Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Steering Committee Meeting
January 12, 2010
GBRA River Annex
Seguin, Texas

Welcome
Judge Mike Wiggins
Guadalupe County
and
Debbie Magin
Guadalupe Blanco River Authority

Introductions and Discussion of the Steering Committee Members

Nikki Dictson
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Stakeholders

Stakeholders are defined as those who make and implement decisions, those who are affected by the decisions made, and those who have the ability to assist with implementation of the decisions.

Types of Stakeholders

Stakeholders can belong to the following entities:
- Landowners
- County or regional representatives
- Local municipal representatives
- State and federal agencies
- Business and industry representatives
- Citizen groups
- Community service and Religious organizations
- Universities, colleges, and schools
- Environmental and conservation groups
- Soil and water conservation districts

Stakeholders: We need you!

- Successful development and implementation of the watershed plan will depend primarily on the commitment and involvement of community members.
- Therefore, it is critical to build partnerships with key interested parties at the outset of the watershed planning effort and have all of the right individuals involved in the partnership.
Stakeholder Participation
The general public is encouraged to attend all of the meetings and there are three levels of potential participation that include:
- Serve as a Steering Committee Member
- Serve as a Work Group Member
- Attend and participate in any meetings

Stakeholders can belong to the following:
- Landowners/Ag Producers (6)
- County or regional representatives (3)
- Local municipal representatives (3)
- State and federal agencies (TAG)
- Business and industry representatives (3)
- Citizen groups (2)
- Community service and Religious organizations
- Universities, colleges, and schools (2)
- Environmental and conservation groups (1)
- Soil and water conservation districts (1)
- Subdivisions – urban (2)

Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Steering Committee Composition
- The Steering Committee will be composed of approximately 25 members.
- The Steering Committee will be representative of all of the types of stakeholders in Geronimo and Alligator Creeks.
- Steering Committee members will also be members of one of the topical work groups and will represent their work group on the steering committee.

Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Steering Committee
- The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Steering Committee is the decision making body for the Partnership and the watershed planning process and will guide the project to success.
- The goal of the Steering Committee is to develop and implement a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) for Geronimo and Alligator Creeks to improve and protect the water quality.

Steering Committee Selection
- Initial solicitation of members for equitable geographic and topical representation was conducted using three methods:
  1) consultation with the Agrilife Extension County Agents, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Comal and Guadalupe County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and local and regional governments,
  2) meetings with the various stakeholder interest groups and individuals, and
  3) self-nomination or requests by the various stakeholder groups or individuals through surveys.

Types of Stakeholders
Stakeholders can belong to the following:
- Landowners/Ag Producers (6)
- County or regional representatives (3)
- Local municipal representatives (3)
- State and federal agencies (TAG)
- Business and industry representatives (3)
- Citizen groups (2)
- Community service and Religious organizations
- Universities, colleges, and schools (2)
- Environmental and conservation groups (1)
- Soil and water conservation districts (1)
- Subdivisions – urban (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comal County</td>
<td>Commissioners Jan Kennedy/Greg Parker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guadalupe County</td>
<td>Jim Houtz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Seguin</td>
<td>City Manager, Rick Cortes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of New Braunfels</td>
<td>Walistraut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Braunfels Utilities</td>
<td>Russell Bading/Kathy Brondy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comal-Blanco SWCD</td>
<td>Lee Godbold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBRA</td>
<td>Cecil Schutz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmendorf Subdivision</td>
<td>Gail Kimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Village North Subdivision</td>
<td>Wilfred Barrowsweitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AgriLife Extension County</td>
<td>John Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alamo Group Industry</td>
<td>Gayle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Learning Center</td>
<td>Frank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority</td>
<td>Susan Hartley/Russ Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alamo Group Industry</td>
<td>Otto Kollaus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Braunfels Utilities</td>
<td>Walmart Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Seguin</td>
<td>CASH Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of New Braunfels</td>
<td>Clinton Duett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of New Braunfels</td>
<td>Rebecca Hargulski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of New Braunfels</td>
<td>Roger Bading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership and Ground Rules

