



COORDINATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAMPASAS RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

Final Report

TSSWCB Project # 12-09

Prepared by Texas A&M AgriLife Research

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AgriLife Extension Service	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
AgriLife Research	Texas A&M AgriLife Research
BMP	Best Management Practice
BRA	Brazos River Authority
CEU	Continuing Education Unit
CWA	Clean Water Act
FY	Fiscal Year
LCHEC	Lampasas County Higher Education Center
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Partnership	Lampasas River Watershed Partnership
RFP	Request for Proposals
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TDA	Texas Department of Agriculture
TSSWCB	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
TST	Texas Stream Team
TWON	Texas Well Owner Network
TWS	Texas Watershed Stewards
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
WPP	Watershed Protection Plan
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plans

INTRODUCTION

The Lampasas River watershed lies within the Brazos River Basin in Central Texas, which drains to the Gulf of Mexico. The Lampasas River's headwaters are in eastern Mills County and flows southeast for 75 miles, passing through Hamilton, Lampasas, Burnet and Bell counties. In Bell County the river turns northeast and is dammed five miles southwest of Belton to form Stillhouse Hollow Lake. Stillhouse Hollow Lake is the primary drinking water supply for much of the surrounding area. The watershed encompasses 798,375 acres across Mills, Hamilton, Coryell, Lampasas, Burnet, Bell and Williamson Counties. The Lampasas River is primarily a rural watershed with few urban centers. The cities of Lampasas and Kempner are wholly within the watershed boundaries, while the cities of Copperas Cove and Killeen are only partially in the watershed.

The Lampasas River was originally listed on the 2002 303(d) List for elevated levels of bacteria and carried forward to subsequent lists in 2004, 2006 and 2008. Elevated bacteria levels are an indicator of fecal contamination from warm blooded animals and is a human health hazard. However, the Lampasas River was removed from the 2010 303(d) list. The delisting of the river occurred because additional data had not been collected for assessment between 2000 and 2009; existing historical data no longer met the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) criteria to be included in assessment.

Prior to the river's delisting Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research) and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) established the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership (Partnership) in November 2009 as part of TSSWCB project 07-11, "*Lampasas River Watershed Assessment and Protection Project*". Project 07-11 updated land use, modeled water quality, and developed a watershed protection plan (WPP) to holistically address the bacteria impairment. With technical assistance from AgriLife Research and other state and federal partners, the Partnership identified water quality issues that were of particular importance to the surrounding communities. The WPP

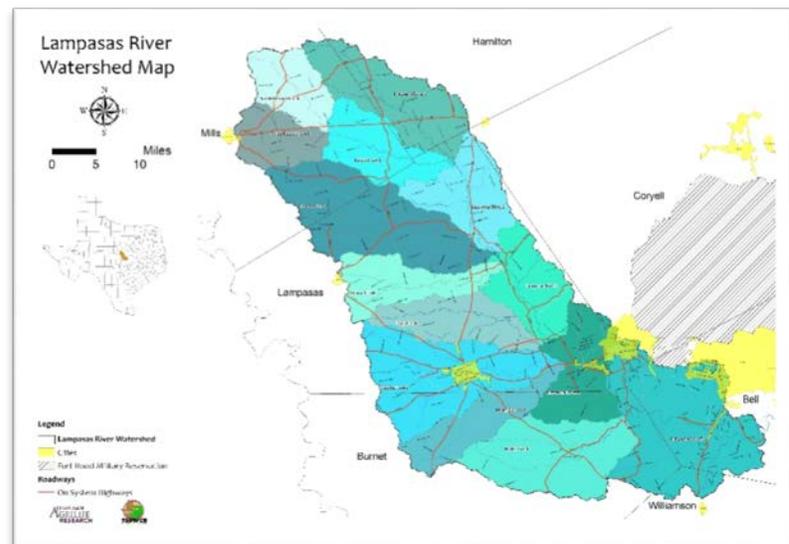


Figure 1 The Lampasas River watershed is a primarily rural watershed, located in Central Texas in the Brazos River basin.

identified responsible parties, implementation milestones and estimated financial costs for individual management measures and outreach and education activities. The plan also described the estimated load reductions expected from full implementation of all management measures. TSSWCB project 12-09, *“Coordinating Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan”*, continued facilitation of the Lampasas River WPP and Partnership.

