

**Big Cypress BST Project
Stakeholder Meeting – Mt. Pleasant, TX
August 26, 2010**

12:17 - **Introductions - Lee Thomas, NETMWD**

12:21 – **BST Assessment Results - Emily Martin, SCSC**

BST overview

- Differences between Library-Dependent and Independent methods
- Details on Bacteroidales markers and how they can also be used to identify hosts
- Utilizing limited library-dependent and library-independent approaches in study

Current Status of BST analysis

- ERIC-RP: 58 of the 122 samples have been analyzed (48% complete)
- Bacteroidales: 213 out of 277 analyzed (77% complete)
- Need 85% match on the DNA to call it a “hit” for a certain source group, otherwise categorized as “unidentified”
- 3-way split for identified hits: livestock and pets (40%), wildlife (36%), and humans (5%)
- 19% of samples remain unidentified

Future work

- Additional data will be analyzed and collected through January 2011

Q: Are chickens included in the library?

A: Yes, looking to include them as a major player in the watershed.

Q: In the future, will you be able to split up livestock, pets, etc?

A: Yes, working towards a 6-way split to divide those out between avian/non-avian, livestock/pets, etc

Q: Does hot weather affect data collection?

A: May change community makeup, so accounting for these differences by doing seasonal sampling.

Q: Significance of “unidentified hits?” What might they be?

A: Could come from anything, just not significant enough evidence (85%) to call it a hit on any one class – could very well be from either an established class or from a new one altogether.

Q: If landowners wish to participate in sample collection, what sort of sampling training will be needed?

A: SCSC will provide containers for samples, and collaborative efforts with other project partners to conduct basic training – nothing too complicated.

12:40 – **Sanitary Source Survey – Lee Thomas, NETMWD**

Development

- Stakeholder input is key to success of this survey

Known sample collection

- Poultry house visits
- Cooperation with hunters (duck, deer, turkey, etc) to obtain gut fecal samples after harvest
- Cooperation with landowners and hunters for help with population estimates
 - o Need these estimates for SELECT modeling

Q: You said you'd be using a model, but Emily said that BST wasn't a model?

A: SELECT model will be used. It is separate from the BST sampling.

Mitch (TSSWCB): We're currently trying to identify "hot spots" for bacterial loadings within the watershed. If you are aware of any potential places you feel need to be focused on, please let us know.

12:54 – Water Quality Monitoring – Linard Arocha, Water Monitoring Solutions

General overview of sampling

- Basic objectives
- Monitoring sites

Flow Rate Curves

- Some collected before project began
- Lucky to have large difference in discharge rates/lake levels in Bob Sandlin to build curves due to heavy rains

CWQM (Continuous Water Quality Monitoring)

- Hourly Measurements on Hart, Tankersley, and two other minor tributaries

Sampling methods

- Comprised of both routine and event-based (storm events) sampling periods
- Try to get at least 8 events for project
- Rain was fairly continuous over last few months, so attempt to get a "dry period" reading were not possible

Sampling updates

- Geomeans for E. coli colonies on Tankersley have gone down (300 to 250)
- Hart has gone up (335 to 360)
- Big Cypress sites show lowest readings (173, 185)
- Lots of sampling remaining – 250+

Considerations

- Several storm sample results came back as "greater than" (>) values from lab, except on Big Cypress
- Heavy rains last fall/winter

Additional Tasks

- Upcoming historical/monitoring reports and RUAA

Q: Where is all this heading?

A: The end use will be determined by stakeholders – i.e., do you want to do a WPP, or how would you like to go forward, given the provided information?

1:13 – Closing Comments - Lee Thomas

Next meeting will be in November, monitoring will conclude in January 2011

- For stakeholders not here today, let people know that all information will be on NETWMD webpage, as well as main page at bbc.tamu.edu
- Concerns with timing of meeting and it being "open public meeting" – need public notices, landowner lists

1:19 - Meeting adjourned