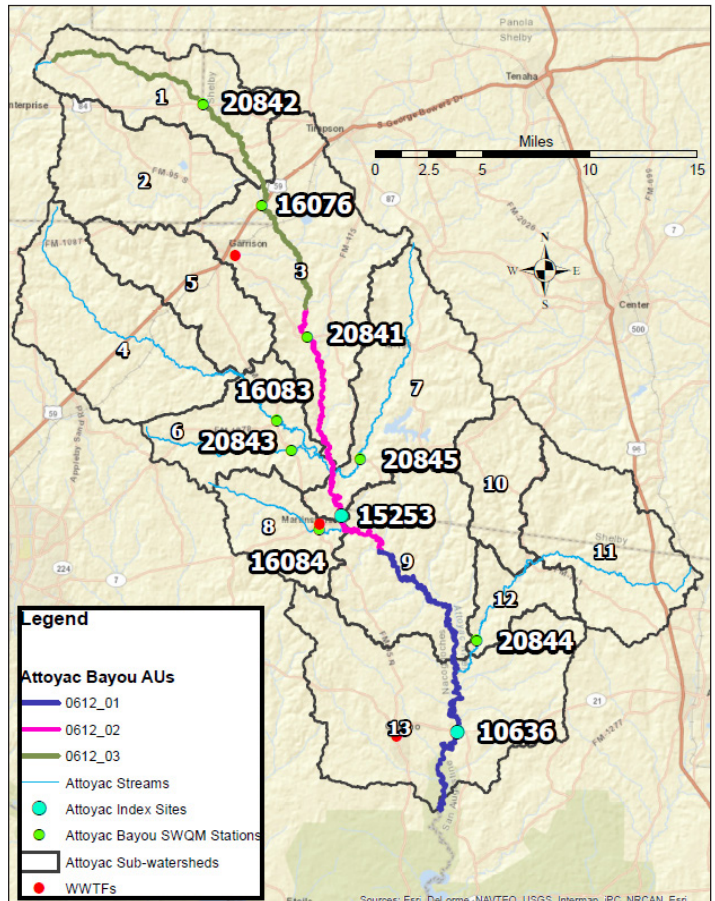


Thank you for your interest in the Attoyac Bayou Watershed Protection Plan annual newsletter! This newsletter will serve as an avenue for Attoyac Bayou residents to stay informed about water quality updates and activities happening in the area.

Since 2000, the Attoyac Bayou has been impaired by elevated *E. coli* concentrations. In 2009, local stakeholders formed the [Attoyac Bayou Watershed Partnership](#) and began developing a watershed protection plan (WPP) to address these impairments. The WPP was finalized and published in July 2014, and in April 2015, it was formally accepted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Today, the Attoyac Bayou Watershed Partnership continues to work locally to implement the WPP and improve water quality. Currently, the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) manages several projects in the Attoyac Bayou and surrounding areas, in partnership with the Angelina & Neches River Authority (ANRA), Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) and Pineywoods Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D).



Location of monitoring stations and water body assessment units (AUs) in the Attoyac Bayou Watershed.

## Proposed de-listing of part of the Attoyac Bayou

The southernmost section of the Attoyac Bayou, 0612\_01, has been included in the draft of the 2016 Integrated Report for de-listing. That means that this section of the bayou meets quality standards for recreational activities such as swimming, waterskiing and playing in the water. When the report is fully accepted by the EPA, assessment unit 0612\_01 will be officially de-listed.

## Attoyac Bayou Projects

There are currently two main projects in the watershed contributing to the de-listing of the remaining two assessment units (0623\_03 and 0612\_03):



Attoyac Bayou Station 16076\_2-2.





Lower portion of West Creek in the Attoyac Bayou Watershed.

### **1. Attoyac Watershed Best Management Practice (BMP) Effectiveness Monitoring**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), TWRI, SFA and ANRA are working together to perform monthly routine monitoring and public education and outreach efforts in the Attoyac Bayou Watershed.

This project began work in October 2016 and was originally intended to end in March 2019, but all parties agreed to extend the project through September 2019 at no additional cost to the state. SFA collects samples monthly at five sites within the watershed. ANRA's environmental laboratory analyzes the samples and sends the results to TWRI and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for use in determining the effectiveness of BMPs that have been put in place with the assistance of the Attoyac Bayou WPP implementation project, as well as for assessing the water quality for the Integrated Report. Several educational events have been held in the area over the course of the project as well.

Continued efforts to extend monitoring and educational outreach for an additional 22 months

through August 2021 has been approved. This project is funded by the TSSWCB through its State Nonpoint Source Management Program.

