

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC MEETING**



Oso Watershed Public Meeting Series, Part V

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

Thursday, May 28, 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 to create the Oso Watershed Coordination Committee, a committee populated by stakeholders from within the Oso Creek Watershed, and the interested public. The Coordination Committee will be tasked with creating the Oso Bay and Oso Creek Implementation Plan, a document which will outline a plan to restore the water quality of Oso Bay and Oso Creek. For a detailed explanation of TMDLs, Implementation Plans and the role of the Coordination Committee please go to

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/waterquality/tmdl/tmdlprogram.html>

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). There will be a public comment portion toward the end of the meeting

Agenda

6:00. *Greetings and Project Background* - **Teresa Carrillo**, Associate Director, CBBF. Ms. Carrillo has a background in wildlife and marine biology, executive leadership, and farming and ranching.

6:10. *The TMDL - How We Got Here* - **Rick Hay**, Center for Water Supply and Studies, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. Mr. Hay has a background in hydrology, modeling, and geology.

6:20. *Forming the Coordination Committee, Road Map for Restoration* - **Ron Stein**, TCEQ, Austin, Texas. 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.

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