

# Upper Llano Watershed Protection Plan Coordinating Committee Meeting #3 Summary August 1, 2013

## Coordination Committee Members Present

Fred Gregg, Carl Teaff, Dandy Kothmann, Souli Shanklin, Marty Graham, Sam Silvers, Bob Lyons, Marvin Ivy, Znobias Wootan, Brady Richardson, Lynne Richardson (alternate), Gary Garrett, Art Mudge, and Jerry Kirby

## Updates from the Research Team

Emily Seldomridge, TTU Llano River Field Station

- The Research Team will conduct the 5<sup>th</sup> quarterly sampling the second half of September. Sampling includes water quality, flow, fish and macroinvertebrate monitoring, and habitat assessment.
- Water quality from the previous quarters indicates the Llano River remains in a healthy condition considering the persistent drought conditions. Threats of *E. coli* were present at two sites, but this is expected during drought conditions at sites with large livestock, deer, and hog populations.
- Mapping of non-native invasive aquatic species (elephant ear, chinaberry, and giant cane) and cutbanks of the North and South Llano rivers is complete. Results will be shared with the Invasive Species working group.
- The historic Upper Llano River watershed characterization report (including a review of the historic water quality, quantity, and biological data) is complete. An electronic copy of the report was given to each Committee member.

## Updates on Activities

- On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, a follow up treatment of elephant ears was conducted on the South Llano River from below 700 Springs to KCR 150. The treatments have been largely successful; the once large stands have been reduced to small shoots.
- The Texas Well Owner Network was held at the Llano River Field Station on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. There were 45 participants in the workshop and well water screening. A high proportion of the wells screened were positive for total coliform and a few for *Escherichia coli*. Upon further investigation, storage tanks and untreated river water were the main causes for the positive samples. More information on the information learned during the workshop can be found here: <http://twon.tamu.edu/media/358238/lowres.pdf>. Those unable to attend the workshop, but still interested in water testing can contact the Upper Guadalupe River Authority in Kerrville, TX.

- The South Llano Watershed Alliance (SLWA) was recently named as the winner of the 2013 Landowner Association Lone Star Steward Award through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. More information about the award can be found on the SLWA website.
- The SLWA held a South Llano River cleanup on June 29, 2013. Over 50 participants cleaned the river from Telegraph to the City Park.
- The Llano River Field Station was awarded a grant through the Texas State Energy and Conservation Office for the “Integrated multiple renewable energy demonstration in the Texas Hill Country at Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station.” This grant will cover the installation of solar panels, a wind turbine, and educational displays. Together, these will supply 100% of the electricity for Buildings A&B. Installation is scheduled for the end of August.
- Save the date for future events:
  - October 16: Riparian Workshop (For more information: <http://naturalresourcestraining.tamu.edu/schedule/oct-16-2013-texas-riparian/>)
  - November 1-2: Joint Meeting of the Texas Riparian Association and Texas Society for Ecological Restoration at the Llano River Field Station
- Don't forget to like Texas Tech University at Junction and South Llano Watershed Alliance on Facebook to keep up with current happenings in the area.

#### **Coordination Committee Discussion**

- As requested at previous meetings, representatives from the Texas Wildlife Association and oil and gas industry were asked to join the Coordination Committee. We were unable to secure a representative from either group.
- A quorum wasn't present for the June 1<sup>st</sup> Coordination Committee meeting; however, those present discussed breaking into working groups to proceed with the development of the Watershed Protection Plan. Suggested working group topics included:
  - Invasive species
    - Terrestrial: axis deer and feral hogs
    - Aquatic: elephant ears, chinaberry, and giant cane
  - Riparian protection and management
    - Grazing management
    - Establishment of plants and grasses
    - Cutbanks and stabilization
  - Water quality, quantity, and conservation
  - Water supply enhancement (brush control)
    - Ashe juniper, mesquite, and live oak removal and maintenance, and quantifying water relations, runoff, and recharge
  - Upland management
    - Population driven land fragmentation
    - Land stewardship incentives
    - Wildlife/habitat management plans

- Working group expectations, topics, and timelines were discussed with the Committee quorum. The members of the Coordination Committee in attendance unanimously voted to adopt the working group structure and the 5 topics given above.
- Working group membership was self-selected. Individual working groups met, reviewed provided topic information, and set the first working group meetings each in September. Each Committee member was given topic information for all (5) working groups.