WATERSHED COORDINATOR

Local involvement was crucial in the development of the WPP, once the plan was complete, it was even more important to maintain connections with existing stakeholders and draw in new stakeholders to increase the likelihood of success and improvements in water quality. Public outreach and increased participation is necessary for securing funds for additional implementation.

The Steering Committee recommended establishing a permanent watershed coordinator in the WPP to facilitate implementation of the Lampasas River WPP. The WPP states, “In addition to technical and financial assistance required for implementation of management measures and outreach programs, it is recommended that a full-time Watershed Coordinator be employed to facilitate continued progress, throughout the 10-year implementation schedule.” AgriLife Research with grant funding from TSSWCB has maintained a full time Watershed Coordinator through the life of this project. The Watershed Coordinator is responsible for overseeing project activities, coordinating outreach and education efforts in the watershed, organizing regular updates for the Partnership, maintaining the website, and seeking additional funding.

WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

The Draft Lampasas River WPP was released for public comment on January 4, 2013. Printed and bound copies of the Draft WPP were sent out to all Steering Committee members and an additional 6 stakeholders (by request) for their review. A formal Public Comment Period opened from January 4, 2013 through February 1, 2013. Two Partnership meetings were held in January 2013 to allow stakeholders an opportunity to review the Draft WPP and offer verbal comments. The Watershed Coordinator presented an overview of the Draft WPP and its components and then opened the floor for comments. The first meeting was held on January 15, 2013 at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau Building in Lampasas. The second meeting was held on January 17, 2013 at the City of Killeen’s Solid Wastes Building in Killeen. These meetings were attended by 18 and 13 stakeholders, respectively.

The Watershed Coordinator and Principal Investigator participated in a meeting with TSSWCB and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review EPA's initial comments for the Draft WPP on February 12, 2013 at AgriLife Research in Temple. The Watershed Coordinator worked to incorporate and answer all comments submitted by stakeholders and EPA in the Draft WPP.

The WPP was accepted by EPA in May 2013 as being consistent with national guidance and was approved by the Steering Committee in September 2013 and may be found on the project webpage at <http://www.lampasasriver.org>. The timeline for full implementation of all the management measures in the Lampasas River WPP is 10 years and began in September 2013 upon stakeholder approval.

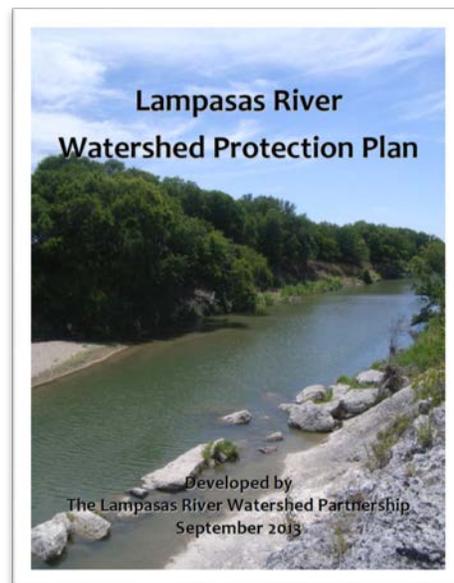


Figure 2 Front Cover of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Developing a culture of local watershed stewardship, through outreach and education, is an important component of a successful watershed protection plan. Stakeholders may or may not be aware of the impact that their daily lives make on the health of their watershed. It is crucial to create an awareness of the water quality issues that the Lampasas River watershed faces, as well as provide stakeholders the necessary tools to make informed decisions about their watershed. The WPP recommended outreach and educational opportunities that the stakeholders wanted to host within the watershed. These programs were chosen specifically because they would raise awareness of how daily actions can impact water quality and could increase good land stewardship by the participants. The following section includes a brief synopsis of the programs that were hosted in the watershed through this project.

TEXAS WATERSHED STEWARDS

The Texas Watershed Steward (TWS) program is a statewide one-day educational program designed to improve the quality of Texas' water resources by educating and informing local stakeholders about their watershed, potential impairments, and steps that can be taken to help improve and protect water quality in their watershed. The program is sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension Service) and the TSSWCB and made possible through a Clean Water Act (CWA) §319(h) nonpoint source grant from the TSSWCB and the EPA. The goal of the TWS program is to promote healthy watersheds by increasing citizen awareness,

understanding, and knowledge about the nature and function of watersheds, potential impairments, and watershed protection strategies.