Nikki Dictson
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Purpose and Goals
- Geronimo Creek and its tributary Alligator Creek have elevated levels of bacteria and nutrients
- Create the Geronimo and Alligator Creek Watershed Partnership
- Develop a voluntary, locally driven Watershed Protection Plan to address these issues
- Implement or put the plan into action

Geronimo and Alligator Creek Watershed Partnership
First steps in building the partnership and beginning the planning process.
- Build a collaboration between local citizens, city and county governments and agencies.
- Goal is for the community to develop and implement a proactive strategy for protecting and improving water quality.
- Inviting public to series of meetings to make them aware of the issues and planning process. Encourage their involvement.
- Encourage participation in the partnership through work groups and/or the steering committee is essential to assess water quality issues and develop the Watershed Protection Plan (WPP).

Funding and Facilitators
- GBRA submitted a proposal to TSSWCB for a Clean Water Act §319(h) grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a WPP for Geronimo Creek
- TSSWCB and USEPA funded the WPP and GBRA began engaging potential stakeholders and collecting additional water quality data to be used in this watershed planning process
- GBRA contracted with AgriLife Extension to help facilitate this stakeholder process, analyze the collected data, and assist in developing the WPP

Project Partners

Watershed Partnership Structure
- Partnership – Any person or entity that has a stake in the watershed is a part of the partnership.
- Steering Committee – decision-making or voting body of the partnership
- Work Groups – address specific topics for the partnership.
- Technical Advisory Group – State and Federal Agencies that can assist with technical expertise, data, and funding.
The following are the Ground Rules for the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership (hereafter referred to as the Partnership) in an effort to develop and implement a watershed protection plan.

**Steering Committee Ground Rules**

- Identify the desired water quality conditions and measurable goals;
- Prioritize programs and practices to achieve goals;
- Help develop the WPP document;
- Lead the effort to implement the WPP at the local level; and
- Communicate implications of the WPP to other affected parties in the watershed.

**Project Time Frame**

- Development of the Geronimo and Alligator Creek WPP will require at least a 15-month period – target date of March 2011 to complete WPP development.
- The Steering Committee will continue to function to implement the WPP after it is developed.

**Steering Committee**

- Members will include both individuals and representatives of organizations and agencies.
- Members will identify and present insights, suggestions, and concerns from a community, environmental, or public interest perspective.
- Members are expected to work constructively and collaboratively with other members toward reaching consensus.
- The Committee will not elect a chair, but rather remain a facilitative group.  Extension GBRA and/or TSSWCB will serve as the facilitators.

**Role of Work Groups**

- Work groups are an extension of the steering committee and partnership that discuss and work on specific topical areas.
- Work groups make recommendations and develop components of the WPP for their topic.
- Work group members will provide leadership in implementation of practices and thus, are the most appropriate forum for decisions on topics in their area.
- Work groups will meet in alternating months from the Steering Committee Meetings.

**Steering Committee Members**

- If the Committee becomes so large that it becomes impossible or impractical to function, the Committee will institute a consensus-based system for limiting membership.
- Committee members will serve on a work group and represent that work group at Steering Committee meetings.
- The Committee has discretion to form standing and ad hoc work groups to carry out specific assignments from the Committee.
- Steering Committee Members will sign and adopt the final Watershed Protection Plan.
Work Groups

- Work groups may elect a spokesperson.
- Will be composed of at least one steering committee member(s), technical advisory group members and any other interested partnership members.
- There is no limit to the number of members on the work groups.

Replacements and Additions

- The Steering Committee may add new members if:
  1. a member is unable to continue serving and a vacancy is created or
  2. important stakeholder interests are identified that are not represented by the existing membership.
- A new member must be approved by a majority of existing members. In either event, the Steering Committee will, when practical, accept additional members.

