

The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan



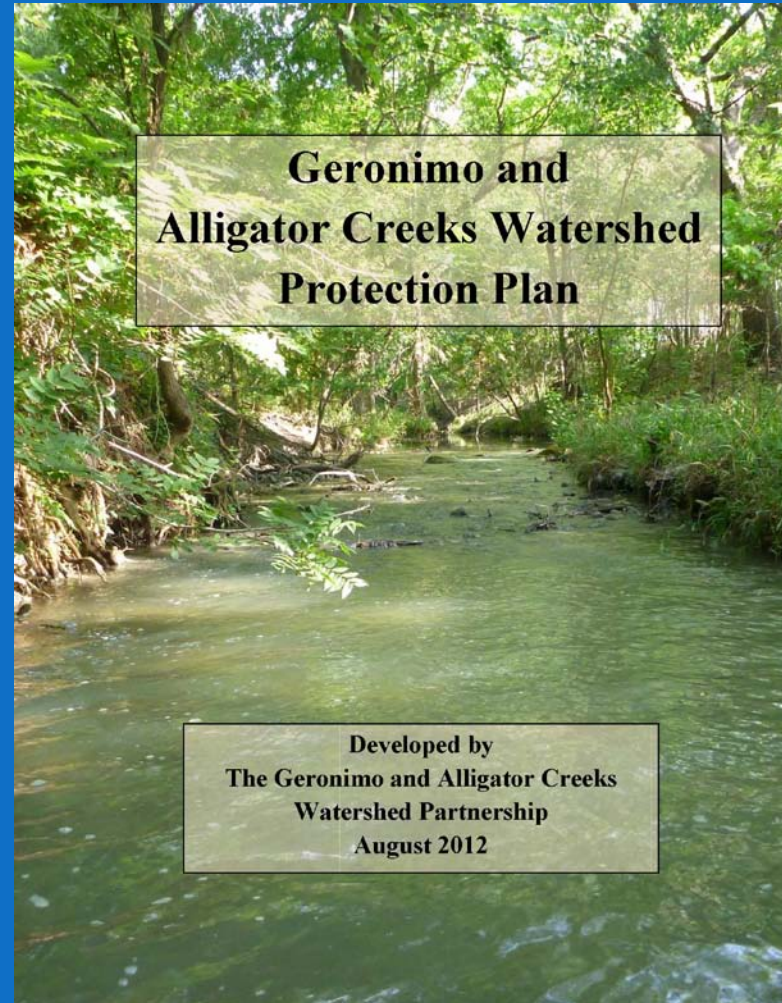
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Good News!

- EPA accepted the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks WPP on September 13, 2012
- WPP development began in late 2009
- 27 meetings and workshops
- 27,646 website hits



Perspective

- There are 438 water body segments including 718 assessment units on the latest EPA approved 303(d) List
- In the Guadalupe River Basin, there are 19 waterbodies listed on the 303(d) List for impairments/concerns

WPPs in Texas

- TCEQ and TSSWCB are the two agencies developing WPPs
- TCEQ has 14 active projects and completed 6 WPPs
- TSSWCB has 13 active projects and completed 4 WPPs
- Of the 10 total plans completed, only 3 have been accepted by EPA
 - Plum Creek WPP, Lake Granbury WPP, and the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks WPP

EPA Acceptance

- Adequately addresses the 9 key elements of a watershed based plan
- Satisfies EPA that a stakeholder group is addressing the local watershed issues, and that implementation should result in standards attainment in a reasonable length of time
- Allows for federal funding to flow into the watershed to support management measures identified in the plan

303(d) List Impact

- Geronimo Creek is currently listed in Category 5c on the 303(d) List
- Geronimo Creek will most likely be moved to Category 4 during the development of the next 303(d) list

So...where do we go from here?

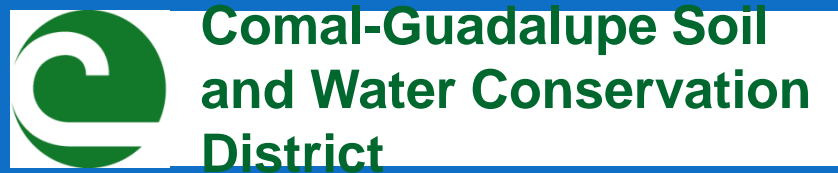
- For the past 3 years we have been developing the WPP
- Now, we transition into implementation of the WPP

Participation

- Steering Committee members and stakeholders who assisted with the development of the Watershed Protection Plan will now have the opportunity to assist and participate in the implementation of the plan



Implementation Partners



Who are we missing?

