

# Attoyac Bayou Watershed Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

---

April 30, 2012

Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau Conference Facility

6:00 PM

23 people attending

Designated Steering Committee Members Attending:

Glenn Adams

Bob Barton

Lane Bradshaw

Reade Dawson

David Fears

Andy Gardner

Hap Hachtel

Kelley Holcomb

Elton Milstead

Jerry Nichols

Ralph Schwausch

Kris Stanaland

Cliff Sunda

Jeff Williams

**The purpose of this steering committee meeting was to discuss the development of the Goals and Objectives driving the development of the Attoyac Bayou Watershed Protection Plan.**

*6:00 pm: Neil Boitnott of Castilaw Environmental Services*

*Overview of Goals, Objectives and their Role in WPPs; Examples of Goals from other WPPs*

**Importance of Goals:**

- lay the ground work for future action taken in the watershed
- help to measure progress
- guide the selection of management measure implementation

**Example Goals from Other Watersheds:**

**Plum Creek**

- Improve and protect water quality to restore and preserve the creek for future generations
- Implement stormwater control measures through city programs and public outreach
- voluntarily implement site specific water quality management plans

## **Buck Creek**

- maintain unimpaired status of the creek
- further reduce instream *E. coli* levels
- determine an appropriate nitrate screening level for the creek

## **Pecos River**

- improve the health of the river to have it removed from the state's list of impaired waters

## **Arroyo Colorado**

Mission: Reduce the addition of pollution in order to meet state water quality standards

### Goals:

- reduce pollutants by 7 – 19%
- Improve awareness and understanding of water quality issues
- Minimize fish kills and maintain aquatic diversity
- Encourage voluntary adoption of BMPs
- Increase wastewater and storm water infrastructure
- Implement enhanced biological treatment projects to remove nutrients from wastewater treatment facility effluent
- Protect and restore terrestrial, riparian and wetland habitats
- Reduce erosion and nonpoint source runoff
- Coordinate decision-making for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the Arroyo Colorado and its watershed
- Introduce and encourage alternative urban development designs that help protect and restore water quality.

### ***What Goals are Appropriate for the Attoyac? Questions were posed to the Steering Committee.***

**Q:** What level of water quality do you want for the Attoyac Bayou and its tributaries?

**A:** Steering Committee members indicated that Primary Contact Recreation is not appropriate for the Attoyac Bayou or its tributaries.

- The RUAA process will do the required work and documentation to provide evidence of the current level of contact recreation going on in the Attoyac and its tributaries

**Q:** What level of water quality in the Attoyac meets stakeholder needs?

**A:** Steering Committee described the watershed is used as an economic and environmental resource, not as a contact recreation source. The Attoyac is a unique stream and unique watershed that should be managed as an individual resource. It will never be a Guadalupe River that is primarily used for recreation.

**Q:** Should any pollutants other than *E. coli* be addressed?

**A:** Steering Committee members indicated that only current issues should be dealt with; namely *E. coli*.

**NOTE:** - A water quality concern for elevated ammonia levels does exist from Polly Branch (South of SH7) up to the upper boundary of the waterbody at FM 95 in Rusk County. Water quality standards are currently in the works at the state level and when they are established, it is highly likely that portions of the Attoyac Bayou will be considered impaired for elevated ammonia levels.

### ***Specific Feedback Received from the Steering Committee Regarding Watershed Needs***

- a reasonable water quality standard should be applied to the Attoyac
- access to the Bayou should be controlled on public road crossings

- providing enhanced education and outreach on conservation and water quality issues is greatly needed
- the watershed, its ecological utility, characteristics, hydrology, uses and local impacts need to be clearly described in the WPP: define the uniqueness of the watershed
- do not talk about funding needs in the watershed goals
- clearly define the characteristics of the bayou that prevent/strongly deter its use as a primary contact recreation water body

## **Draft Mission Statement and Goals for the Attoyac Bayou WPP**

### **Draft Mission Statement:**

To promote the conservation and stewardship of the Attoyac Bayou watershed in a manner that improves and sustains instream water quality, protects its ecologically diverse natural resources and maintains the economic viability of the watershed while simultaneously supporting the needs of watershed stakeholders.

### **Draft Goals:**

- To meet designated water quality standards set by the State of Texas for the Attoyac Bayou.
- To determine and recommend to the state, an appropriate water quality standards for the Attoyac Bayou.
- Work to improve awareness and understanding of local water quality concerns.
- Encourage voluntary adoption of practices that improve water quality through better watershed stewardship