Possible Organizational Frameworks and Decision Making Processes

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Reason for Structure and Importance of Decisions

• To gain as much input and support from the local stakeholders as possible and allow them to make decisions that benefit everyone within the watershed
• Decision making process is critical to the development of the I-Plan
• Mechanisms used affect the efficiency of the process
• Number of decision makers can have a significant influence
• Decision making process dictates what is included in the TMDL I-Plan
Possible Rule Development if Desired

- **Formal**
  - Established bylaws that govern the actions of the committee
  - Adhere to Open Meeting Act Requirements

- **Informal**
  - Develop a set of ground rules that will be used to govern the committee
  - Committee members approve ground rules and their use
Bylaws Example

Lake Granbury
Watershed Protection
Plan
STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

BYLAWS

Adopted
March 24, 2006
Amended
February 13, 2007

• Outline:
  o Organization
  o Voting Membership
  o Selection of additional groups/members
  o Designated alternates
  o Decision Making
  o Adopting and amending bylaws
Ground Rules Examples

- Gilleland Creek
  - Goals
  - Timeframe
  - Participants
  - Steering Committee
  - Work groups
  - Science and Monitoring advisory group
  - Approved meeting minutes and action items

- Geronimo Creek
  - Goals
  - Powers
  - Timeframe
  - Membership Selection
  - Steering Committee
  - Workgroup
  - Technical advisory
  - Replacement/additions
  - Alternates
  - Decision making
  - Quorum
  - Facilitators
Ground Rules Example

• Upper Gulf Coast Oyster Waters
  o Speak up
  o Disagree respectfully
  o Silence is presumed consent
  o Listen during discussions
  o Respect opinions and don’t criticize people
  o Be open to new ideas
  o Silence cell phones
  o Have fun

Source: Google Images
Potential Decision Making Structures

• Consensus Building
  o Overall stakeholder group is utilized to come up with recommendations that everyone can agree on

• Work Groups
  o Stakeholders that can contribute to a topic grouped together to develop solutions
  o Work Groups focus on specific topics
  o Work Groups make recommendations to include in TMDL I-Plan
  o Recommendations presented to the Coordination Committee
Buck Creek Example

Stakeholder Group Representatives

- Texas AgriLife Extension Agent
- Landowners
- TPWD
- River Authority
- SWCD Board Members
- County Commissioners
- Other Citizens

- Watershed Characteristics:
  - Almost exclusively rural watershed
  - Very limited human influence with low population

- Structure:
  - Utilized consensus building and used overall stakeholder group to make recommendations that everyone can agree on
• Watershed Characteristics:
  o Multiple Issues/parties involved
  o Significant Growth
  o Multiple environmental concerns

• Structure:
  o Established Steering Committee with representatives from various Workgroups including:
    • Habitat
    • Agricultural Issues
    • Wastewater Infrastructure
    • Education and Outreach
  o Steering Committee typically has final say of activities in watershed

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Arroyo Colorado Example

25 Steering Committee Reps

RGV UT-Brownsville
Coastal Conservation Assoc.
Watershed Resident
Texas Department of Ag
Nueces River Authority
TSSWC B
City of Harlingen
TWDB
LRGV SW Task Force
Harlingen Irrigation District
Texas State Bank
LRGV Dev. Council
Sierra Club
TAMUK

USFWS
TPWD
Arroyo Property Owner
Cameron Co. DD #5
City of McAllen
Texas Citrus Mutual
Coalition to Save the AC
Sea Grant Marine
Advisory Committee
Military Highway WSC
Cotton Growers Assoc.
Valley Land Fund
Sugar Growers
Port of Harlingen Authority
Carter's and Burton Creek Example

- **Watershed Characteristics:**
  - Changing watershed with multiple influences
  - Rapidly urbanizing
  - Diverse potential E. coli sources

- **Coordination Committee made up of representatives from different interests**

- **Goal is to be equally representative of watershed stakeholders**

- **Coordination Committee determines the work groups needed:**
  - Natural Resource Work Group
  - Planning and Development Work Group
  - Stormwater and Transportation Work Group
  - Waste Water Work Group

18 Coordination Committee
Reps Total
City of College Station
City of Bryan
TXDOT
Texas AgriLife Extension
Brazos County
TPWD
Brazos County Health Dept.
TAMU Faculty
Landowners
TAMU Environmental Health and Safety Office
Roles of Stakeholder Group, Coordination Committee, and Work Groups

- **Full Stakeholder Group**
  - Meet periodically to discuss progress and provide input and comments on coordination committee recommendations

- **Coordination Committee**
  - Balanced representation from various viewpoints and interest groups
  - Represents the overall interest of those groups
  - Responsible for developing and recommending implementation actions and strategies to be included in the I-Plan (when no work groups are utilized)
  - Responsible for involving public throughout development and implementation process

- **Work Groups**
  - Focus on work group-specific issues and draft recommendations for Coordination Committee and inclusion into I-Plan
  - Ex. Natural Resources group focuses on solutions to agriculture, habitat, and wildlife related E. coli loading
Decision Making Strategy
Preferred Framework?

Option 1
Coordination Committee

Option 2
Coordination Committee

Option 3
Comments from Full Stakeholder Group

Coordination Committee

Workgroups

Workgroups
Work Groups Used in Other Watersheds

- Agricultural Issues
- Coordination and Policy
- Education and Outreach
- Habitat
- On-Site Sewage
- Ordinance and Planning
- Natural Resource Management
- Science and Monitoring
- Urban Storm Water
- Waste Water Infrastructure
- Wildlife
Next Steps

• First agree on the number of representatives on the Coordination Committee

• Second, agree on the interests that will be represented by each representative
  o The representatives are there to represent all of the interests for the specific group (not just themselves)

• Third, determine the individuals that will be the representatives

This may take some time to ensure a balanced representation of the interests in the watershed
Questions/Discussion

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