

AgriLife NEWS

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Watershed group meetings slated for spring in Seguin, New Braunfels

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SEGUIN/NEW BRAUNFELS – The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership will conduct various workgroup meetings this spring in Seguin and New Braunfels.

Data obtained from these group meetings will be used in watershed characterization and evaluation toward developing a Watershed Protection Plan. The plan is a voluntary, locally driven means toward creating a sustainable, proactive approach for cleaning up and protecting watersheds such as Geronimo and Alligator Creeks, according to program coordinators.

Groups will identify and recommend strategies to reduce pollution from various sources, plus discuss outreach and education programs for target audiences associated with these sources.

“Area residents are invited to become a member of any group. We are asking people who live and work in the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks watershed to join at least one of the three work groups that interest them,” said Nikki Dictson, Texas AgriLife Extension Service program specialist.

Dictson said the names, times and locations for upcoming topical group meetings will be:

Urban Nonpoint Source Work Groups:

- 1 p.m. on March 9 and Apr. 13, Continental Automotive Systems, 3740 North Austin St., Seguin. (Enter through the front lobby.)

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Work Groups:

- 5 p.m. on March 9 and Apr. 13, Geronimo Volunteer Fire Department, 6551 N. State Hwy. 123, Seguin.

Wastewater Work Groups:

· 2 p.m. on Apr. 12 and May 10, Navarro High School Library, 6350 North State Hwy. 123, Seguin.

"The agricultural work group will focus on the specific causes and sources of pollution stemming from agricultural and forestry activities on cropland, pastureland, and rangeland," Dictson said. "That group also will look at potential impacts from livestock, native wildlife, and invasive species, such as feral hogs that are found in the watershed."

"The urban work group will discuss specific causes and sources of nonpoint source pollution stemming from various urban sources that include pollution as a result of residential, commercial and industrial land use," says Dictson.

"Some of the potential pollution sources discussed in this work group will include runoff from paved areas, and pollution from pets and other non-livestock species," said Ward Ling, AgriLife Extension program specialist. "It may also address urban growth and development and its effect on water quality and usage."

The wastewater work group will address sources of pollution stemming from on-site sewage facilities and wastewater treatment facilities. This group will discuss the potential for regionalization of wastewater treatment, the feasibility for conversion of septic systems to more centralized wastewater treatment facilities and the repair or replacement of malfunctioning septic systems.

"Active participation by residents of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks watershed is essential to successfully protect these vital, but limited, water resources," said Debbie Magin, director of water quality services, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

For more information or to sign up to be a member of one or more of these groups, contact Nikki Dictson at 979-575-4424, n-dictson@tamu.edu, or Debbie Magin, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, 830-379-5822, dmagin@gbra.org.

Additional information can be obtained from the AgriLife Extension offices in Comal or Guadalupe counties.

A Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant was provided to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to facilitate the development of this watershed protection plan.

For more information on the efforts for the watershed protection plan, visit

<http://geronimocreek.org> .

-30-

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