

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Oso Creek Watershed Public Outreach

*Improving Water Quality in Oso Creek
A TMDL Project to Protect Recreational Uses*

Tuesday, April 29th, 2014

6:00 pm to 8 pm

Johnny Calderon Building Auditorium

710 E. Main St.

Robstown, Texas

The Coastal Bend Bays Foundation (CBBF) will host a public meeting for stakeholders in the Oso Creek Watershed to discuss the water quality issues that exist in Oso Creek. The Public Outreach Project will bring together area stakeholders to start the water quality planning effort for the restoration of Oso Creek.

All interested public are invited to attend the public meeting, which will be facilitated by the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation and the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS), Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). There will be a public comment portion toward the end of the meeting

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, the TCEQ, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and other agencies have conducted several studies of bacteria sources and quantities in the Oso Creek watershed. In 2013, based on results of those studies, the 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. The TCEQ and area stakeholders are also [assessing the oyster waters use of Oso Bay](#) and have completed a [TMDL for bacteria in Oso Bay](#).

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.

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 interested.

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.

