

Mill Creek Watershed Partnership

Collaborating for the betterment of land and people

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



Mill Creek
November 1, 2016

Meeting Outline

- ◆ Welcome and introductions
- ◆ Update since last meeting
- ◆ Implementation Measures and the WPP
- ◆ District Technician
- ◆ Education and Outreach Programs
- ◆ Open Discussion and Additional questions

Welcome



◉ Agency Partners

- ◉ Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
- ◉ Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service (AgriLife)
- ◉ National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)



◉ Washington and Austin counties SWCDs

◉ City and County Officials

◉ Steering Committee

◉ General Stakeholders



Watershed Coordinator

Jennifer Cary, AgriLife Program Specialist

- ⦿ Background and Specialties
- ⦿ Role in the Partnership
- ⦿ Personal approach



Monitoring the Mill Creek Watershed

2003-2012: Water quality testing

2007: State Designation as Recreational Use

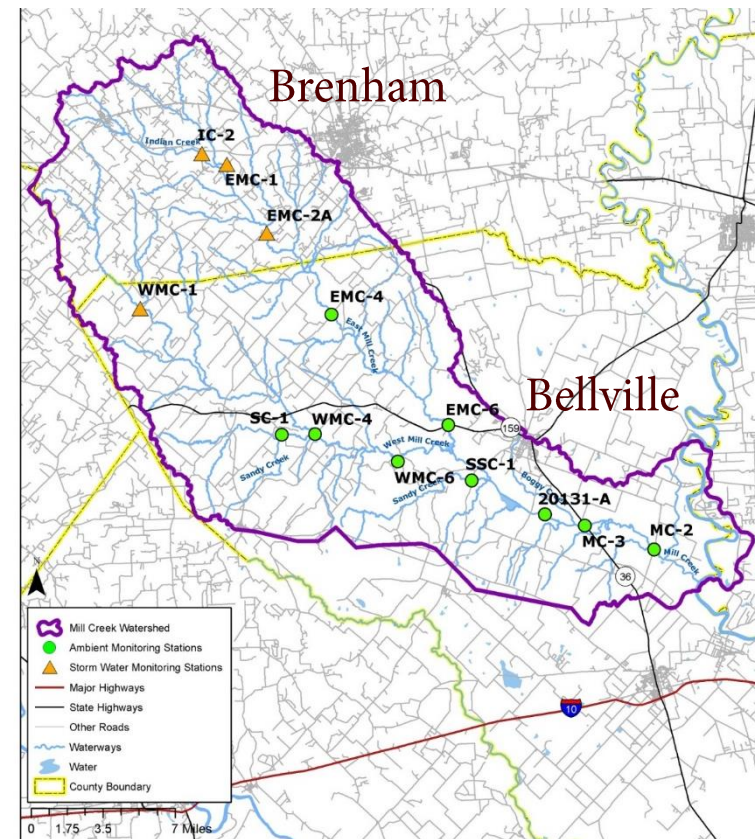
2010, 2012, 2014: TCEQ¹ listed as impaired due to elevated bacteria levels

- 2014 level: 192 --- units
- estimate since last measurements taken
- State standard for RUwaters

2014: Mill Creek Watershed Partnership formed

2015: Stakeholders collaborated to produce the Watershed Protection Plan (WPP)

2016: EPA approved WPP



6 Steps to Effective Watershed Management



Step 1:

Build Partnerships

Step 2:

Characterize Your Watershed

Step 3:

Finalize Goals and Identify Solutions

Step 4:

Design an Implementation Program

Step 5:

Implement Watershed Protection Plan

Step 6:

Measure Progress and Make Adjustments

Action!

Planning & Development

Step 5: Implementation

- ⦿ Improving surface water quality
- ⦿ Suspected Sources
- ⦿ WPP activities
- ⦿ Future water quality monitoring
- ⦿ Measuring success and changes to the WPP



District Technician

- **Role of the Technician**
- **Water Quality Management Plans**

Position: Conservation Technician

*full-time, temporary position

Duties:

- work with farmers and ranchers to implement BMPs
- develop WQMPs
- assist producers to acquire funding and/or resources

Qualifications:

- Degree in agriculture, natural resources, or related field
- computer skills required
- Prior experience in natural resource planning, and ArcView preferred

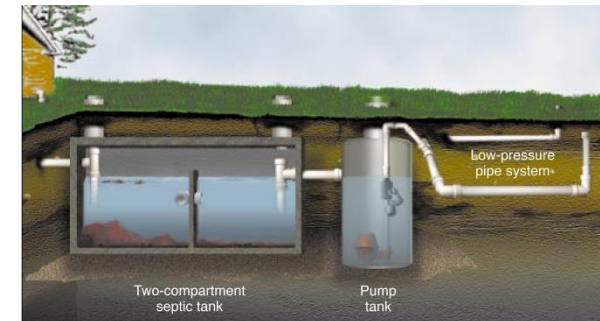
*Training will be provided

For information/application, please contact Connie at 979-865-3139

Or stop by the NRCS office at 520 S Front St., Bellville, TX

Educational Programs - Landowners

- ⦿ Resources are available
- ⦿ Successful/Useful Programs
 - ⦿ Septic Systems and Maintenance
 - ⦿ Lone Star Healthy Streams
 - ⦿ Feral Hog control
- ⦿ Additional Programs
 - ⦿ Rainwater harvesting
 - ⦿ Turf/lawn irrigation and fertilization
 - ⦿ Soil testing (urban and rural)
 - ⦿ Landowner Stewardship
- ⦿ Suggestions/preferences?



Community Engagement and Outreach

Youth can incite passion

- ◉ Water Days, TWA Field Days
- ◉ Brenham ISD Outdoors
 - ◉ Curriculum
- ◉ Additional Programs
 - ◉ Stream Trailer use
 - ◉ Engaging/Educating youth organizations
 - ◉ Brigades, 4-H, FFA, YoungLife, Scouts, etc.

Perception and Perspectives

- ◉ Texas Stream Team
 - ◉ Texas Master Naturalist and others?
- ◉ World Wide Monitoring Program
- ◉ eLearning WPP module
- ◉ Additional Programs
 - ◉ Mill Creek Clean-up Day
 - ◉ Water Festival



Suggestions/preferences?



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Funding for development, monitoring, and coordination of implementation of this Watershed Protection Plan is provided by the TSSWCB Nonpoint Source Grant Program.



Open Forum

- ⦿ Suggestions for Mill Creek Partnership's involvement?
- ⦿ Preferences for programs or events?
- ⦿ Questions?
- ⦿ Concerns?

We welcome your voice!

You can also reach us at:

millcreek@tamu.edu

<http://millcreek.tamu.edu>

Or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

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