

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Cole and Ropes Parks (CARP) Bacteria Reduction Implementation Plan Coordination Committee

Thursday, March 12, 2014, 2:00 p.m.
Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, Room 117
3209 S. Staples Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411

The Coastal Bend Bays Foundation (CBBF) will host a public meeting of the Cole and Ropes Parks Bacteria Reduction Implementation Plan Coordination Committee (CARP). The public meeting is regarding the water quality planning effort for two Corpus Christi Bay Beaches, at Cole Park and Ropes Parks. There will be a public comment portion toward the end of the meeting. All interested public are invited to attend. This meeting will be facilitated by the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation through contract with the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS), Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, and under the authority of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

For more information about the Corpus Christi Bay Beaches TMDL, including an Interim Monitoring Report, and a Historical Data Review and Site Assessment, please visit: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/97-corporisbeachesbacteria.html>, or go to the CBBF website <http://www.baysfoundation.org/projects/tmdl-cc-beaches/>. If you have any questions about this meeting or the project, please call 361-882-3439, or email Teresa Carrillo (tcarrillo@baysfoundation.org) for assistance.

Background and Goals of Project

The goal of the project is to reduce bacteria levels in order to protect people who swim and recreate at the beaches. Swimming and other types of water recreation are referred to as "contact recreation" in the state's standards for water quality. Several public beach parks along Corpus Christi Bay are monitored as part of the Texas Beach Watch Program. Data assessed from this program indicated bacteria concentrations were higher than the criteria for protecting contact recreation at Cole Park and Ropes Park beaches. When bacteria counts are greater than the criteria, Texas Beach Watch recommends that people be advised not swim in the area. High concentrations of bacteria may indicate a health risk to people who swim or wade in a water body.

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.

