

WELCOME!

Thompsons Creek Watershed Protection Plan Development

Stakeholder Meeting - 01
April 10, 2024
Bryan, Texas



Stakeholder Meeting for the Thompsons Creek Watershed Partnership

- Partnership serves as the forum for public input.
- To discuss about the watershed planning process, surface water quality management, and stakeholder structures.

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Surface Water Quality Management
- Watershed Based Planning
- Stakeholder Organization
- Next steps
- Q&A

About today!

- *Ask Questions!*
- *Get to know your fellow stakeholders!*
- *Have fun!*

Texas Water Resources Institute

Making every drop count since 1952

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WHO WE ARE

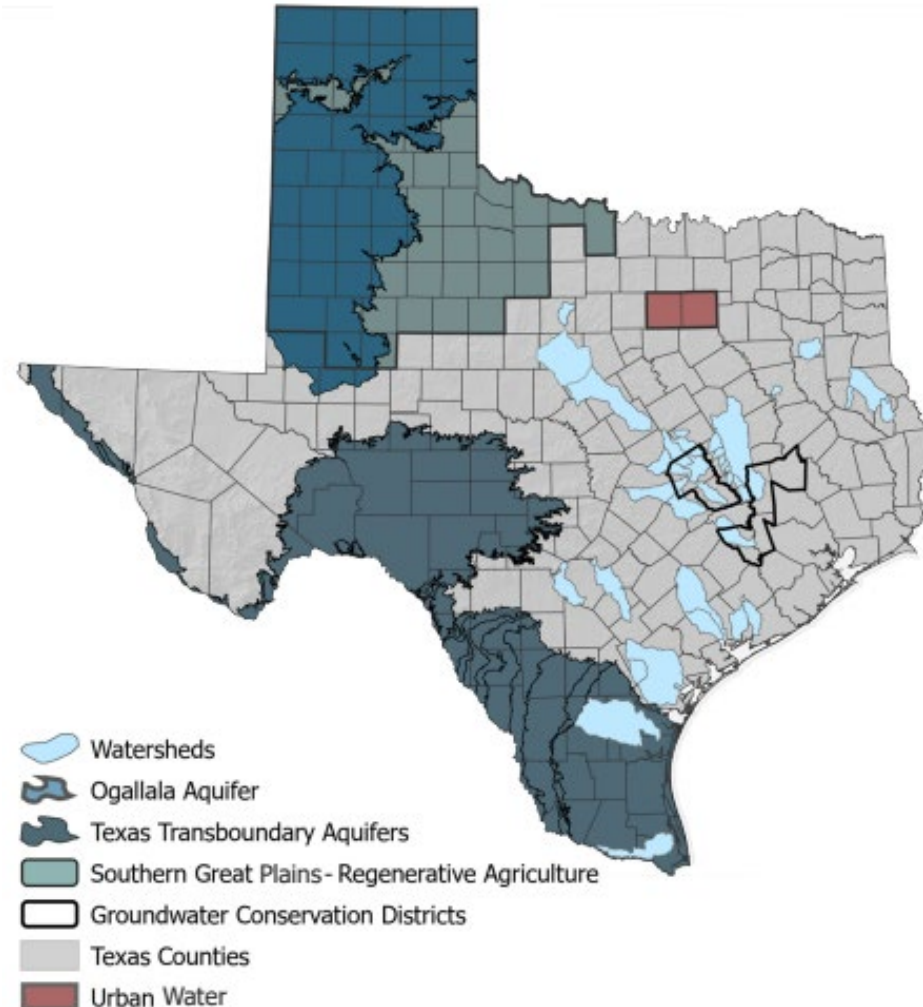
- Established in 1952.
- Unit of Texas A&M

WHAT WE DO

- Restoring & Protecting.
- Sustaining & enhancing.
- Engaging & Educating.