A TWS program was held in Lampasas County on March 28, 2013 at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau in Lampasas. The TWS program was attended by 31 stakeholders from the surrounding areas, including land owners and managers. The Partnership coordinated with the Texas Land Bank in Lampasas to provide lunch for all participants.

In addition to the multiple press releases that were printed by the watershed newspapers to announce the program, the TWS program and the Partnership were the focus of three separate newspaper articles in the Killeen Daily Herald.

TEXAS WELL OWNERS NETWORK

The Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program is an educational training sponsored by the AgriLife Extension Service and the TSSWCB and made possible through a CWA §319(h) nonpoint source grant from the TSSWCB and the EPA. The TWON program is for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their drinking water needs. It focuses on protecting ground water quality, aquifer integrity, and complements the successful Texas Watersheds Stewards program by emphasizing best management practices (BMPs). AgriLife Extension Service offers voluntary private water well screening events and TWON trainings. As a result, participants have a better understanding of the relationships between practices in or near wells and the quality of water available for drinking and irrigation.

The Partnership hosted one Well Educated Day Session in Killeen at the Texas A&M – Central Texas campus on June 20, 2013. As part of the Well Educated Program, participants were able to bring water samples from private wells to be screened for common contaminants including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, arsenic and high salinity. The Watershed Coordinator gave a presentation about the current efforts that are ongoing within the watershed. The Well Educated Day was attended by 58 private well owners from the surrounding areas and 31 participants submitted well water samples for screening tests. The Partnership was able to coordinate and partner with Bell County Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District to provide lunch for all participants. Clearwater is the permitting authority within Bell County for groundwater resources.

LONE STAR HEALTHY STREAMS

With funding from the EPA through a CWA §319(h) grant and the TSSWCB, the goal of the Lone Star Healthy Streams (LSHS) program is the protection of Texas waterways from bacterial contamination originating from livestock operations and feral hogs that may pose a serious health risk to Texas citizens. To achieve this important goal, the program's objective is the

education of Texas farmers, ranchers, and landowners about proper grazing, feral hog management, and riparian area protection to reduce the levels of bacterial contamination in streams and rivers.

AgriLife Research coordinated with AgriLife Extension Service to offer a free Lone Star Healthy Streams workshop on September 18, 2013 at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau Building. The program was attended by 17 local stakeholders. Lampasas County AgriLife Extension offered continuing education units (CEUs) for Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Private Pesticide Applicator license holders; 1 Rules and Regulations, 1 Integrated Pest Management and 1 General were available to participants. Lunch was provided to all attendees by the Lampasas County Farm Bureau Insurance Agents.

FERAL HOG WORKSHOP

Feral hogs were identified as a primary concern by the Partnership due to their preferred habitation of riparian areas and are known to degrade water quality. Feral hog populations have grown dramatically in the state of Texas over the past 10 years and the Partnership



Figure 3 Participants learn about control measures for feral hog populations at the Feral Hog Management Workshop on October 23, 2013.

expressed concern about how the rising population numbers would impact the local water quality if left unchecked. To answer the stakeholders' need for a better understanding of feral hog dynamics and control, the Watershed Coordinator helped organize a Feral Hog Management Workshop. The workshop was made possible with funding from TSSWCB through a CWA §319 grant from the EPA. Topics covered by AgriLife Extension included basic ecology and biology of

the feral hog, regulations for transportation of feral hogs and disease concerns. Control and trapping techniques, along with hunting regulations and tips were also discussed. The workshop was attended by 70 participants from the watershed and surrounding areas. Participants were offered five TDA CEUs for private pesticide applicator's license.

TEXAS STREAM TEAM INFORMATIONAL SESSION

The Texas Stream Team (TST) at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment brings together community members, students, educators, academic researchers, environmental professionals, and both public and private sector partners to conduct scientific research and to

promote environmental stewardship. During the development of the WPP, the Partnership expressed an interest in exploring the development of a citizen science team to collect water quality data within the watershed. Travis Tidwell, TST Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator, gave an overview of the program and what was necessary to develop a successful network of citizen scientists at a regular Partnership meeting at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau on February 20, 2014. While interested in volunteer monitoring, the Steering Committee felt that at this point in the WPP process, it would be prudent to wait. They were concerned with the overall time commitment needed to collect and analyze the samples and the lack of volunteer resources to do it with.

