Plum Creek Watershed Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
Lockhart, Texas
February 19, 2009

Meeting Overview and Introductions
Nikki Dictson
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Update on Implementation Projects
Matt Berg and Nikki Dictson
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
and
Jeff Watts
Caldwell County AGNR Extension Agent

Urban Stormwater Update
Pet Waste Stations
- Kyle has selected locations for 5 stations will be installed at Steeplechase Park by March 7
- Additional locations planned for Gregg-Clark Park

Pet Waste Stations
- In Lockhart, stations were approved and 6 were installed at locations including 4 pocket parks within the city
- No stations have been installed in Buda or Luling

Street Sweeping
- All cities now have active street sweeping programs

Urban Stormwater Update
Urban Stormwater Update

Kyle 319(h) Project
- City developing contracts to retrofit detention basins
- City developing contracts to conduct stormwater assessment

Urban Stormwater Update

Luling Retention Pond Rehabilitation
- Resolved some issues regarding funding options
- Identified landowner
- Will approach landowner via ranch manager to gauge interest in project

Wastewater Update

Luling Clean Water SRF Application
- Submitted to Texas Water Development Board
- Packaged with other city needs, including extending sewer service to additional homes and trunk lines
- *Includes belt press for Luling North wastewater treatment plant
- Will improve function at facility
- Waiting to hear on status of funding

Agriculture Update

Water Quality Management Plans
- Position opened through Caldwell-Travis SWCD
- Position announcement to be closed February 27

Soil and Water Testing Campaign
- 60 samples collected from Caldwell County, 0 from Hays County
- All 60 samples were soil; no water samples

Agriculture Update

Crop Management Seminars
- Brush and Forage Seminar for Bastrop and Caldwell Counties on Dec 9, 2008
- Multi-county program January 28, 2009 in Harwood

Livestock Grazing Management Seminars
- Emergency Drought for Beef Cattle program on February 12, 2009

Feral Hog Update

Feral Hog Control
- Original proposal denied 319(h) funding
- Waiting for decision on recent proposal

Feral Hog Education
- Developing position announcement, determining office location
- Developed draft materials for website, reporting system
- Feral Hog Management Seminar February 24 in Luling
Update on Plum Creek Outreach and Education 106 Grant Project

Debbie Magin and Lee Gudgell
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
and
Nikki Dictson
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Plum Creek Outreach and Education 106 Grant Project with TCEQ

- Received $150,000 in September 2007
- Watershed Protection Campaign Brochure – 5,000
- NEMO – Urban Growth Workshops – 2 held in 2008
- 4 Online Modules: Wastewaters Treatment Process and OSSF Modules are complete; Fats, Oils, and Grease Module is underway and Stormwater Mgmt will follow;
- Septic System Workshops – 2 held in 2008.
- Illegal Dumping/Litter Campaign – 6 sites in Caldwell County and 3 sites in Hays County
- TCEQ Site Assessment Visits – 3 in 2008
- TCEQ Fats, Oils, and Grease Workshops

Wastewater Treatment Process Educational Module

- Wastewater Treatment Process Module is complete and available online. It was advertised by email and over 760 post cards that were mailed out.
- The WWTP Module has also received an award from the Water Environment Association of Texas – 2008 Presidential Award for Outstanding Effort Towards Public Outreach and Communication.
- This award was presented to GBRA on December 17, 2008 at their Board Meeting
- The module was recently used by WEAT at a Legislative Briefing at the Capital with over 50 in attendance.

Onsite Septic System Module

- Onsite Septic System Module is ready to be launched and is available online in English and Spanish.
- It will be advertised by email and over 760 post cards will be mailed out to elected officials, school teachers, board members, and stakeholders.
- Door hangers and magnets are being printed that will be sent out to designated representatives and maintenance providers to hand out to the homeowners.
Fats, Oils, and Grease and Stormwater Management Educational Modules

- Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Module is in the early stages of development.
- Fats, Oils, and Grease Workshops are going to be scheduled for the summer of 2009.
- Stormwater Management Module will be developed next.

Site Assessment Visits (SAVs)

- In October 2008 SAVs were conducted at both of the City of Lockhart wastewater treatment facilities and at the Luling water treatment facility.
- Currently, visits are planned for the following:
  - Kyle WWTP and at the City of Kyle on March 19, 2009.
  - The Buda wastewater treatment facility and at the City of Buda are scheduled for March 25, 2009.
  - TCEQ is also in the process of contacting the Cities of Luling and Lockhart as well as organizing a visit to GBRA's Shadow Creek wastewater treatment facility.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Workshops

- The following workshops will be held at the Hays County Extension Office in San Marcos:
  - May 27, 2009 - Homeowner training on Aerobic Treatment Systems
  - June 23, 2009 - Homeowner training on Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems
  - July 28, 29, and 30 (Tuesday - Thursday) – Three day Train the Trainer Workshop on Aerobic Treatment Systems
- The following workshops will be held at the Caldwell County Extension Office in Lockhart:
  - May 28, 2009 all day - An Advanced Training for OSSF Practitioners
  - June 24, 2009 all day - A Homeowner Training on Aerobic Treatment Systems

OSSF Assistance in Hays County

- Hays County is very interested in building partnerships to repair, replace or connect OSSF to WWTP and apply for an ORCA grant this year.
- The Hays County Water and Wastewater Regional Study to help prioritize locations.
- A wastewater work group is being formed to work on this issue in Hays County.