Speaking in the Name of the Committee

- Individuals do not speak for the Steering Committee as a whole unless authorized by the Committee to do so.
- Members do not speak for the Extension, GBRA or TSSWCB unless authorized to do so.
- If Committee spokespersons are needed, they will be selected by the Steering Committee.

Decision Making Process

- The Steering Committee will strive for consensus when making decisions and recommendations.
- Consensus is defined as everyone being able to live with the decisions made. Consensus inherently requires compromise and negotiation.
- If consensus cannot be achieved, the Steering Committee will make decisions by a simple majority vote.
- If Steering Committee members develop formal recommendations, they will do so by two-thirds majority vote.
Quorum

- In order to conduct business, the Committee will have a quorum.
- Quorum is defined as at least 51% of the Steering Committee (and/or alternates) present and a representative of either Extension, GBRA or TSSWCB present.

GBRA and Extension Roles

- Provide technical assistance to the stakeholders in developing the WPP
- Draft text and prepare the WPP incorporating Committee recommendations
- Facilitate the development and implementation of the WPP through the meetings
- Assist the Steering Committee organize its work, facilitate meetings, and coordinate educational trainings
- Ensure the Geronimo and Alligator Creek WPP satisfies U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s nine elements.

TSSWCB and EPA Roles

- Provide technical assistance to the stakeholders in developing the WPP
- Provide Funding
- Review to ensure meets 9 elements

Development and Revision of Ground Rules

- These ground rules were drafted by the Extension and TSSWCB and presented to the Steering Committee for review, possible revision, and adoption.
- Once adopted, ground rules may be changed by two-thirds majority vote provided a quorum is present.

Powers

- Decision-making body for the Partnership.
- Formulates recommendations to be used in drafting the WPP
- The Steering Committee is an independent group of watershed stakeholders with an interest in restoring and protecting the designated uses of the Geronimo Creek Watershed.

Steps in Watershed Protection Planning

Nikki Dictson
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
What is a Watershed Protection Plan?

- WPPs are a way to address complex water quality problems through voluntary measures.
- WPPs holistically address all of the sources and causes of impairments and threats to both surface and ground water resources.
- WPPs are frameworks for implementing prioritized strategies for protection and restoration.
- WPPs are tools to better leverage the resources.
- WPPs integrate activities and prioritize implementation projects based upon technical merit and benefits to the community.

6 Steps of Watershed Planning

1) Build Partnerships
2) Characterize the Watershed
3) Finalize Goals and Identify Solutions
4) Design an Implementation Plan
5) Implement the Watershed Plan
6) Measure Progress and Make Adjustments

Steps in Watershed Plan and Implementation

1. Build Partnerships
   - Identify key stakeholders
   - Identify issues of concern
   - Set preliminary goals
   - Develop indicators

Steps in Watershed Plan and Implementation

2. Characterize the Watershed
   - Gather existing data and create a watershed inventory
   - Identify data gaps and collect additional data if needed
   - Analyze data
   - Identify causes and sources of pollution that need to be controlled
   - Estimate pollution loads

Steps in Watershed Plan and Implementation

3. Finalize Goals and Identify Solutions
   - Set overall goals and management objectives
   - Develop indicators/targets
   - Determine load reductions needed
   - Identify critical areas
   - Develop management measures to achieve goals

Steps in Watershed Plan and Implementation

4. Design an Implementation Plan
   - Develop implementation schedule
   - Develop interim milestones to track implementation and management measures
   - Develop criteria to measure progress toward meeting watershed goals
   - Develop monitoring component
   - Develop information/education component
   - Develop evaluation process
   - Identify technical and financial assistance needed to implement plan
   - Assign responsibility for reviewing and revising the plan
Steps in Watershed Plan and Implementation

5. Implement Watershed Plan
   • Implement management strategies
   • Conduct monitoring
   • Conduct information/education activities

