

Davidson Creek WPP Meeting Notes – 11/17/2025

Q = question

A = answer

C = relevant conversation

Meeting goals: Implementation planning and scheduling, cover technical and financial resources, measuring WPP success, and next steps.

WPP Overview

Q: Could you explain what an OSSF is?

A: An On-site Sewage Facility (OSSF) is a septic system. This term covers facilities from anaerobic to aerobic systems (conventional vs traditional system). Typically, if you live outside of the city sewer service area, you will have some form of septic system

Q: Does the bacteria in the creek create a health risk for people?

A: In short, yes although all creeks in Texas and beyond have a level of natural and healthy bacteria counts. The problem is when the fecal indicator bacteria are above state water quality standards, it indicates there is a risk for higher levels of more harmful pathogens in the water.

Livestock Management Measures

Q: What's a riparian buffer?

A: A riparian area is the often-vegetated area immediately surrounding the stream. A healthy riparian area can filter and break down some contaminants before they enter the stream.

Q: What is NRCS?

A: Natural Resources Conservation Service. They are a USDA agency that works with private landowners to inform, protect and conserve natural resources at the landowners request. They can offer financial and technical assistance.

Q: What is TSSWCB?

A: They are the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. They fund this effort and are responsible for managing nonpoint source pollution and conserving soil and water.

Q: What does 1.14 + E14 mean?

A: It is a shorthand for displaying very large numbers in scientific notation. For example, this number represents 1,14,000,000,000,000. Just move the decimal 14 spaces to the right.

Q: Why is the load reduction higher than the total load?

A: ~~E14 is probably supposed to be E12 on the load reduction estimate. This value will be reviewed and corrected when the slides are posted on the website.~~

A: After reviewing, for each pollutant source the Total Load was not represented in MPN/Year, it was only represented in MPN/day, while the load reduction estimate was correctly represented in MPN/Year. This has been adjusted in the presentation uploaded to the website.

Q: Do the different shades of blue on the first map indicate contamination or potential contamination?

A: The darker shades indicate *potential* contamination and where to prioritize implementation efforts.

Q: Where is the website?

A: <https://davidson.twri.tamu.edu/>

Feral Hog Management Measures

C: Annual contest for hog hunters in Burleson County. Folks make great efforts to remove hogs. Contest is usually in February.

C: Probably more hogs are being removed per year already than the implementation estimate. Total # of hogs may be low.

Q: What do you do with hog remains?

A: Feed the buzzards.

A: Disposing a hog in the creek will also increase bacteria loading.

C: Burleson county has never had a bounty program because it's hard to tell where the hogs are killed. Whether or not they were even killed in the county.

Septic Systems

Q: Does failing mean the septic system is failing environmentally or that it just doesn't work?

A: Both. Failing means it does not function as designed.

Q: What about septic additives?

A: Best to avoid those, as well as things like flushable wipes

Q: Are you working with the Burleson County environmental officer?

A: Not currently, but there would be an effort to do so during implantation to identify the best areas to improve systems.

Dog Management Measures

Q: What's the best practice for picking up after a dog if you live in a neighborhood?

A: Not a specific timeline particularly, perhaps before it rains. It doesn't have to be immediately.

Q: Do you have an estimate on the number of feral dogs/cats?

A: No, really hard to count feral animals through any publicly available means.

New/Small Landowner Education and Illegal Dumping

C: Somerville has done hazardous waste collection events, could provide the means to continue this program.

Technical and Financial Resources

Q: Is the list of federal financial resources still relevant under the current administration?

A: Yes, money is allocated in multi-year chunks, however, regardless of which administration we are in, the opportunities for funding are constantly changing and a watershed coordinators role is to help navigate those constant changes.