Outreach and Education with 106 Grant Funding Continued

- TCEQ Fats, Oils, and Grease Workshops are in the process of being coordinated
- Site Assessment Visits have been scheduled for the
  - Luling Water Treatment Plant
  - GBRA Managed Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility
Lockhart Town Branch Community Cleanup
- Lockhart Community Cleanup occurred on Sept. 20 from 9:00am -1:00pm
- Cleanup of five City of Lockhart Parks along Town Branch over 350 in attendance
- Environmental Fair and local Band played
- Planning Meetings have started for the September 19, 2009 Cleanup.

City of Kyle - Plum Creek Watershed Community Parks Cleanup
- Kyle Community Cleanup planned for March 7, 2009 from 9:00am -1:00pm
- The cleanup is planned for Steeplechase Park, areas around Lehman High School, Fuentes Elementary, and area subdivisions.
- Environmental Fair and Entertainment
- Planning Meetings have started for the Cleanup.

School Water Quality Project
- Program continues; expanded to 7 schools in the Plum Creek Watershed
- Service Learning grant continues in Lockhart and Luling ISDs
- High schools in Lockhart have River Pals mentoring 5th grade students in water quality monitoring

Urban Sector Turf & Landscape Management
- Jim McAfee, Extension Specialist at the Dallas Urban Center will be providing a SAFE Training for those in the Plum Creek Watershed.
- Training is tentatively scheduled for March 25, 2009 in San Marcos at the Hays County Extension Office.
- SAFE includes morning indoors instruction and than an afternoon field irrigation audit.

501(c)3 Nonprofits – Experience as Director of San Marcos River Foundation
Diane Wassenich
Director of San Marcos River Foundation
Water Quality Data from Routine Stations

Matt Berg
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Update on Plum Creek Watershed Signs

Matt Berg
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Road Sign Response

TxDOT has received numerous requests for signs to be installed identifying aquifer recharge zones and watershed boundaries. These types of signs do not give a motorist route information or call on the motorist to perform any particular act and are therefore considered unnecessary as it relates to the driving task.

In 1999, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) undertook an initiative to identify and remove unnecessary, outdated or obsolete signs. We believed then, as we do now, that the only signs that should be placed on the state highway system are those that provide real benefit to the motorist.

TxDOT districts have been directed not to install new roadway signs indicating aquifer or watershed boundaries on the state roadway system.

Discussion on the Potential of Billboards

Nikki Dictson
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Billboards

- Contacted 4 billboard vendors in the watershed and received quotes and availability
- Monthly prices range from $250 to $2500 per month depending on location and size
- There are a lot of billboards available in the area
- Willing to work with clients to get a 12 month contract

Capital Billboards Quote
Update on Caldwell County Regional Water And Wastewater Planning
Debbie Magin
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Update on Hays and Caldwell County Greenprinting Projects
Nikki Dictson
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Central Texas Greenprint for Growth

I was invited and so were many of you to the Stakeholder meeting on October 23, 2008
A new project coordinated by:
- Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG)
- The Trust for Public Land
- Envision Central Texas
I was also invited to be on the Technical Advisory Team and meeting on Oct. 24.
Project will take the next 18 months

Central Texas Greenprint for Growth

Greenprint Timeline:
- 2005 – Travis County Greenprint initiated by Trust for Public Lands (TPL) in coordination with Travis County, City of Austin, University of Texas, and Envision Central Texas (ECT)
- 2006 – Completed Travis County Greenprint
- 2007 – Fundraising begins for Central Texas Greenprint
- 2008 – HIIA awards $115,000 to CAPCOG, TPL, and ECT to expand the Greenprint to include Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, and Caldwell Counties

Central Texas Greenprint for Growth

Travis County Conservation Priorities

Overall Travis Conservation Priorities

What happens next?
- Phase I: July – September 09: Develop a model for the entire county, inventory existing resources, and develop a weighted hierarchy delineating priority areas and lean areas in the county. Create Regional Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Team and County Working Groups
- Phase II: September – October 09: Conduct working small group meetings in each county to identify resource needs and identify priorities
- Phase III: November – March 09: Develop an interactive model that defines and prioritizes the conservation needs in each county based on local weighting of goals
- Phase IV: January – February 09: Present model for review by stakeholders and finalize model
- Phase V: June – August 09: Place the model online and publish final report

Next Steps

Nikki Dictson
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
PCWP Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2009
6:00 to 9:00 pm
Lockhart State Park, Lockhart