



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Upper Trinity River Basin Coordinating Committee

Thursday, February 15, 2018

9:30 AM, Regional Forum Room

NCTCOG Offices, CPII

616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011

1. Welcome and Introductions

Tamara Cook (NCTCOG) welcomed the group and introduced Dania Grundman of the TCEQ, who spoke on the background leading to the creation of the Upper Trinity River Basin Coordination Committee (UTRBCC).

TCEQ discussed how the EPA developed a strategy to address water quality issues in a basin-wide approach. The EPA, through the TCEQ, brought together cities, non-profits, and water authorities, to determine the best way of approaching bacterial impairments in the Upper Trinity River watersheds. The Committee began meeting three years ago and now meets bi-annually. Meetings include updates on WPPs and coordinated water quality improvement efforts at the local level, as part of the regular agenda.

2. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Faith Hambleton

Overview of the Non-Point Source 319 Program.

TCEQ discussed the 319 non-point source grants, authorized through the Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, and administered by TCEQ and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. TCEQ releases a *Request for Grant Applications* and application guide on June 1st of every year. Applications are accepted through July 31st of the same year. Applicants of this competitive grant may request 60% of the project funding needs and must secure the other 40% of funds through non-federal sources (i.e. state, local, non-monetary). Examples of eligible projects include Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) development and implementation, stream characterization, and BMP installation. For more information on the 319 grant program, please visit the TCEQ website [here](#).

3. Texas A&M AgriLife, Dr. Fouad Jaber

Summary of the proposed Rowlett Creek Characterization Project.

Texas A&M AgriLife and Southern Methodist University will be collaborating with the City of Plano to characterize Rowlett Creek. The project was approved to receive 319 funding and is set to begin in September of 2018. The characterization will take place over a three year period. Auto-samplers will be installed to collect

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stream flow data and measure Nitrogen, Phosphorous, dissolved Oxygen, and total suspended solids. At the conclusion of the creek characterization, the partners will request a second grant from the 319 program to develop a WPP.

4. Texas Stream Team, Michael Jones Program updates and upcoming activities.

The Texas Stream Team (TST) presented on the various Citizen Scientist programs they offer and discussed their plans to conduct more trainings in the North Central Texas area. The current TST data viewer will be replaced by a more user friendly version later in 2018, and a phone application will be made available.

The TST is currently creating a fundraising packet that can be used by organizations attempting to start or grow their local Citizen Scientist program. In addition, the TST offers grant writing assistance or letters of support for fundraising efforts.

The TST recently completed data reports for the Rowlett Creek and White Rock Creek Watersheds. The two reports will be made public after final approval from the TCEQ.

5. Project Updates

Member discussion of on-going and planned activities.

- North Central Texas Council of Governments – Mayra Lopez

The NCTCOG has several upcoming events related to the TMDL program for 2018: a TST workshop is scheduled for March 6th, from 9 am to 11:30 am; an Urban Wildlife Webinar tentatively scheduled for the end of March; and an On Site Sewage Facility Real Estate Inspector workshop, tentatively scheduled for June.

The NCTCOG is currently updating the Water Quality Management Plan and drafting the Annual I-Plan Status Report. NCTCOG staff requested that members complete the TMDL program questionnaire sent to them via email.

For the Stormwater Program, the committee was made aware that the Social Media Toolkit, created through the Public Education Task Force, is now available and ready for use. Updates to the Pollution Prevention videos are being done and the cooperative purchase is currently underway. The Stormwater Monitoring Program sampling is scheduled begin at the beginning of April.

The NCTCOG collected a total of 1487 gallons of grease during their annual Holiday Grease Roundup, held between November 27th, 2017, and January 8th, 2018. The new Defend Your Drains (DYD) Facebook page is now



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available and the NCTCOG staff is currently restructuring the main DYD page to improve the content, ease of use, and aesthetics.

- City of Fort Worth – Casey Nettles

Fort Worth is conducting a partial characterization project for Sycamore Creek. Four sampling events were completed in November/December of 2017. A total of 92 samples were collected from 24 sample sites, which revealed several hotspots. Next steps for Sycamore Creek include the development of a Bacteria Management Plan, spring sampling events, and summer/spring workshops. A public meeting will be held in June 2018 to address public comments on the Sycamore Creek TMDL draft.

- North Texas Municipal Water District – Galen Roberts

After addressing public comments, the NTMWD submitted the Lavon Lake WPP to the EPA. The WPP was accepted without changes. NTMWD met with stakeholders to discuss next steps. They are currently conducting community outreach and education efforts and will also continue to monitor 20 sample sites.

- City of Dallas – Nusrat Munir

Dallas recently completed a wetland sampling project. The City is currently waiting for their stormwater permit approval by TCEQ.

- Tarrant Regional Water District – Tina Hendon

The Eagle Mountain WPP is presently in the implementation phase – a process that began in 2012, when the Eagle Mountain Lake Initiative agreement was first signed. The TRWD and its partners are currently implementing BMPs through landowners to reduce nutrient and sediment loadings into the lake, as recommended in the WPP. A total of 56 individual contracts have been approved, totaling \$460,000.

TRWD also hosted 13 education events in 2017 that catered to a broad spectrum of audiences and plans on conducting more event throughout 2018.

- Trinity River Authority – Aaron Hoff

The data collection and analysis has been complete for Village Creek.

The public comment period is scheduled for May 2018. A final draft of the TMDL will likely be submitted to TCEQ by August 2018.

TRA will be conducting a stratification study and characterization for Joe Pool Lake from 2018 to 2020. Fourteen sample sites will be monitored monthly, and an additional 6 sites will be monitored during high flow events.

6. Funding Opportunities Roundtable

Discussion of funding opportunities available.

The NCTCOG presented a list of federal, state, local, and foundation sources with funding opportunities. The committee requested the list be expanded upon and continually updated.

7. Schedule the Next Meeting

- Next Meeting August 2018

8. Adjournment

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Mayra Lopez at (817) 608-2360, or by email at mlopez@nctcog.org.

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Crysta Guzman by phone at (817) 695-9217 or by email at cguzman@nctcog.org, 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.