RAINWATER HARVESTING FOR THE HOMEOWNER

A Rainwater Harvesting for Homeowners program was hosted as a joint effort between the Partnership, AgriLife Research, and AgriLife Extension Service. The workshop was held on April 22, 2014 at the Lampasas County Higher Education Center (LCHEC), in Lampasas. Participants learned about the benefits of a rainwater harvesting and how to build an effective catchment system. The workshop was free, however participants had the opportunity to build their own rain barrel to take home for \$60. The workshop had 47 local citizens in attendance and 18 took home their own rain barrel.



Figure 4 Two participants attach a hose bib to a barrel at the Rainwater Harvesting for Homeowners program on April 22, 2014.

RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

AgriLife Research coordinated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to offer four free one-day Riparian Proper Functioning Condition Workshops at no cost to participants. The primary objective of this training is to develop a common vocabulary and understanding of riparian areas among people who work and manage the land. Workshops included a classroom portion as well as spending part of the day visiting streams in the field. Emphasis was placed on educating participants about functions provided by riparian areas, the role of riparian vegetation in mitigating flooding and its impacts on water quality, assessing riparian health and available assistance for improving failing riparian areas.

These workshops were provided at no cost to private landowners, state, federal, county employees, or any other interested individuals. The Partnership was able to coordinate with local AgriLife Extension Agents to offer TDA CEUs for licensed private pesticide applicators. Each course provided one Rules and Regulations CEU, one Integrated Pest Management CEU

and one General CEU. In most cases, the Partnership was able to collaborate with local groups to provide lunch to participants. The workshops held within the watershed are detailed below.

Oakalla, Texas

The Spring 2013 workshop was held on May 2, 2013 at the Oakalla Community Center and Library, south of Copperas Cove. The field portion of the program was conducted on Clear Creek, on the Duncan Ranch in Killeen. The program was attended by 33 local landowners and land managers who braved an unseasonably cold and blustery day to learn more about their local riparian areas. The Partnership coordinated with Burnet County AgriLife Extension to offer TDA CEUs to participants and the City of Killeen to provide lunch for all attendees.

Briggs, Texas

The Fall 2013 workshop was held at the Briggs Community Center in Briggs on September 26, 2013. The field portion of the program was conducted on an unnamed tributary to South Rocky Creek, on the KeilseL Ranch near Briggs, where participants were able to visit field sites that had been rested from grazing and were returned to a natural state. The program was attended by 16 local landowners and land managers and municipal staff. The Partnership coordinated with Burnet County AgriLife Extension to offer TDA CEUs to participants and with the Friends of Briggs Community Center to provide lunch for all attendees.

Hamilton, Texas

The Spring 2014 workshop was held on May 6, 2014 at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Game Warden Training Center in Hamilton. The field portion of the program was conducted on the Lampasas River at the Game Warden Training Center which was ungrazed as well as a nearby landowner's property that was part of a well-run rotational grazing system. The program was attended by 32 local landowners and land managers. The Partnership coordinated with Hamilton County AgriLife Extension to offer TDA CEUs to participants.



Figure 5 Local landowners learn how to assess their own riparian areas from NRCS personnel Ricky Linex and Kenneth Mayben.

Lampasas, Texas

The Fall 2014 workshop was held on November 17, 2014 at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau Building in Lampasas. The field portion of the program was conducted on the Sulphur Creek, on the Lilley Ranch. The Lilley Ranch is owned and operated by one of the founding Steering Committee members of the Partnership. The program was attended by 25 local landowners and land managers and municipal staff. The Partnership coordinated with Lampasas County AgriLife Extension to offer TDA CEUs to participants.

HOMEOWNER'S MAINTENANCE OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS WORKSHOP

This course provided a basic understanding of the operational and maintenance activities of a conventional septic system, and explained how activities within the home impact septic systems. Presentations covered the treatment processes, health and safety considerations, and how to inspect and maintain the system. This course also provided answers to the most frequently asked septic system questions, including when to pump out a tank and what can or cannot go down the drain. Two two-hour classes were held during the project period.

