

## Navasota River Watershed Meeting Discussion Overview

Thursday, November 5, 2015      College Station      1:30pm  
Tuesday, November 10, 2015      Franklin      6:30pm

### Texas Water Quality Policy and Management:

- Federal Clean Water Act has goal to protect water quality
- Administered by EPA who delegates regulatory jurisdiction to the state
  - o TCEQ establishes standards, collects and assess data, issues permits and enforces water quality standards
  - o TSSWCB plans and implements management programs for agriculture and forestry; provides technical and financial assistance to producers
- Navasota River designated uses, standards and screening levels reviewed
- Distribution of water quality impairments statewide discussed: bacteria is most common issue
- General approach to managing water quality discussed
  - o Confirm use of waterbody
  - o Determine if sufficient data is available to confirm impairment
  - o Plan to improve water quality
- Use assessment conducted on Navasota
  - o No recreation found upstream of Lake Limestone
    - Standard change recommended
  - o Recreation found downstream of Lake Limestone
    - No standard change
- Data assessment conducted and sufficient amount of data used
- Planning Options Discussed
  - o Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
  - o Watershed Protection Plan (WPP)
    - Both are similar in nature but have subtle differences
    - Each produce a plan to improve/restore water quality
    - Stakeholder input critical in both processes
    - TMDLs typically more appropriate for urban areas
    - WPPs typically better suited for rural areas
  - o Both have been widely used across the state
  - o Both can lead to waterbodies being removed from the impaired list

### **Watershed Overview:**

- Physical description of the watershed provided; size and expanse of the area discussed
- Current water quality monitoring reviewed
- Land Use and Land Cover reviewed
- Discussion of existing impairments provided

### **Stakeholder Process and Stakeholder Needs:**

- Tasks for stakeholders throughout the planning process discussed
- Framework options for stakeholder processes presented
  - o Coordination Committee with stakeholder inputs
  - o Coordination Committee with Working Groups and stakeholder inputs

Preferred Framework by stakeholders is the Coordination Committee with Working Groups and stakeholder inputs

- Stakeholders are anyone who has a stake in the watershed
  - o Ranges from individuals to entities to governmental organizations

Need to expand the range of stakeholders engaged and we need your help to ensure that needed people are engaged in the process

### **Decision Making Options**

- Formal and Informal options discussed: bylaws and open meetings act vs. ground rules
- Examples were presented and a more informal approach was preferred