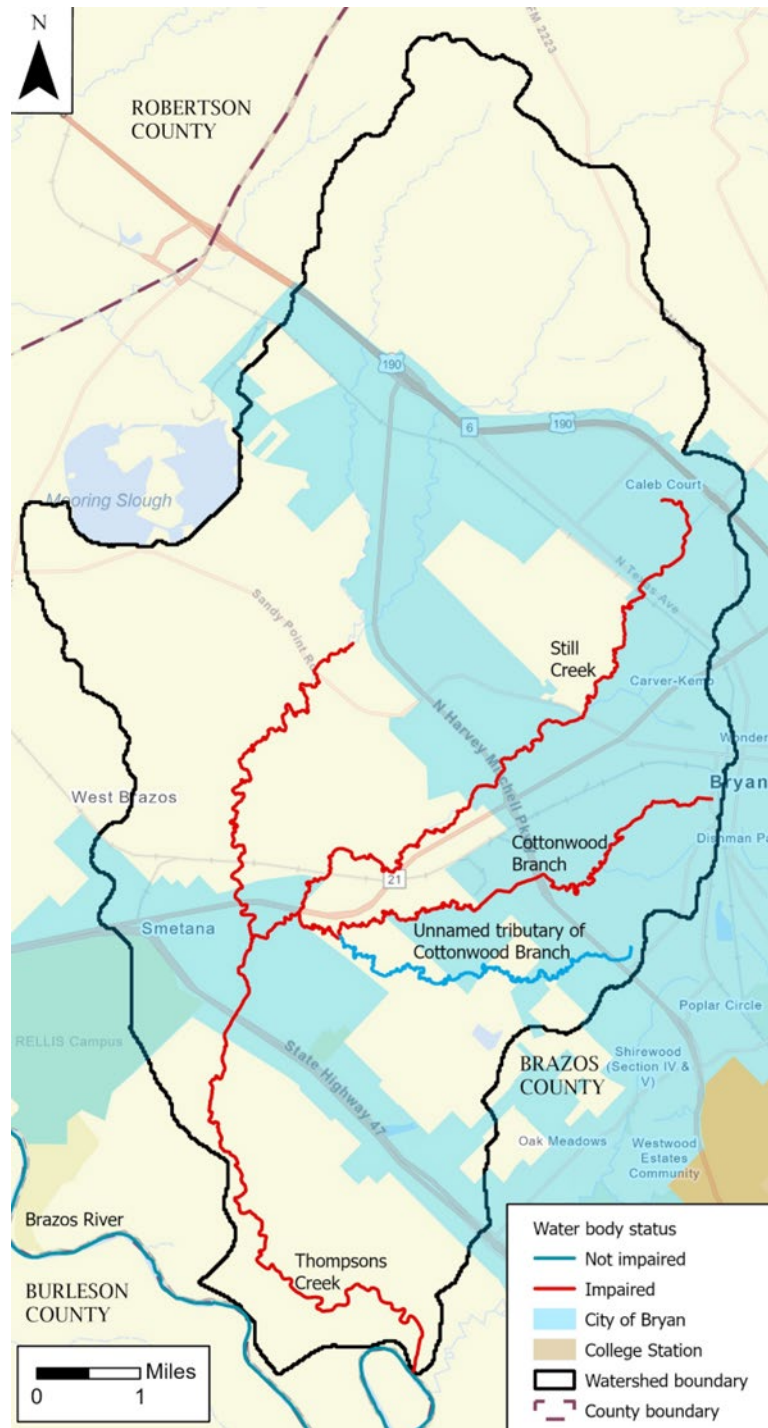


WHERE WE WORK



About the Watershed

- ❑ Watershed - Area of land that water flows through to an outlet
- ❑ Thompsons Creek Watershed:
Drained by the Thompsons Creek and its tributaries
- ★
- ❑ Spans nearly 52 sq. miles – includes part of the City of Bryan. Located in Brazos County.
- ❑ Significant part of the watershed is urban.





Surface Water Quality Management in Texas - Framework

- ❑ The Federal Clean Water Act is the primary legislation governing water pollution.

- ❑ Requires States & Territories to:
 - Set water quality standards
 - Monitor water quality
 - Identify water quality problems
 - Fix the problems

- ❑ TCEQ develops and administers rules and regulations supporting the CWA in Texas

Sources of Pollution - Types

Point Source Pollution:

Discharged from a clearly defined, fixed point such as a pipe, ditch, channel, sewer or tunnel



Non-Point Source Pollution.

