

Plum Creek Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Group Meeting

August 10, 2006
Lockhart, TX



Importance of Plum Creek and Tri-Agency Priority Status

Brad Lamb, EPA

Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB

Arthur Talley, TCEQ



How the Regional Steering Committee Selected Plum Creek

Aaron Wendt
Texas State Soil and Water
Conservation Board



Texas Watershed Steward Program

Nikki Dictson
Texas Cooperative Extension



Update and Status of Plum Creek Project

Nikki Dictson
Texas Cooperative Extension



Plum Creek Watershed Partnership

- December 15, 2005 - Plum Creek was selected as the pilot watershed
- January 6, 2006 - Meeting with Local County Agents, GBRA, and PCCD
- January thru March – Meetings and Media Promoting Project
- April 2006 – Three Public Meetings in Watershed
- May 9, 2006 – First Steering Committee Meeting
- June 20, 2006 – Steering Committee Meeting
- July 2006 – Five Work Group Meetings
- July 27, 2006 – Watershed Tour



Project Partners



Meetings Promoting Plum Creek Watershed Partnership

- Hays County SWCD and Caldwell-Travis SWCD Board Meetings
- Plum Creek Conservation District Board Meeting
- Guadalupe Blanco River Authority Board Meeting
- Hays County Small Acreage Land Owner Training
- Luling Kiwanis Club Meeting on May 10, 2006.
- Luling Foundation Farm Field Day on May 8, 2006.
- City of Kyle's Citizens Water Advisory Group Meeting on May 25, 2006.



Meetings Promoting Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Cont.

- On June 5, Brian Koch and Nikki met with HDR the project managers for TXDOT for the SH 130 Project where we discussed the timeline for the project and the proposed mitigation of 265 acres along Plum Creek.



Websites and Brochures

- Created the Texas Watershed Steward Website <http://tws.tamu.edu> and informational brochure (fact sheet).
- Created the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Website <http://pcwp.tamu.edu> and informational brochure (fact sheet).
- Mailed out 700 invitations to the three Public Meetings and resent them after the first meeting.



Media Promotion

- TCE has written and sent out 6 News Releases since January that went out to over 100 papers and media outlets through Agriculture Communications.
- TSSWCB sent out a news release in January.
- We pitched these stories to the following local outlets:
 1. Austin American Statesman
 2. Country World
 3. San Marcos Record
 4. Hays Free Press
 5. Lockhart Post Register
 6. Luling News Boy



Media Promotion Continued

- TCE News Releases since January
 - Jan. 27, 2006, Texas Cooperative Extension Partnering in Plum Creek Watershed Pilot Program
 - March 30, 2006, Public Invited to Join Plum Creek Watershed Project
 - April 13, 2006, Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Under Way; Meetings Set for Kyle and Luling
 - April 19, 2006, Media Advisory: Watershed Meetings Set for Kyle, Luling
 - June 5, 2006, Public Invited to Plum Creek Watershed Project Meeting
 - June 8, 2006, Preventive Measures Can Help Protect Plum Creek Watershed

- TSSWCB News Release in January 6, 2006 – Plum Creek Selected for Watershed Protection Plan



USFWS

- Contacted USFWS in Austin and made a contact named Dawn Whitehead.
- USFWS said they do not have travel funding that would allow them to participate but keep them on the email list.
- Confirmed that there are no threatened or endangered species in the Plum Creek Watershed - Information is in the binder.



Texas Department of State Health Services Fish Consumption Advisories

- On the website there is a searchable online map and listing of water bodies with advisories or bans at:
<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bfds/ssd/fiscount.html>
- There are no fish consumption advisories for Plum Creek.
- There have not been any studies or assessments
- TCEQ is working on putting Plum Creek on the list for a phase 1 assessment.



Watershed Tour

- On July 27 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- Tour Stops included:
 - Plum Creek Subdivision in Kyle at headwaters
 - GBRA's Plum Creek Sampling Site near Umland
 - Bar-B-Que Lunch at Smitty's provided by GBRA
 - Lockhart Springs in Lockhart
 - Don Meador's Lease Property
 - Drive on south eastern side of Watershed / Oil Wells
 - Lockhart WWTP Tour by GBRA



Work Groups

1. Outreach and Education
2. Urban Stormwater and NPS
3. Agriculture NPS
4. Wastewater Infrastructure/Industry
5. Water Quality and Habitat



Work Group Tasks

- Identify pollutant sources.
- Gather data and information and identify gaps.
- Estimate pollutant loads
- Set Goals and Objectives
- Identify BMPs that could be implemented to reduce pollution.
- Identify Outreach and Education that is needed
- Develop an Implementation Schedule.



Planning/Needs Assessment

Mark McFarland

State Water Quality Specialist
Texas Cooperative Extension



Discussion

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Texas Cooperative Extension

