

Buck Creek Watershed Partnership

December 2007 Newsletter

Landowner Steering Committee

During the September 2007 meeting, the need to form a steering committee that consists solely of landowners in the watershed was discussed. To form the steering committee, each of the three soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) in the watershed were asked to select two of their board members to serve on the steering committee and to recommend one or two other landowners who are not serving on an SWCD board to sit on the committee. Currently, nine people have been identified; six board members from the Donley County, Hall-Childress and Salt Fork SWCDs and three individual landowners. If anyone would like to volunteer or nominate someone for the committee, please let us know.

Current Steering Committee Members

Donley County SWCD:	Mr. Doug Wright Mr. Jack Moreman
Hall-Childress SWCD:	Mr. Don Ray Crook Mr. Curtis Scrivner
Salt Fork SWCD:	Mr. Gary Killian Mr. Cary Don Neeley
Landowner:	Mr. Richard Sims Mrs. Ruth Ann Scrivner Mr. James Potts

Technical Advisory Group

Regional, state and federal agency personnel can provide valuable information and insight about issues related to their specific field. As such, establishing a technical advisory group that consists of agency personnel will be beneficial to the landowner steering committee. A list of potential individuals to participate in the technical advisory group is being finalized and invitations will be sent out to the respective agency personnel before the Christmas Holidays. This group will serve in an advisory role to the steering committee and will be asked to provide needed technical information about specific issues. Anticipated members include representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), Texas Cooperative

Extension (TCE), Texas Water Development Board, Red River Authority, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey and others. If you would like to recommend someone, please let us know.

Texas Watershed Steward Program

Texas Cooperative Extension will be hosting the Texas Watershed Steward



(TWS) Program in the watershed on January 24th in Wellington at the Community Center. The TWS Program is a community-based water quality curriculum that enhances stakeholder involvement in the WPP process by providing science-based, watershed education to help citizens identify and take action to address local water quality impairments. The TWS Program was developed by Extension in cooperation with TSSWCB.

To participate in the workshop, please register no later

Texas Watershed Stewards Workshop

Date:	January 24, 2008
Time:	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Place:	Wellington Community Center 802 10 th St, Wellington Texas

than Wednesday, January 9th. Enclosed is a registration form for the upcoming TWS workshop that should be completed and mailed or faxed to:

Jennifer Peterson
TCE Soil & Crop Sciences
2474 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2474
Ph: 979-862-8072
Fax: 979-845-0456

You may also register for the workshop by calling Jennifer at the number listed above or by filling out the online registration form available at: <http://tws.tamu.edu/registration.php>. Please register for the workshop no later than January 9th so proper arrangements can be made. Lunch will be provided.

As a part of this workshop, those who participate for the full day will be eligible to receive continuing education units from several different agencies.

Available CEU's

- 7 Soil and Water Management CEUs for Crop Advisors
- 7 Science CPEs for Certified Teachers in Texas
- 3 General CEUs for TDA Pesticide Applicators

Project Progress

At the time of the last meeting, sampling and bacterial source tracking (BST) work had not been initiated. Several types of paperwork were in the process of being completed. Since then, the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that is required to conduct water quality monitoring and fecal sampling has been approved by both the TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Animal Use Permit that is required to handle live animals has been approved by Texas A&M University.

Recent Sampling Data

Collected 11/7/2007

Site #	<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/100 mL)	Nitrates (mg/L)
3	no sample collected due to no flow	
4	206	0.05
5	127	2.82
10A	133	21.2
10C	64 / 55 *	18.4 / 18.5 *
11	87	16.9

<i>E. coli</i> Standards	Nitrate Screening level
Geometric mean of 126	1.95 mg/L

* Two numbers represent duplicate samples taken to check the accuracy of sampling methods

Several sets of water samples have been collected to date and have been analyzed for *E. coli* and have also been

prepared to ship to El Paso for BST analysis. Phyllis began trapping animals across the watershed the first week of December to collect fecal samples. Area Game Wardens have been notified and will assist as needed.

Recent Developments

The 2006 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List approved by TCEQ on June 27, 2007 indicates nitrate levels in Buck Creek exceed the established screening level. Unlike bacteria, Texas does not have numeric water quality standards for nutrients. So, the State uses a screening level set at the 85th percentile of all data collected statewide in order to indicate concerns for nutrient levels. For a stream to be listed as having a concern, more than 20 percent of the samples collected must have exceeded the screening level. Buck Creek has a nitrate screening level of 1.95 mg/L. This nutrient concern warrants additional investigation to see if nitrates really are a concern in Buck Creek. As a result, limited background sampling will be conducted through this project to aid in identifying seasonal nitrate levels in selected locations.



Beaver Dam at Site 3

October 24, 2006

Have a safe and happy holiday!!

Contact Information

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