Originate from many different places across the landscape, most of which cannot be readily identified



Water Quality Management - Institutions



- Responsible for implementing the CWA



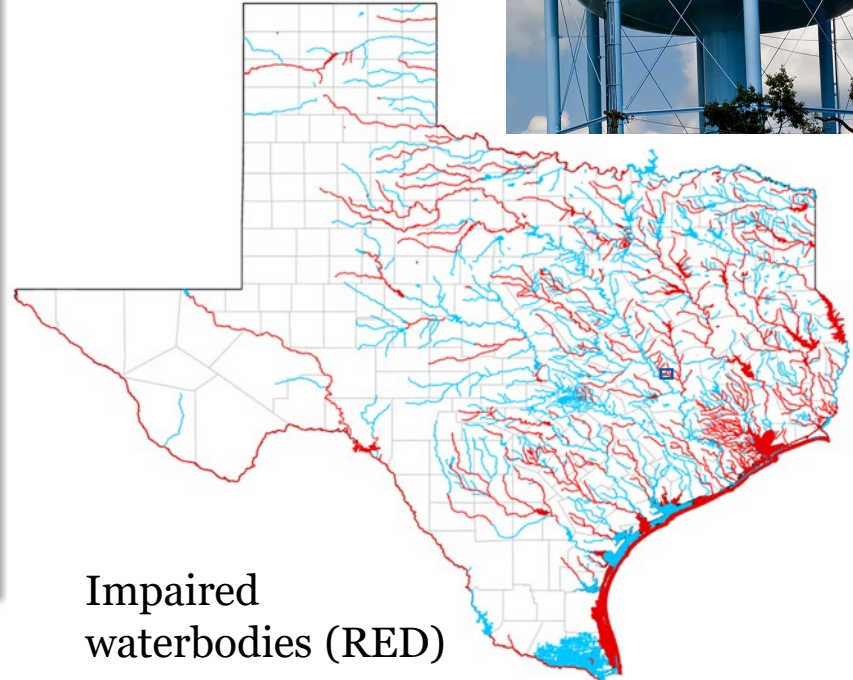
- Develops SWQS under CWA and Texas Water Code
- Responsible for activities related to:
 - Point source pollution
 - Urban and non-agricultural nonpoint source pollution



- Responsible for activities related to agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint source pollution

Water Quality Monitoring

- ❑ Texas monitors the conditions of waterbodies & assesses if conditions support designated uses e.g., recreation, aquatic life, water supply.
- ❑ Waters that do not support designated use(s) are considered impaired.
- ❑ 43% of Texas streams are impaired, many due to high bacteria levels.



Impaired
waterbodies (RED)

Thompsons Creek Watershed – Water Quality

Elevated bacteria, depressed DO and other concerns exist in the Thompsons Creek watershed.

Waterbody	Impairment or concern
Cottonwood Branch	Bacteria, Nitrate, Total phosphorous
Still Creek	Bacteria, Dissolved oxygen, Nitrate, Total phosphorous
Thompsons Creek	Bacteria, DO, Nitrate, TP, Ammonia, Chlorophyll-a, Fish community, Macroinvertebrate community



Improving Water Quality

Existence of impairments creates a need for implementing actions that improve and restore water quality.

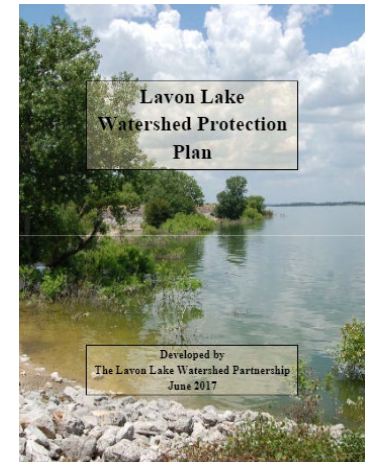
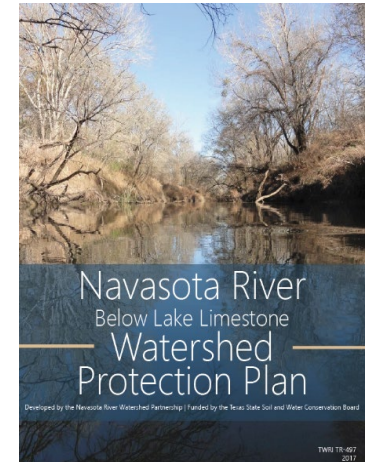
Strategies

