

Big Cypress Modeling and BST Project

Stakeholder Meeting

Mt. Pleasant Civic Center, Mt. Pleasant, TX

December 6, 2010

6:11 - Opening Remarks – Lee Thomas, NETMWD

6:14 – SELECT Modeling – Dr. R. Karthikeyan

Background information on SELECT Model

- Sources of input information (land use and characteristics, population densities, soil types, etc)
 - Agency resources
 - Stakeholder input
- Helps identify areas where management would be best applied to reduce bacteria loading to creek

Example SELECT output from Walnut Creek in LBR project

- Land use reclassification (from stakeholder input)
- Sub-watershed breakout
- Animal population densities and distributions based on land use and stakeholder input
- Human population and number and location of existing septic systems

Q: Is the number of deer used in Walnut from TPWD? 37 Seems high.

A: It was, but that was not used – used RMU of 15-20 for deer.

Explanation of Big Cypress Watershed Needs

- Monitoring stations
- Updated land use map
- Land use percentages and acreages (what are the potential sources associated w/each land use?)
- Sub-watersheds

Stakeholder survey for animal population densities may help produce a more accurate dataset to be used with the model

Q: The “Cultivated Land” land use category – what does this consist of?

A: Dr. Karthi: Not differentiating into row crop/till/no-till. This is a level-2 category in the model.

Q: Where did it come from?

A: From NLCD maps.

Q: This may need to be adjusted – much of cultivated land may need to be changed to rangeland – lots of that is coastal patches based on the map, and those are grazing lands.

A: Dr. Karthi-Coastal hay still is counted as cultivated land in NLCD maps - may need to be changed.

Q: Mitch-Are these coastal patches used for grazing or cultivated?

A: Some are used strictly for hay cultivation, but in times of drought are used for grazing.

Further discussion: Peanut patches to remain row crop, coastal patches to be moved to “managed pasture” and “improved rangeland” based on land use.

Q: Is Lake Bob Sandlin included? Could bacteria come from there?

A: No, but it’s not currently on 303(d) list, so no need to include it in this project.

7:00 - Water Monitoring Update - Randy Rushin, Water Monitoring Solutions

Survey of Sites and monitoring schedule

- Routine and “scattered storm sampling”
- Parameters that are being sampled (DO, pH, flow, etc)
- 500+ samples taken, still several E. coli, WWTFs, and storm samples to be collected

Sampling update

- Geomeans have gone up in drier part of the year in all three assessment units (Hart, Tankersley, BCC)

Q: Stream is usually clear from Hart creek, but after flowing past the airport, it turns murky – should this be a priority?

A: Randy-good to know. We will try to look into this.

Q: Lake built by Priefert – after a rain, film forms over this. Might this also be worth investigating?

A: Lee – we’ll get your contact information and check on this for storm sampling.

Concerns – getting many “greater than” values from the lab – working to get that resolved
RUAA – how is the stream being used?

- Swimming, fishing, canoeing on creek
- Do you allow access to creek where it flows through your private property?

Q: sampling at HWY 11 – how much lower was it than where Hart/Tankersley run in?

A: Don’t know, but that will be reviewed extensively and included in final report.

7:21 - BST known-source sampling – Lee Thomas, NETMWD

Cattle and poultry – 5 farms, 10 samples per farm

Wildlife – hunter harvests, fresh roadkill, etc

Have 5 samples, need many more by January. Helps to identify LOCAL animals which will help with project.

Q: Poultry owners get hatchlings from same breeders – how will they be different?

A: Different management practices, disposal practices, etc. may influence colonies. This is something we want to confirm.

Q: For In-house windrowing – how effective is that at killing bacteria?

A: Allen-at 131 degrees, kill can occur in 7 minutes or so.

Q: Will bacteria levels be higher if windrowed litter is not turned as often?

A: Allen-much more likely that less of the bacteria will be killed if not turned over as often, yes.

Next Meeting – Tentatively set for February 28 @ 6:00.

7:45 - **Adjourn**

additional meeting materials can be found online at <http://bcc.tamu.edu>