Lampasas, Texas

AgriLife Research coordinated with the Texas A&M University Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department and Lampasas County AgriLife Extension to host a free Homeowners Maintenance of Septic System workshop on September 17, 2013 at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau. The program was attended by 50 local stakeholders. Those present expressed an interest in more programs covering the usage and maintenance of septic systems.

Killeen, Texas

AgriLife Research coordinated with the Texas A&M University Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department and AgriLife Extension – Bell County to host a free Homeowners Maintenance of Septic System workshop on July 29, 2014 at the Texas A&M Central Texas Campus in Killeen. (The workshop was attended by 24 local residents.)

SUPPLEMENTAL OUTREACH

The Watershed Coordinator supported, promoted, and participated in several field days, demonstrations, site tours, and education events sponsored by AgriLife Extension Service, USDA-NRCS, and/or SWCDs for the Lampasas River Watershed. Below are examples of these supplemental education and outreach programs:

- ❖ The Watershed Coordinator attended the Rita Schoen Building Dedication for the Lake Stillhouse Cleanwater Steering Committee as a representative of the Partnership on March 14, 2013.
- ❖ The Watershed Coordinator represented the Partnership at the Bell County Conservation expo (Hosted by the Central Texas Conservation Partnership) on June 12, 2014 by hosting an exhibitor's booth and giving a presentation to attendees encouraging participation within the Partnership.
- ❖ The Watershed Coordinator coordinated with the Texas Military 4-H to present a session at their Science, Technology and Engineering Camp on July 22, 2014 at Blackland Research Center. Sixty-one kids from military families, including many from Fort Hood, rotated through 7 stations. The Watershed Coordinator presented a talk on nonpoint source pollutants and how they end up in our creeks and rivers.
- ❖ The Lampasas River Watershed Partnership and AgriLife Research were represented at the Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful's 5th Annual Eco Harvest event on October 25, 2014 by Texas Master Naturalist Mary Ann Everett with a booth that illustrated nonpoint source pollutants and their sources.
- ❖ The Watershed Coordinator attended various County Commissioners' Court meeting in the watershed to provide an update on the status of the Lampasas River WPP.
- ❖ The Watershed Coordinator participated in meetings for the Bell County Water Education Committee as a member throughout the life of the project to discuss water education needs within Bell County for both adults and children. This Committee was formed of local people/agencies involved in various aspects of water resources education with the goal of streamlining and bettering water education activities within the county.
- ❖ The Watershed Coordinator attended many local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) monthly meetings in the watershed to provide an update on the status of the Lampasas River throughout the life of the project.

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM

The Brazos River Authority (BRA) was created by the Texas Legislature in 1929 and was the first State agency in the United States created specifically for the purpose of developing and managing the water resources of an entire river basin. The BRA monitors water quality and pursues water conservation through public education programs through the Clean Rivers Program. The BRA holds annual meetings to review water quality activities in the basin.

2013

Steering Committee member Kristina Ramirez (City of Killeen) attended the BRA's Clear Rivers Program Steering Committee as a representative of the Partnership on March 28, 2013 in Waco.

2014

The Watershed Coordinator presented an update on the Partnership and Implementation of the WPP at the 2014 BRA's Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee on April 24, 2014 in Waco.

The Watershed Coordinator also provided a list of monitoring activities to BRA to be included in the Brazos River Basin 2015 Coordinated Monitoring and attended the planning meeting on May 1, 2014 at the BRA's Central Office in Waco.

BELL COUNTY WATER SYMPOSIUM

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District in Bell County holds an annual Water Symposium that is intended to share water related issues with the residents and decision makers of Bell County. Topics vary from year to year, but typically changes in climate predictions and state laws are at the top of the discussion list. The Watershed Coordinator has participated in this event almost every year since the beginning of the WPP development in the Lampasas River watershed.

November 2012

The Watershed Coordinator attended and participated in the 12th Annual Bell County Water Symposium and spoke with various stakeholders about the progress of the Draft Lampasas River WPP on November 15, 2012. (The program was held at the Central Texas Council of Government offices in Belton and was attended by 122 local citizens.)