Steps in Watershed Plan and Implementation

6. Measure Progress and Make Adjustments
   • Review and evaluate information
   • Share results
   • Prepare annual work plans
   • Report back to stakeholders and others
   • Make adjustments to program

Potentials of Concern in Geronimo and Alligator Creeks

- Bacteria (E. coli)
- Nutrients (Nitrate-nitrogen)

Bacteria Impacts on Waterbody Uses

- Primarily human health risks
  - Risk of illness of ingestion or through contact with contaminated water through recreation
  - Increased cost of treatment of drinking water supplies
  - Possible impact to quality of life, due to less than full use of the waterbody
  - Possible negative public opinion

Nitrogen Impacts on Waterbody Uses

- Indirect impacts on aquatic life
- Low dissolved oxygen due to excessive aquatic plant growth
- Increased treatment costs for drinking water supplies
- Groundwater contamination
- Limits recreational use
Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution

- All of Texas’ river and coastal basins, estuaries, coastal wetlands, and bays have been impacted by point and/or nonpoint source pollution.
- Nonpoint source pollution is the primary cause of water quality problems in Texas.

92% of impaired water bodies affected by NPS.

Point Sources

- Source of loading of a particular pollutant that enters a waterbody at a defined point, through a conveyance system such as a pipe, ditch, canal, etc.
- Also known as a regulated or permitted source.

Potential Point Sources of Bacteria and Nitrogen

- Sanitary Sewer Overflows
- Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Permitted CAFOs
- Discharges from meat processing facilities
- Landfills

Nonpoint Source

- Source of loading of a particular constituent that enters a waterbody at diffused locations that are typically widespread.
- Can enter a waterbody by overland flow during runoff conditions.
Potential Nonpoint Sources of Bacteria

- Humans
  - Malfunctioning septic systems
  - Illegal dumping
- Animals
  - Pets
  - Feral hogs
  - Wildlife
  - Livestock

Sources of Bacteria

- Humans
- Illegal dumping
- Domestic animals
- Feral hogs
- Wildlife and other non-domestic animals
Potential Nonpoint Sources of Nitrogen

- Landscaped spaces in developed areas (such as lawns, parks, athletic fields, and golf courses)
- Animals (domestic, wildlife, feral hogs, livestock)
- Cropland, pasture, and hay (fertilizer application)
- Malfunctioning septic systems
- Land application of manure or wastewater

Questions?
Ward Ling
Agrilife Extension
979-845-6980
wling@ag.tamu.edu

Next Steps
February 9, 2010 – Second Steering Committee Meeting
- Approve ground rules for the committee
- Review of watershed data

March – Work Group Meetings

January 2010 – April 2011 Approximately monthly meetings of either the Steering Committee or Work Group meetings to develop the plan
**Meeting Dates and Times**

Steering Committee Meetings are proposed for the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6pm – 9pm

- **Locations**
  - GBRA River Annex
  - Central Texas Technology Center
  - Red Barn near Geronimo
  - New Braunfels Utilities

**Work Group Meetings**

Work Group Meetings
- Location, Time, and Date will be determined by the work group members.

**Website**

Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership
- [http://geronimocreek.org/](http://geronimocreek.org/)
- Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
  - [http://www.gbra.org/](http://www.gbra.org/)
- TSSWCB Geronimo Creek Watershed
  - [http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#geronimocreek](http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#geronimocreek)

**Contact Information**

Nikki Dictson
Extension Program Specialist II
Soil & Crop Sciences
355A Heep Center, 2474 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2474
Phone: 979-458-3478
ndictson@tamu.edu

Debbie Magin
Director of Water Quality Services
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
933 East Court Street, Seguin, TX 78155
Phone: 830-379-3822
dmagin@gbra.org

Ward Ling
Extension Program Specialist
Soil & Crop Sciences
355A Heep Center, 2474 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2474
Phone: 979-845-6980
wling@ag.tamu.edu

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Geronimo and Alligator Creek Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

February 9, 2010
Here at the River Annex 6-9 pm