NOTICE OF

PUBLIC MEETING

Oso Watershed Public Meeting Series, Part VI

Improving Water Quality in Oso Bay & Oso Creek

A TMDL Project to Protect Recreational Uses

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C § 1313(d)(1)(C), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) implementing regulation, 40 CFR § 130.7(c)(1), require the establishment of the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for waters identified by states as not meeting water quality standards under authority of § 303(d)(1)(A) of the CWA. TMDLs are established at a level necessary to implement applicable water quality standards with seasonal variations and a margin of safety, accounting for lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between pollutant loading and water quality.

Contact Teresa Carrillo at the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation, 361-882-3439; or Brien Nicolau or Erin Hill at TAMU-CC, Center for Coastal Studies, 361-825-2736

http://ccs.tamucc.edu/

Growing a Healthy Community - Forming the Oso Bay & Oso Creek Coordination Committee

Tuesday, June 30, 2015, 6:00 pm

South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center
8545 S Staples St, Corpus Christi, TX 78413
Corpus Christi, Texas 78415

The Coastal Bend Bays Foundation is working with our community stakeholders, the City of Corpus Christi, the County of Nueces, and all interested citizens to create the ***Oso Bay and Oso Creek Coordination Committee.*** The *Oso Bay and Oso Creek Coordination Committee* will be a community-led group with the goal of the creating the ***Oso Bay and Oso Creek Implementation Plan***. This document will outline a plan to restore water quality to Oso Bay and Oso Creek.

We will have the material created by attendees at the May 28th meeting when they broke into groups, and listed priority stakeholder groups and desired number of stakeholders to sit on the Coordination Committee. All interested persons are cordially invited to attend this important public meeting, facilitated by the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation and the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS), Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. Funding is provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

For a detailed explanation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), Implementation Plans and the role of Coordination Committees please go ***http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/waterquality/tmdl/tmdlprogram.html***

Agenda

6:00. *Greetings and Project Background*

6:10. *Discussion of May 28th meeting and Group Session Outcome.*

6:30. *Forming the Coordination Committee, Group Road Map for Restoration* – Group Sessions, followed by meeting wrap-up. Q&A.

Ron Stein, TCEQ, Austin, Texas, and **Brien Nicolau** will be available to answer policy and scientific questions. Mr. Stein is the leader of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's TMDL program for the State of Texas, and has a background in resource agency leadership and geology. Mr. Nicolau is the Assistant Director of and a Research Associate with the Center for Coastal Studies at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. **Teresa Carrillo** is the Associate Director of the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation. Ms. Carrillo has a background in farming, cattle ranching, wildlife and marine biology, and executive leadership.

Background and Goals of Project

Since 2002, water quality testing has found that concentrations of bacteria are elevated in Oso Creek, which may pose a risk to people who swim or wade in it. Swimming and wading are called “contact recreation” in the state’s standards for water quality; the term refers to all recreation in which people come in direct contact with the water. The goal of this project is to reduce bacteria concentrations to within acceptable risk levels for contact recreation.

Since 2003, TCEQ, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and other agencies have conducted studies of bacteria sources and quantities in the Oso Creek watershed. In 2013, based on results of those studies, TCEQ began developing a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the creek. A TMDL is like a budget for pollution -- determining how much concentrations must be reduced to meet water quality standards. The Center for Water Supply Studies at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi will complete several technical tasks in support of TMDL development. TCEQ and area stakeholders are also **assessing the oyster waters use of Oso Bay** and have completed a **TMDL for bacteria in Oso Bay.**

Public Participation

Staff from the Center for Coastal Studies at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation will work with communities, interest groups, and local organizations to distribute information about this project and involve stakeholders in developing a plan for watershed improvement. All public meetings about this project are open to anyone.

For More Information

For more information about the Oso Bay TMDL and/or the Oso Creek Watershed Public Outreach, visit the TCEQ project pages: A TMDL Project for the Oso Bay TMDL to Protect Recreational Use **http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/67-osobaybacteria.html**; and/or the Oso Creek project page **http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/67-osocreekbacteria**. If you have further questions about this project or the meeting, please email Teresa Carrillo (tcarrillo@baysfoundation.org), or call 361-882-3439. You may also reach us by mail at: Coastal Bend Bays Foundation, 1227 Agnes St., Suite B-1, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401.

STREAM TEAM NEWS

We are excited to announce the formation of the Coastal Bend Regional Stream Team for Oso Bay, Oso Creek, and Petronila Creek. To participate, or learn more about opportunities for you, your students, or for anyone contact Erin Hill at the Texas A&M University-CC, Center for Coastal Studies, 361-825-5791, or Teresa Carrillo at the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation, 361-882-3439.

Upcoming Stream Team informational Regional Stakeholder Meeting - Thursday July 30, 5:30 pm. The next day, Friday, July 31, 1:30 pm, hands on training will be provided to certify attendees as Stream Team Citizen Scientists. Both days events will be held at the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, 8545 S Staples St, Corpus Christi, TX 78413