

Mill Creek Watershed Partnership Stakeholder Meeting
Bleiblerville Fire Hall
27 June 2017

Total attendance: 29

Total Steering Committee in attendance: 16 (67% quorum)

Minutes

Introduction

- Jennifer Cary, Watershed Coordinator, opened the meeting by taking a role call on the number of Steering Committee Members to ensure a quorum. Raised hands indicate at least 12 members, with a current count of 20. Quorum present.
- Following welcome, Ms. Cary introduced herself, then introduced Dr. Jake Mowrer (Project supervisor), Taylor Marburger (District Technician), and Brian Koch (Regional Coordinator).
- Agenda topics were announced

Agenda Topics

- Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) - overview provided by Taylor Marburger, District Technician. Supplemental information provided by Brian Koch.
 - Dr. Jake Mowrer, Project Supervisor, asked steering committee members to assist SWCD and Extension in spreading the work about WQMPs, especially as the Austin County agent is leaving Extension.
- Steering committee voted to add 4 new steering committee members.
- Dr. Mowrer spoke to stakeholders about water quality monitoring and the HGAC contract. The new contract monitors water at 7 sites using 6 parameters.
- The Steering Committee voted to approve the HGAC contract for water quality monitoring,
- Following approval, Ms. Cary and Dr. Mowrer brought up water quality testing kits and development of a Mill Creek stream team. Citizen science/stakeholder water quality testing was very well received with great enthusiasm. Due to time, further discussion on this topic will continue via electronic communication.
- Stakeholders voiced their concern over septic systems, workshops, and permitting. Dr. Mowrer lead a discussion with stakeholders about a TCEQ grant with Austin County for septic systems. Stakeholders spoke of their desire for a grant and Dr. Mowrer agreed to start the process following the July 4th holiday.
- Ms. Cary mentioned upcoming events for the Mill Creek Watershed: a small evening event in Austin County to promote WQMPs, Lone Start Healthy Stream program in late summer, a Youth Creek Clean up in Septembers, a Soil Fertility workshop in October following county Soil Testing Campaign, and a planned Texas Watershed Steward Program in January 2018.
- Ms. Cary suggested a steering committee meeting next month to keep momentum going, but stakeholders were reluctant to agree. However, her suggestion of electronic discussions forums was greatly received. She offered to set them up.

Next Meeting: August 15, 2017 from 6-7pm.