- ❑ Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL): Driven by CWA requirements.
- ❑ Implementation Plan (I-Plan): Stakeholder driven plan that outlines how the TMDL will be achieved.
- ❑ Watershed Protection Plan (WPP): Voluntary Stakeholder driven plan.



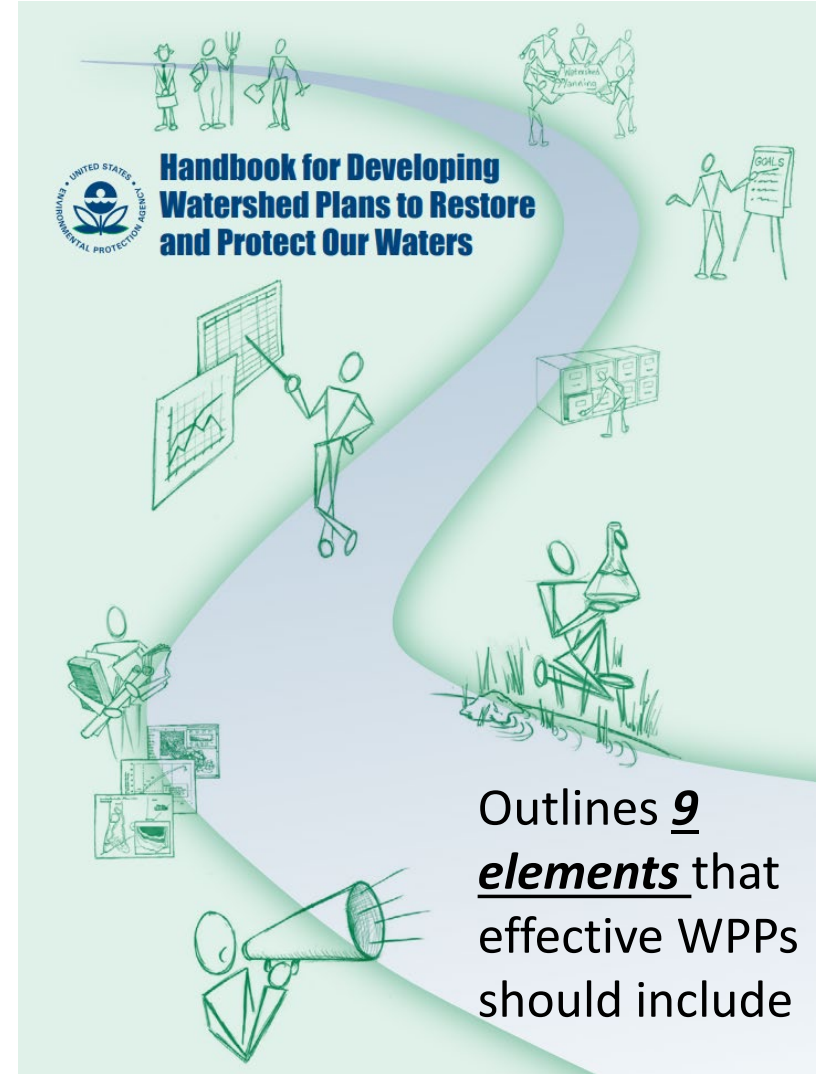
Watershed Protection Plan

- ❑ A voluntary, stakeholder driven mechanism addressing water quality issues.
- ❑ Provides a framework for coordinated implementation of management strategies
- ❑ Several WPPs have been completed or in progress, coordinated by TCEQ or TSSWCB.
- ❑ Accepted plans can make funding for local educational and project resources easier to acquire.