- As we transition from WPP development, we pause and consider if there are other people/entities we should contact
- Examples: developers, other agencies either local/state/federal, HOAs, industry, civic clubs (Example: rotary), general public, etc.
- What methods might we use to reach them?

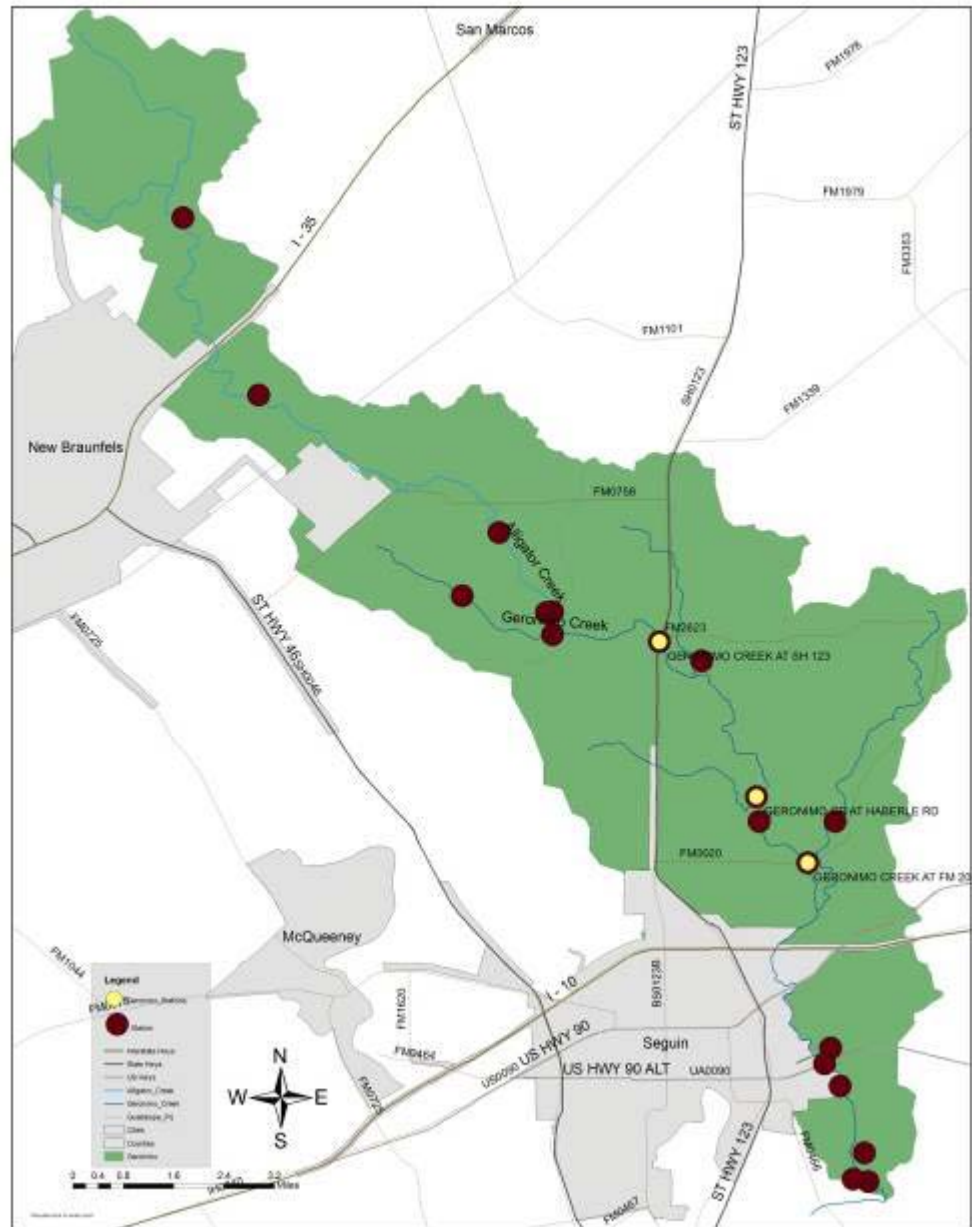


Implementation

- 10 year period of implementation, broken into approximately 3yr periods
- Will begin quarterly meetings in 2013 to provide updates on implementation activities and water quality conditions
- Targeted water quality monitoring program by GBRA to track progress

