

**Medina River WPP  
Work Group Meeting Notes  
June 6 – 7, 2024**

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## June 6, 2024

### LULC Updates

- General consensus is fine with estimated conditions.

### Population Projections

- Low - need to update projected rates
- Bexar Co growth suggested as more appropriate for watershed as a whole
- Look at Medina Valley ISD projected growth rates (Medina Valley 7-10% new students per year)
  - ISD growth is probably more representative of actual growth
  - Look at video on Bond page
    - May still under represent actual growth
- Some under/over estimation for particular years should not make a difference in final analysis
- OSSF installations in Medina county-wide have increased greatly. Mr. Brawner will send spreadsheet.
  - 300ish in 2015
  - 800ish in 2022

## Agriculture and Rural Concerns Session

### Reviewed animal number for E. coli loading

- Analysis does not include all possible sources, just those for which we have data and can manage for.
- Used original 2021 NLCD acres and current population estimates for estimation scenarios.

Units on SELECT graphs are off - should be cfu/day or year? (Corrected units to: *E. coli* (cfu per day))

### SELECT Outputs

- Livestock - #7 being higher than 2 & 3 is questioned
  - #4 also seems high
- Deer - generally representative of what is actually happening
  - Splitting of hairs is possible, but probably not any better result
- Feral Hogs - used highest density of hogs possible: 32 ac/hog
  - No comments
- Wildlife valuation properties may influence livestock numbers
  - Haven't been able to get that data yet though. Bad time for CAD with valuations coming out

## Urban/Stormwater/Wastewater Session

### *Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTF)*

#### Wastewater

- Forest Glen WWRF is now online per Scooter
- Medio Creek - going back to producing lots of reuse water
  - Used reported daily average discharge rather than permit limit
- Same Company Owns Portranco Ranch, Forest Glen, Megans Landing
  - Portranco Ranch and Forest Glen - phased permits - used upper end of that permitted limit
  - New plant under construction for Megans Landing
    - No permit in TCEQ database as of yet
- Applied population growth %s to WWTF discharges
  - May not be appropriate with rise in use of reuse water
  - WW discharges not near as high as what's modeled
    - Analysis is for a worst-case scenario

### *On-Site Sewage Systems (OSSF)*

- Received Bexar Co data too late to add in to today's presentation
- For Medina County, 12% failure rate is probably quite low for aerobic - estimated at 50% to 80% in previous meeting. See notes from previous meeting.
  - For conventional systems, 12% is probably a little high

### *Dogs*

- Dog numbers do not account for strays
- Medina Co euthanizes 1300 strays per year
- In 2019, the City of San Antonio had 37,000 unrestrained dogs - ~80% were owned but running free
- For load calculations: recalculate using 60% ownership; 1.46 dog per house. (Correction: reviewed the AVMA estimation – units in table transposed: 0.67 dogs/household should be 1.46 dogs/house. Calculated correctly, shown wrong on slides. Slide corrected.)
- Dog numbers increase will rise with updated assumptions; and revised population growth rate

### *Next meeting dates:*

2nd week of July and beyond

Try to get NRCS/Kendria/AgriLife at meeting for ag

June 7, 2024

## Education & Outreach Session

LULC update overview

- No issues identified

Population estimates

- Medina Valley projections probably pretty good fit for the watershed.

E&O Thoughts

- Is there a lack of public awareness?
  - Yes, general public, especially urbanites
  - HOAs are ripe audience
  - JBSA is rotating audience too, hard to keep them informed - military sustainability/environmental stewardship approach
  - Generational lack of awareness
    - Folks now are further disconnected from the natural resource
    - TPWD Coop Grant - connect kids to resources
      - Kayaks, watershed models, Macro Invert ID kits
    - There has been a shift in school/4H programs towards tech rather than natural resources
      - 4H water curriculum needs to be revamped extensively
        - No content for water quality
        - Nothing of substance there
        - Needs engaging activities
      - Boys and Girls club is also good group - 4H could partner with them perhaps - keystone club does national projects
      - Bridge tech push toward natural resources
      - Use Inaturalist or other tech: Youtube other socials
    - Cultural shift - parent taught behavior - eg. Tossing trash out the window
      - Folks don't understand impacts
  - River Aide San Antonio - sets up stream clean up events
    - Need to add educational component to their activity efforts
    - Texas Master Naturalists/Gardners are other great groups
      - Lots of communities also have senior/activity centers
  - TWA/TPWD educational trunks - need to look at water quality
  - Look at trash separators for specific areas - Medio Creek tribs
- What about rural communities
  - 1D1 program - virtual statewide program, could integrate additional water quality content
  - Existing workshops: OSSFs, feral hogs, livestock, etc.
  - Revisit the 1D1 valuation for water supply enhancement
    - Died in a vote 5-6 years ago
    - Could this be re-upped?
    - Would take legislative support
- Great ideas - problem is actually implementing them

- Farmers are group to target
  - Economics is the driver
  - They are doing good practices and leaving good cover and doing better than they used to
  - Challenge is that any conservations costs money - can't afford to change
  - Incentives are needed for folks to change - education will not be enough to drive change
  - Need to really focus on CADs to update 1D1 requirements
    - Stocking rates need to be adjusted and have flexibility to adapt with the climate
  - Audubon has conservation ranching program utilizing native grasses
  - Riparian Restoration should be a priority
    - TFS has \$50k grants readily available for accepted watersheds
      - Medina would be great candidate once plan is accepted
  
- TPWD has internal videographer; TFS does have one too
- TPWD is doing a series on 1D1 topics too

Got to remember that farmers/ranchers are a dying breed

- Development is pushing them out
- All the farm/ranch land will be developed before we know it

*Next Meeting –*

- 2nd week of July and beyond
- Will send poll email out to find best date
- Several folks will be out first 2 weeks of July