November 2013

The Watershed Coordinator hosted an exhibitor's booth at the 13th Annual Water Symposium on November 14, 2013 at the Central Texas Council of Governments offices in Belton. The Watershed Coordinator spoke with many interested landowners from both within and outside of the watershed. The Watershed Coordinator also presented during the Symposium, which included an update on the Lampasas River WPP as well as simple tasks that local homeowners and landowners can do to reduce their impact on nonpoint source pollution to symposium attendees. (The symposium was attended by 141 local citizens.)

November 2014

The Watershed Coordinator hosted an exhibitor's booth at the 14th Annual Water Symposium on November 18, 2014 at the Central Texas Council of Governments offices in Belton. The Watershed Coordinator handed out materials detailing the Partnership's activities in the Lampasas River watershed and the Watershed Protection Plan. The Watershed Coordinator

spoke with many interested landowners from both within and outside of the watershed. (The symposium was attended by 145 local residents.)

ANNUAL MEETING OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

This annual meeting provides Soil and Water Conservation District Directors, SWCD employees, and others the opportunity to examine issues relevant to the conservation of the State’s natural resources. Speakers from the local, state, and national levels address attendees concerning a



Figure 6 Exhibitor's booth hosted by the Watershed Coordinator at the Annual Meeting of SWCD Directors in Corpus Christi in 2014.

wide variety of agricultural and conservation topics. The Watershed Coordinator attended the 74th Annual State Meeting of SWCD Directors, held in Fort Worth, in October 2013 and was able to participate in sessions to learn about conservation efforts across the state. The Watershed Coordinator attended the 75th Annual State Meeting of SWCD Directors in Corpus Christi in October 2014. In addition to attending several sessions, the Watershed Coordinator also hosted an exhibitor’s booth detailing the efforts to develop and implement the Lampasas River WPP.

TRAININGS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Trainings and professional development are important to allow the Watershed Coordinator to develop and hone skills and knowledge relevant to watershed science and stakeholder facilitation. Below are a few of the trainings that the Watershed Coordinator participated in.

- ❖ “Introduction to Model’s” workshop, hosted by Texas Water Resources Institute in Temple on January 23, 2013
- ❖ “Every Drop Counts—How to Raise Awareness in an Information Age” workshop, designed for watershed coordinators on July 18, 2013 in Austin, Texas to learn more about the use of social media in environmental conservation and coordination situations.
- ❖ Applied Environmental Statistics, a one week training in College Station, from August 25-29, 2014, to learn methods of using and analyzing water quality data.
- ❖ Watershed Coordinators’ Roundtables held around the state throughout the project.
 - January 22, 2012 at AgriLife Research – Temple; *Catalyzing Success*

- July 30, 2013 at AgriLife Research – Dallas; *Urban BMPs and Low Impact Development*
- July 31, 2014 at Texas Farm Bureau in Waco; *Watershed Planning Resources*

WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTERS

AgriLife Research continued to maintain the Lampasas River watershed website (lampasasriver.org). The website serves as a public clearinghouse for all project and watershed related information. The website serves as a means to disseminate information to stakeholders and the general public. Agendas, news releases, presentations, newsletters are all posted to the website.

An electronic newsletter was also distributed every quarter to the stakeholders. These e-newsletters highlight water news and workshops in and around the watershed. These newsletters can also be found on the website.

GRANTS AND EXTERNAL FUNDING

There are several federal and state funding mechanisms available that may provide funding for the implementation of the management strategies identified in the Lampasas River WPP. Acquisition of funding will be critical to the Partnership's success in meeting set water quality goals. The Watershed Coordinator pursued funding for several different facets of implementation during this project.

SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAMPASAS RIVER

The Watershed Coordinator wrote and submitted a proposal to TSSWCB during their Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 CWA §319(h) Request for Proposals (RFP) in October 2012 for a project entitled "*Surface Water Quality Monitoring to Support the Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan*". The proposal was selected for funding and moved forward in the review process. Contracts were signed between AgriLife Research and TSSWCB in October 2013. This project (TSSWCB 13-09) includes collaboration with the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research. This project includes support for surface water quality monitoring and analysis for a 33 month period. Routine water quality samples are being collected on a monthly basis at 5 Lampasas river sites and 5 tributary sites within the watershed. Quarterly flow biased samples will also be collected at the same sites. Monitoring sites were identified in the Lampasas River WPP. In order to conduct this project, \$206,169 of CWA §319(h) funds was paired with \$166,616 of non-federal matching funds from AgriLife Research. Implementation efforts included collecting and analyzing water samples. The Watershed Coordinator provides project oversight and develops the necessary project reports.

