

Mill Creek Watershed Partnership Stakeholder Meeting
Bleiblerville Fire Hall

Minutes
12 December 2017

Total attendance: 17

Introduction

- Jennifer Cary, Watershed Coordinator (WC), opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and having everyone introduce themselves by name and location/affiliation in the watershed.
- Following welcome, Ms. Cary introduced agenda topics

Agenda Topics

- Water Quality Monitoring Updates (H-GAC), Jake Mower, PhD
 - QAPP draft being reviewed by TSSWCB and EPA
 - Requested a grant extension for the project (Jan 31, 2019) to accommodate delay in monitoring
 - Monitoring set to begin early 2018; will include 8 routine sites with 6 bi-monthly data collection events
 - Stakeholders asked about scheduling and monitoring procedures
 - Monitoring completed by trained technicians from Eastex and H-GAC
 - Landowners with monitoring sites located on their property have been notified; all other locations will be access from public roads.
- Mill Creek Stream Team, Gideon-Lincecum Master Naturalist, Linda Nations
 - Stream Team is citizen science project to monitoring water quality data
 - Regularly scheduled volunteer based water monitoring
 - Local Master Naturalist will coordinate volunteer efforts
 - First training for water monitoring will be held January 20th at the Winedale Center. Details and flyers will follow
- Fundraising Opportunities, Jennifer Cary
 - Pros and Cons presented about creating a non-profit, LLC, etc.
 - Introduced TEEF: Texas Extension Education Foundation
 - Provides banking project support
 - Stakeholder expressed interest in utilizing TEEF, but stated they wish to wait to determine if there is a strong need to support setting up an account
- OSSFs issues and updates
 - Extension working with OSSF specialists to assist the Kenny community with some reported septic system issues. Community meetings likely scheduled in early 2018
 - Family in the New Ulm area (within Mill Creek Watershed) received a grant to replace their septic system. Austin County planning department, Judge Lapham, and the watershed coordinator assisted in this effort
- Mill Creek Logo – voting, Jennifer Cary
 - Results of the logo voting were nearly equal across two or three logos.
 - It was determined that some confusion might have occurred because two logos were very similar except in the color green; some stakeholders are red-green color blind
 - It was suggested to narrow down logos to the top 2 logos and resend out the poll
 - At the next meeting, the results will be presented to the steering committee and they will decide which logo to use.
- 2018 Calendar planning, Jennifer Cary and stakeholders present

- Jennifer Cary presented a tentative calendar to the stakeholders based on suggestions from the Washington County Agent.
- Discussion was had amongst stakeholders about options to change topics, timing, and determining topics for future Mill Creek meetings
- Topics brought forward by stakeholders include soil health, native grasses, brush management, invasive species, and a preference to evening septic workshop.
- The tentative calendar will be updated and posted online.

Partnership Reminders

- Registration is open for the Texas Watershed Stewards Program to be held January 26, 2018 at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Program will cover a wide variety of watershed management topics, including laws, regulations, and best management practices. This program offers multiple CEU opportunities. Registration can be found on the Mill Creek or Texas Watershed Stewards website. Cost: FREE
- Water Quality Management Plans are still being promoted and encouraged for those living in the Mill Creek Watershed. Contact your local SWCD office to learn how to set up a cost share water quality management plan for your property.
- Next meeting will be in March, date to be determined due to Spring Break. Meeting Topic: Soil Health.

Written by Jennifer Cary, Watershed Coordinator

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