

Carters Creek Watershed Assessment Update Meeting

May 7, 2013

College Station Utilities Meeting and Training Facility

3:05 pm - Meeting opened (Lucas Gregory, TWRI)

A review of how this project came about was given

- focused on Management Measure 1.0 from the Carters Creek TMDL
- TWRI worked with watershed stakeholders to devise the project plan
- submitted in July 2011
- Funded in September 2012

Project Partners and their roles were discussed along with a list of tasks performed under the project

- each task is discussed later in the presentation

Watershed Source Survey

- develop watershed GIS using available info
- conduct on the ground survey
 - primarily document observations of anything that may contribute to the bacteria problem
- incorporate observations into the GIS as they are made
- evaluate the GIS at the end of the project to see if any problem areas can be identified

Routine Water Quality Monitoring

- Monthly sampling at 4 sites over a 2 year period
- data will be used for future waterbody assessments

Storm Water Quality Monitoring

- automated sample collection at 2 sites (Carters Creek at WD Fitch, Burton Creek at Hwy 6)
- planned for 10 samples at each site
- data will NOT be used for future waterbody assessments
- COCS is operating these instruments

Reconnaissance Monitoring

- volunteer data collection using the Texas Stream Team protocol
- monthly sampling at 10 locations over a 2 year period
- data is for informational purposes only; will NOT be used in future waterbody assessments

Data Collection Overlap

- Burton Creek at Hwy 6 is monitored under all three types of monitoring
- this is done on purpose to be able to compare the data collected directly
- sample collection is coordinated to occur at the same location at a similar time
- all data is documented in the Coordinated Monitoring Schedule

Water Quality Data Overview

- data from each site presented
- to date; only 3 points collected at each site, so don't read too much into the number at this point
- data are presented in Box and Whisker Plots to show the distribution of the data as well as the mean; the geometric mean of the three data points is shown in the Box and Whisker Plot title; the red line in the graphic illustrates the water quality standard of 126 cfu/100 mL
- data are shown by monitoring type working upstream to downstream

Data Comparison: Volunteer vs. Routine at Burton Creek at Hwy 6 site

- volunteer and routine data were compared directly at the Burton Creek at Hwy 6 site
- not statistical difference between the two data sets
- This is exactly what we want to see as it justifies the direct comparison of the routine and volunteer data

All Sites

- relative measures of bacteria were shown from upstream to downstream at all sites
- this provides an easy way to compare how bacteria levels are stacking up throughout the watershed

Carters Creek

- shows water quality along Carters Creek
- also shows where tributaries come into the creek

Watershed Survey

- discussed the plan to start the watershed survey sometime this summer
 - will begin to aggregate the GIS
 - will begin to collect on the ground observations
- GIS will integrate known infrastructure layers with developed data
 - estimates of OSSFs will be made using available information
- Physical survey
 - will document anything that can potentially influence instream bacteria levels
 - walk along the creek where possible
 - travel through neighborhoods
 - observations will be georeferenced (GPS coordinates, intersection, address) and photo documented

Items surveyors will be asked to look for include:

- standing water
- running water
- excessive litter
- pet waste
- wildlife waste
- bird roosts
- debris in storm drain

What else should be noted?

- feral hog signs
- grass clippings in the road
- fertilizer on roads/sidewalks