

# Medina River Below Diversion Lake Watershed Protection Plan Stakeholder Ground Rules

The following are the Ground Rules for the Medina River Stakeholder Group (hereafter referred to as the Stakeholder Group) agreed upon by the members of the Stakeholder Group.

- As a local information source providing insights, suggestions, and concerns about the watershed and water quality
- As the decision making body who determines what components will be included in the WPP
- As reviewers of the draft WPP content developed by TWRI using stakeholder input
- As final approvers of the drafted and revised WPP

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Stakeholder Group is to provide local stakeholder input and guide development of a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) to address bacteria and nutrient concerns in the watershed. The WPP will be developed by the stakeholders through the Stakeholder Group with support from the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI), San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).

**Goals:** The overarching goal of the Stakeholder Group is to develop a WPP for the bacteria impairment to restore water quality to meet the state's water quality standards in the Medina River, Medio Creek and surrounding tributaries. The basic goals of this public input process are:

- to ensure that a local perspective drives development of the WPP;
- encourage an open dialogue on water quality issues;
- to ensure that all pollution source categories identified that can be feasibly addressed in the 2022 Integrated Report are addressed in the development of the WPP
- pursue the successful implementation of the WPP once developed

## MEMBERSHIP

**Roles and Responsibilities:** The Stakeholder Group will serve several roles and have several responsibilities.

**Stakeholders:** Stakeholders include all individuals, entities, or organizations in the watershed that affect or are affected by the water quality problems, decisions, or projects; can help develop or implement actions to reduce water quality problems; or live in the watershed or use the water resource.

**Representation:** The Stakeholder Group includes a variety of stakeholders so that reflects the diversity of interests and viewpoints within the Medina River below Diversion Lake watershed. The Stakeholder Group will be comprised of a reasonable number of members. Also, if it is determined that additional representation for an un-represented stakeholder group(s) is needed, then members from this group(s) will be sought. Upon stakeholder request, working groups can be developed. Work groups are a focused group of stakeholders of a similar interest and background to aid in WPP chapter development composed of volunteer stakeholders.

## MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend and ask questions or make comments. The goal of each meeting will be to cover content listed on the agenda and obtain needed input to continue WPP development. As time permits, comments or questions not directly related to agenda items will be discussed.

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**Location and Arrangements:** TWRI is responsible for making meeting arrangements; date, time, and location will be based on the Stakeholder Group's preference. All meetings are open to the public and all interested stakeholders are encouraged and welcome to participate.

**Agenda:** TWRI, in consultation with the Stakeholder Group, SARA and the TSSWCB, will develop the agenda. The anticipated topics will be determined at the previous meeting.

**Meeting Notes/Minutes:** TWRI or a designated representative of the Stakeholder Group will be responsible for recording meeting notes/minutes and sending the meeting notes/minutes out to the Stakeholder Group.

**Open Discussion:** Participants may express their views candidly, but without personal attacks. Time is shared because all participants are of equal importance.

## **DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**

The Stakeholder Group makes decisions by consensus rather than voting. Stakeholder Group members may submit recommendations as individuals or on behalf of their organization. These recommendations may be accepted and subsequently adopted by the Stakeholder Group. Decisions about what was or was not included in the WPP will be determined by consensus.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND REVISION OF GROUND RULES**

These ground rules were drafted by the TWRI, reviewed and finalized by the Stakeholder Group and accepted by consensus of the Stakeholder Group. Once adopted, ground rules may be changed by consensus of the Stakeholder Group members.

## **WORK GROUP ADHEREANCE**

The Work Groups formed to develop specific management measures for inclusion into the WPP will also adhere to the Ground Rules described above. Work Group members will be informed of this prior to them accepting their roles as Work Group members.

## **FACILITATOR**

The Texas Water Resources Institute provides leadership and guidance in the development of the WPP. TWRI will also assist as needed in the planning, coordination, of WPP development and activities. TWRI will serve as the Facilitator for the Stakeholder Group and any Work Groups that may be formed. The Facilitator is an independent position, financed through a federal Clean Water Act §319(h) nonpoint source grant from the TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The TSSWCB provides technical assistance to the stakeholders in developing the WPP. The TSSWCB will ensure the planning process culminates in a WPP for the watershed and ensure the WPP satisfies the nine elements fundamental to a WPP as promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.