Water quality monitoring will continue on Geronimo and Alligator Creeks

Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed



Tracking Management Measures

- Urban nonpoint source management measures
- Wastewater nonpoint source management measures
- Agricultural nonpoint source management measures



Goals

- The Work Group chose to:
 - Locate 150 in Subwatershed 4
 - Locate 300 in Subwatershed 10
 - 100 spread across Subwatersheds 1, 2, and 3
 - 200 evenly distributed around entire watershed
- Land use
 - Rangeland
 - Forest
 - Managed pasture
- Estimated Water
- Modifications

Urban Stormwater Management Measures

- Pet waste stations
- Pet spay/neuter programs
- Urban stormwater assessments
- Phase II Permit activities
- Street sweeping
- Enhance stormwater management practices
- Modify stormwater conveyance systems

Wastewater Management Measures

- NBU's and Seguin's Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiatives
- Modifications to the Geronimo Creek Lift Station
- Septic System Homeowner workshops
- Septic system replacement/repair
- Septic system decommissioning
- Household hazardous waste programs

Agricultural Management Measures

- New SWCD Field Technician to assist agricultural producers with Water Quality Management Plan development and implementation
- Educational programs and workshops for agricultural producers
- Feral hog education and management

Decisions

- Critical decision making at years 3, 7, and 10
 - Time to evaluate and refine efforts
 - Potential to perform additional modeling or to utilize bacteria source tracking
- Decisions will be based on a combination of water quality analysis, funding availability, and impact of management measures

Measures of Success

- We will utilize Adaptive Implementation throughout implementation
 - ongoing, cyclic implementation and evaluation process to focus efforts and optimize impacts
 - Track and report on implementation through quarterly Partnership meetings
 - Critically evaluate implementation about every 3 years

Initiated Implementation Activities

So, lets take a look at what has already started...

City of Seguin

- Applied for funding in July 2012 to assist homeowners in OVN with septic system decommissioning
- Recently notified that the application scored well and is in the running for further consideration by TCEQ and EPA
- Seguin has been in talks with TCEQ to make necessary modifications to the application
- If selected for award, contract would begin in Sept 2013



Decommissioning Project

- If funded, project would fund decommissioning costs that the homeowners in OVN would be responsible for
- Estimated average cost of \$1,500 to decommission a septic system
 - Pump contents of septic tank
 - Remove the tank cover
 - Fill tank with sand/gravel
- Decommissioning is a state requirement

AgriLife Extension

- Applied for funding to continue our role of watershed coordinator
 - Quarterly Partnership Meetings
 - Newsletter
 - Email/web updates
 - Assist entities with funding opportunities
 - Assist with coordination of implementation
- Provide educational opportunities for watershed stakeholders

Educational Opportunities

- Texas Watershed Steward Workshop
- Texas Well Owner Network Workshop
- Lone Star Healthy Streams Program
- Sports and Athletic Field Education workshops
- Septic system workshops
- Bacteria, nutrient, and pesticide management programs
- Soil and water testing campaigns
- Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials trainings
- Master Gardener and Naturalist training

Comal-Guadalupe SWCD

- A grant application was submitted last month to create a new position in the watershed for the Comal-Guadalupe SWCD to assist agricultural producers with development and implementation of WQMPs (78)
- WQMPs are voluntary, site-specific management plans for individual agricultural operations

County	Subwatershed	Animal Units	Number of Farms	Recommended # of WQMPs
Comal	1	54	2	1
Guadalupe	2	126	4	1
	3	128	4	1
	4	249	8	2
	5	149	5	1

Field Technician

- The field technician position would be an employee of the Comal-Guadalupe SWCD
 - Responsible for hiring and managing the employee
 - Funding would be provided by TSSWCB
 - The technician would be tasked with working with watershed agricultural producers to better manage runoff from their operations

Feral Hog Control

- The new Feral Hog Education Program Assistant, Jared Timmons, will focus on feral hog management in the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks watershed
- The position will work directly with landowners to manage hog populations in the watershed



Events for 2013

- Quarterly Partnership meetings
- Semi-annual newsletter
- Brief city councils and county commissioner courts
- Grant opportunities
- Stream Cleanup



Stream Cleanup

- The second weekend in February
- Rainout date would be the 4th weekend in February
- Work on Geronimo and Alligator Creeks
- To get involved contact either
 - Liz Sedlacek 830-379-5822, lsedlacek@gbra.org
 - Ward Ling 979-845-6980, wling@ag.tamu.edu

Thank You!
Questions, comments and discussion



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