

2022 GBRA Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Clean Rivers Program Overview

UGRA

- Quarterly sampling at 12 sites, 6 monthly sites
- CRP: 20 sampling events, 17 sites, 1077 parameters sampling
- 12/13-11/20: Johnson creek habitat impairment, Town creek, Quinlan creek, and camp meeting bacteria impairments.
- Bacteria reduction plan implementation status
 - Additional focus on riparian areas
 - Invasive species program
 - Promote green infrastructure
- Education outreach with the CRP. More starting in 2022.

WVWA

- 10 quarterly and 2 monthly sites with MCWE
- State of the Hill Country report
- Cypress creek project, Jacob's well GMZ permit planning guide.
 - Limits permits for protecting spring flow and groundwater supplies
- 2 new monitor wells in Jacob's Well groundwater management zone.
- Monitor 11 volunteer E. coli sites in cypress creek and Blanco River.
- Finalized 74 acres adjacent to Coleman's Canyon Preserve in November 2021
- Transition to Texas Land Application permit (TLAP) through TCEQ to transition from direct discharge into Blanco River.
- Sacred Springs Kite Exhibition at Austin Public Library to raise awareness of Texas' springs

Watershed Protection Plan Updates

MCWE

- Lower cypress creek pilot project: Assessment of E. coli Bacteria and optical brighteners
 - Developing protocol for fluorometric scale data collecting
 - Tampling found fluorescence observed at all sites for all events and treatments.
 - Bacteria higher downstream of RR12, lowest at most upstream sites
- Lower cypress creek pilot project results
 - 9 sites sampled, 7 exceed the standard 126MPN/100mL
 - Midstream sites higher in late summer/fall 2021 decreasing though Mar 2022
 - Same for the upstream and downstream sites. Correlated with rainfall
- Continuing 8 sites bi-monthly basis.
- Request access to spring on private property
- Continue to investigate ways to discern bacteria sources
- Continue to track connections to central collection system

Upper San Marcos River Watershed

- TCEQ Implementation Phase I – Riparian restoration outreach programs
 - Sessom Creek Natural Area riparian and stream restoration (Complete Fall 2022)
 - Vegetative filter strips complete
 - TPWD recreational trails grant- design phase wrap up late 2022
- Stream Team 2021 Activity
 - 67 active sites, 922 sampling events, 31 trainings
 - 4 upcoming training events for Standard Core

Plum Creek Watershed

- 2021-2022 updates
 - 2022 WPP under review at TCEQ
 - 17000 feral hogs removed since 2013
 - Dissolved oxygen removed at confluence with SM river and town branch station.
- New group, Plum Creek Stewards for Texas Stream Team
- Damage surveys on Feral hogs through the PC watershed
- Successful cleanup event November 6th 2021
- Great Texas River Cleanup-upper plum creek successful event
- Workshop held for Texas Well Owner Network on March 4th 2022
- Local work Group on April 7th 2022 with Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Steering Committee Meeting held on December 9th, 2021
 - Intro to Caldwell county environmental enforcement unit
- Steering committee meeting March 24th, 2022
- Outreach and Engagement- Sip and Stroll April 2nd 2022
 - Earth Day Celebration April 23rd 2022
- 4 upcoming outreach events

Dry Comal and Comal River Watershed

- BST study conducted in 2013 & 2016, approx. 60% bacteria from wildlife
 - 220 signs added to prevent feeding of wildlife
- Waterfowl Management since 2019
 - 203 trapped and removed, 114 eggs coated in vegetable oil.
- WPP Educational Video playing at 2 local theatres
- WPP signage installed at 6 locations in fall 2021
- Creation of 2 educational games to be tested and published in spring 2022.
- Stormwater sampling continuing at 12 locations 4 outfall into Comal river and 8 SW to Dry Comal
- New Grant contract through TCEQ started September 1st, 2021

Geronimo and Alligator Creek Watershed

- 2 clean-up events a year, spring and fall. Next is April 30th 2022
- Alligator Creek Trail Park
 - Project being created by City of New Braunfels
- Since 2012- 49 applications for WQ Application plans
- Stakeholder Survey administered since December 2021 in-person and online
 - Results: High concern for water quality