IMPLEMENTING AGRICULTURAL NONPOINT SOURCE COMPONENTS OF THE LAMPASAS RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

The Watershed Coordinator worked with Hill Country SWCD #534 to prepare a proposal entitled *“Implementing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Components of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan”* to submit to TSSWCB for their FY 2014 Clean Water Act §319(h) RFP. The proposal was selected for funding and contracts were signed between Hill Country SWCD and TSSWCB in December 2014. This project provides support for a watershed-wide District Technician to facilitate the development of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) and implementation of nonpoint source BMP’s with local landowners. In order to help address water quality issues in the Lampasas River, over \$217,440 in CWA §319(h) funds have been allocated to the development of WQMP’s and implementation of agricultural nonpoint source BMP’s. The Watershed Coordinator provides guidance and assistance to the Hill Country SWCD on an as needed basis.

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE LAMPASAS RIVER/ STILLHOUSE HOLLOW LAKE WATERSHED; BURNET AND LAMPASAS COUNTIES (TSSWCB WSEP)

The Watershed Coordinator worked with Hill Country SWCD #534 to submit to TSSWCB for the FY 2014 grant cycle of the Water Supply Enhancement Program. This proposal outlined the need for a Brush Management Feasibility Study within the watershed. This proposal was submitted to TSSWCB in October 2013. At the time of submittal, this proposal is currently under review.

CONTINUED COORDINATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAMPASAS RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

The Watershed Coordinator wrote and submitted a proposal to the TSSWCB during their FY 2014 Clean Water Act §319(h) RFP in October 2013 for a project entitled *“Continued Coordinating Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan”*. The proposal was selected for funding and moved forward in the review process. Contracts were signed between AgriLife Research and TSSWCB in October 2014. This project (TSSWCB 14-07) will continue facilitation of the Lampasas River WPP, support of a full time Watershed Coordinator and delivery of the Outreach and Education Strategy outlined in Chapter 8 of the WPP once TSSWCB 12-09 has concluded. As recommended in the Lampasas River WPP, the development of a watershed-wide Soil Sample Campaign for both homeowner’s and agriculture producers was also included in the proposal. The TSSWCB has allocated \$312,655 of federal CWA §319(h) funding in addition to over \$233,000 of matching funds from AgriLife Research to continue to implement water quality improvement projects within the Lampasas River watershed.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAMPASAS RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN THROUGH TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO REPAIR OR REPLACE ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITIES IN LAMPASAS COUNTY

The Watershed Coordinator worked with Lampasas County to prepare a proposal entitled *“Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan through Technical and Financial Assistance to Repair or Replace On-Site Sewage Facilities in Lampasas County”* to submit to the TCEQ for their FY 2015 Clean Water Act §319(h) RFP. However, the proposal was not submitted to TCEQ due to the County’s inability to commit the matching funds needed. A letter was sent to TCEQ indicating the County’s intent and their reason for not submitting the proposal.

The Watershed Coordinator continued to work with Lampasas County and submitted a similar proposal to TSSWCB for their FY 2015 Clean Water Act §319(h) RFP. The proposal was not selected for funding. This project would have provided technical and financial support for residents within Lampasas County to inspect and repair or replace OSSFs, if necessary. The Partnership and County continue to search for funding mechanisms to support this management measure.

WHAT’S AHEAD

The Watershed Coordinator position was extended another 3 years and is currently funded through September 2017. The Watershed Coordinator will continue to reach out to stakeholders and engage the public in the implementation process. The Lampasas River WPP stakeholder meetings will continue to be on a quarterly basis. The Watershed Coordinator will continue to attend SWCD board meetings and other meetings regularly, explore and obtain external funding to support watershed activities, maintain website and other forms of communication, and generally support all Lampasas River WPP implementation efforts by holding a variety of outreach and education events throughout the watershed.

The Watershed Coordinator will continue to maintain a database of watershed stakeholders and interested parties for use in engaging the public in the watershed planning process. The stakeholder group represents a diverse cross section of Lampasas River landowners, citizens, local businesses, local and regional governmental entities and elected officials, state and federal agencies, and environmental and special interest groups.