs Tour
 - April 6: Wise Living Event/Texas Trash Off
 - April 20: South Llano Watershed Alliance Water Conservation Seminar
 - June 1: Texas Well Owner Network
 - Watershed Tour: Details coming soon
- The Llano River Field Station is now online at: www.depts.ttu.edu/junction/lrfs, or like us on Facebook: Texas Tech University at Junction.

Finalization of Coordination Committee

Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute

- The Coordination Committee edited and approved the Ground Rules. In addition to a number of minor edits, the committee made the following major edits:
 - The Committee shall attempt to make decisions by consensus to the maximum extent possible. If consensus cannot be reached, then a two-thirds affirmative vote of Committee members present or represented by proxy will be required to make a decision, pass an action, etc.

- A quorum of the Coordination Committee shall be a simple majority of the Committee Membership. At least a quorum shall be necessary to conduct any business of the Committee.
- The finalized Ground Rules will be available for viewing at www.southllano.org.
- Carl Teaff, Sonora County Commissioner, and Bob Malone, President of Sonora Bank and Former CEO of BP, were voted to be invited onto the Coordination Committee.

Demonstration of brush removal criteria for water supply enhancement

Ken Rainwater, TTU Water Resources Center

- EDYS, a hydrologic model, will be calibrated and used to simulate future behaviors of the watershed based on different hydrologic and land management practices.
- The selected model, EDYS, will prioritize BMP (best management practices) zones by proximity to the riparian area, relative distance to the outlet of the watershed, and soil classes relative to potential runoff. Spring Creek Watershed near Barksdale, TX was presented as an example for the potential information gained from the EDYS model.
- In the Upper Llano Watershed, the TTU-Junction campus will serve as a demonstration area for viewing BMPs. Together with EDYS model projections, the demonstration area will provide an example of the potential benefits of land management practices. This will be highlighted in the implementation portion of the WPP.

Prioritization of Watershed Issues

Tom Arsuffi, TTU Llano River Field Station

- Coordination Committee members prioritized the watershed issues outlined in South Llano Watershed Alliance's Watershed Conservation Plan (2012). Previously identified issues included: Determining water availability: groundwater/surface water interaction; water use: surface water and groundwater; water quality; protection of tributaries and small creeks; aquatic habitat; riparian habitat; fragmentation; land stewardship; wildfire and drought.
- The top 3 priority issues identified by the Committee were: 1) water use: surface and ground water, 2) riparian habitat, 3) incentive for brush management and land stewardship.
- The next Committee meeting will focus on water use: surface and ground water with a goal of identifying possible solutions to be included in the implementation plan. Quarterly Committee meetings will address the prioritized watershed issues until solutions are developed for each issue.