Elements of a WPP

- ❑ Identify causes and sources of pollution
- ❑ Estimate load reductions expected
- ❑ Describe management measures and targeted critical areas
- ❑ Estimate technical and financial assistance needed
- ❑ Develop an information and education component
- ❑ Develop a project schedule
- ❑ Describe interim, measurable milestones
- ❑ Identify indicators to measure progress
- ❑ Develop a monitoring component



Stakeholders

- ❑ A stakeholder is anyone who lives, works, or has interest within the watershed or may be affected by efforts to address water quality issues.
- ❑ Stakeholders may include individuals, groups, businesses, organizations, or agencies.
- ❑ The WPP process integrates the viewpoints of stakeholders in the watershed to create solutions and promote a unified approach.



**Community service organizations*

**Environmental and conservation groups*

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Possible Stakeholder Organizational Frameworks and Decision-Making Processes





Types of Stakeholders

- Landowners and homeowners
- County or regional representatives
- Local municipal representatives
- State and federal agencies
- Business and industry representatives
- Community service and religious organizations
- Universities, college, and schools
- Environmental and conservation groups
- Soil and water conservation districts

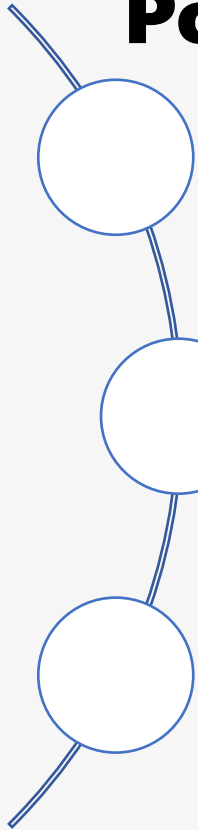


Stakeholder Tasks

- Provide guidance and input on potential sources of bacteria and estimated pollutant loads
- Set goals and objectives
- Guide identification of measures that could be implemented to address bacteria
- Identify levels of implementation that are reasonable
- Identify outreach and education activities that are needed



Possible Stakeholder Structure



Stakeholder Group

- The general body of individuals who participate in public meetings

Coordination (Steering) Committee

- A decision-making body made up of stakeholders from diverse interest/backgrounds

Workgroups

- Groups made up of stakeholders of a similar interest/background



Possible Committee Members – If Needed

- Landowners
- Agricultural Producers
- Business and Industry Reps
- Academia
- County and City Officials
- Educators
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Others

