

Neches River Tidal and Hillebrandt Bayou

Total Maximum Daily Load

Summer 2020 Newsletter

Project Updates

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) are engaging stakeholders and developing technical work for development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Implementation Plan (I-Plan) to address the indicator bacteria impairments in the Neches River Tidal (below the saltwater barrier) and upstream portion of Hillebrandt Bayou (above the confluence with Willow Marsh Bayou).

On February 12, with the help of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, we hosted a Texas Watershed Stewards workshop at the Jefferson County Extension Office. The workshop was led by Michael Kuitu and Ward Ling (Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences), who provided resources on how stakeholders can become more actively involved in watershed planning and protection. Resources from the workshop are available at tws.tamu.edu.

Although the April 9 stakeholder meetings were moved online due to the COVID-19 outbreak, a big thanks go to Rollie Burr (City of Vidor) and Nikki Fitzgerald (Jefferson County Extension) for helping facilitate the events. The meeting primarily focused on how stakeholders can be involved in the planning process. Meeting slides and notes are available at twri.tamu.edu/neches/lower-neches.

COVID-19 has forced us to limit in-person public meetings and face-to-face contact as much as possible. Going forward we are looking to be as flexible as possible when hosting meetings. This means future meeting might include web conferences, conference calls, or some combination of creative solutions.

Coordination Committee and Workgroup Members Needed

We are looking for more people to participate in the upcoming coordination committee and workgroups! If you are interested, please contact Michael Schramm (TWRI, michael.schramm@ag.tamu.edu). Committee and workgroup members have direct input on the planning and implementation process and are critical to developing a successful plan.



Neches Tidal at Collier's Ferry Park

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Technical Support Documents

An updated version of the Hillebrandt Bayou Technical Support Document is available online:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/waterquality/tmdl/118hillebrandt/118-hillebrandt-tsd-2020june.pdf>

The Neches River Tidal Technical Support Document is currently under review and will be posted online once completed. These documents outline the data and calculations used for the planning process. A review of the documents will be provided at an upcoming meeting.

Clean Rivers Program

Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) and Angelina-Neches River Authority (ANRA) are the local Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) partners. Learn more about their programs and how to get involved at

lnva.dst.tx.us/cleanriversprogram/ and www.anra.org/divisions/water_quality/crp/index.html.

Upcoming Events

[Big Thicket Association - Neches River Rally](#)
September 12, 2020

[LNVA - CRP Steering Committee Meeting](#)
August 27, 2020 (tentative).

[ANRA – CRP Steering Committee Meeting](#)
To be determined

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