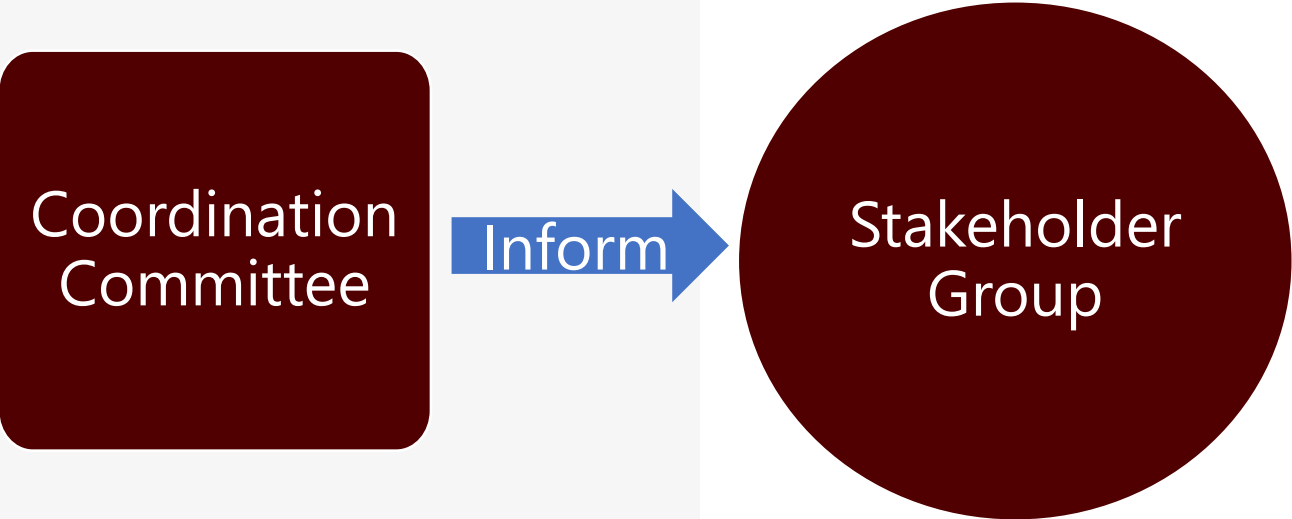
Possible Workgroups – If Needed

- Agriculture & Wildlife
- Wastewater
- Urban runoff



Possible Framework for Organizing Stakeholders

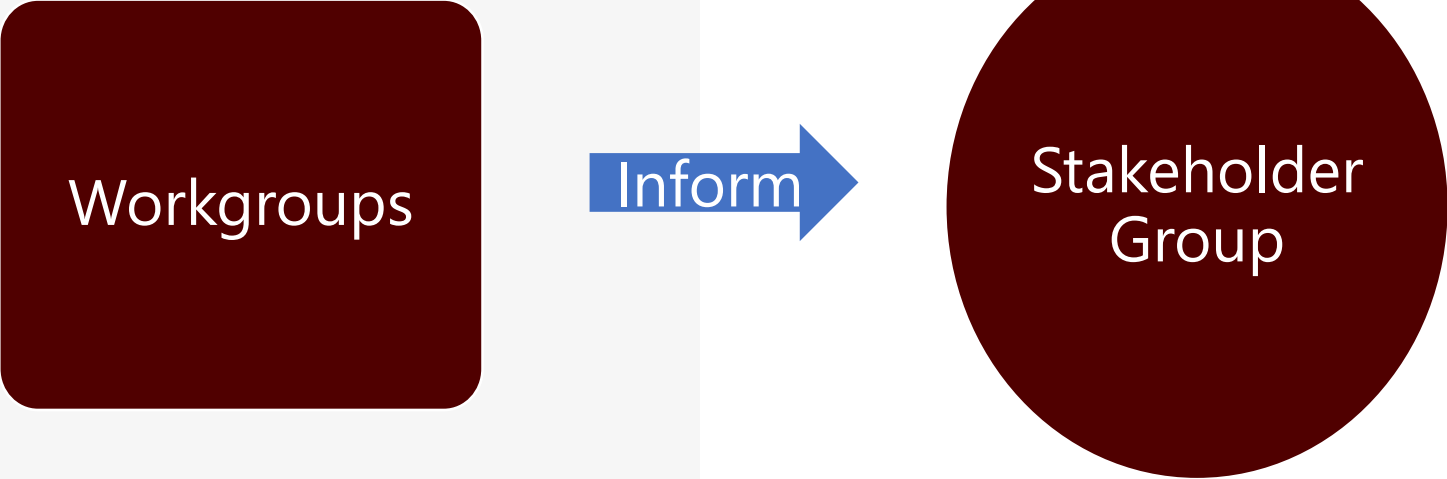
Option 1





Possible Framework for Organizing Stakeholders

Option 2





Possible Framework for Organizing Stakeholders

Option 3





Possible Decision-Making Processes

Options 1 & 2

- Establish bylaws that govern the actions of the committee
- Adhere to Open Meeting Act Requirements
- Formal voting of Coordination Committee

Option 3

- Decision making through consensus building
- Use general ground rules to govern the group
- Strive to have most stakeholder groups represented in meetings
- Will also see feedback via email

WPP Timeline & Document Review

Document Review

- ❑ Chapters to be provided to stakeholders as they are developed for review.

WPP Outline

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – Watershed

Characterization

Chapter 3 – Water Quality

Chapter 4 – Potential Pollution Sources

Chapter 5 – Pollutant Source
Assessment

Chapter 6 – Management Measures

Chapter 7 – Education and Outreach
Plan

Chapter 8 – Implementation Resources

Chapter 9 – Measures of Success

Meeting Frequency

- ❑ Generally, have about 2 months between meetings
- ❑ Present 1 to 2 draft WPP chapters per meeting
- ❑ Send out and post online meeting reminders and recap of previous meeting
- ❑ Have a complete draft WPP by March 2025

Questions?