### **2. Attoyac On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Repair and Replacement**

TCEQ, TWRI, Pineywoods RC&D and ANRA are repairing or replacing failing OSSFs for low-income families within the Attoyac Bayou Watershed and educating residents on best practices related to owning and maintaining OSSFs. TWRI and ANRA are continuing to develop a database of OSSF systems in the area to better monitor the age and health of those systems.

This project began in March 2017 and was originally intended to repair or replace 13 OSSFs. Response to the program was very positive, and additional funds were secured to provide an additional 10 repairs and replacements (for a total of 23). All currently funded systems and repairs are expected to be completed by the end of summer 2019.

A follow-on to this project has been approved, and advertising will begin for grant applicants in September 2019. If you would like to be considered



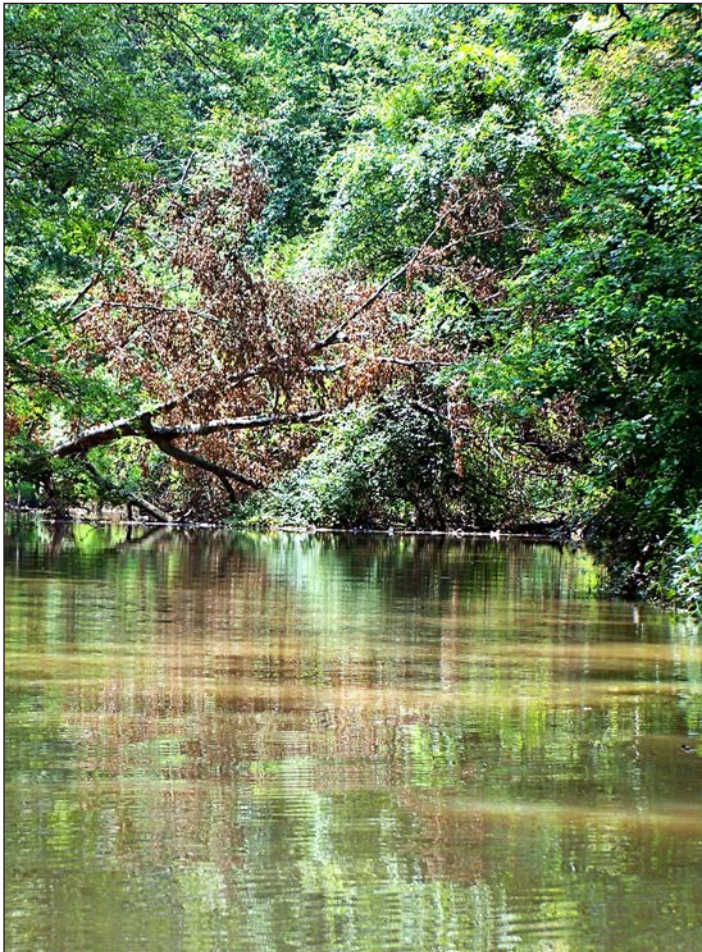


for this grant to have your OSSF inspected, repaired or replaced, please contact Emily Monroe of TWRI or Ken Awtrey of Pineywoods RC&D for an application. Contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

OSSF repairs and replacements are funded by TCEQ through a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant from EPA and Supplemental Environmental Projects funds from TCEQ.

## Events and Meetings

The WPP implementation project aims to bring high quality educational programs to the watershed, in addition to education materials that can be distributed to your friends, family and coworkers. In Lufkin in May 2019, the WPP project hosted a continuing education unit class for OSSF professionals and a related watershed project hosted by the Texas Watershed Stewards program.



A portion of the Attoyac Bayou.

### What is a Watershed Protection Plan?

A WPP is a plan that discusses impairments in an area and BMPs that can be implemented to repair, protect and preserve the watershed. The Attoyac Bayou WPP was developed by residents in partnership with local water experts including ANRA and SFA. EPA has nine key elements that are addressed in the plan, making it a well-rounded, voluntary approach to addressing water quality issues.

You can read the entire WPP for the Attoyac Bayou and subscribe to the mailing list on the website: [attoyac.tamu.edu](http://attoyac.tamu.edu).

There are a variety of other available programs and topics, a few of which are listed below. Are there any that sound particularly interesting? Do you have other ideas for workshops or topics? Let us know!

- Feral Hog workshop
- Texas Watershed Steward program
- OSSF Homeowner Operation and Maintenance
- Texas Well Owner Network
- Rainwater harvesting workshop
- Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program

## Funding available for landowners to fight southern pine beetle

Eligible forest landowners can receive financial and technical assistance by helping reduce the threat of southern pine beetle, or SPB, infestations and outbreaks.

Landowners in 21 East Texas counties, including the Attoyac Bayou Watershed, conducting first-thin operations in overly dense, pulpwood-sized pine stands may apply for the 2019 Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program Thinning Cost Share.

Applications must be submitted by November 15, 2019 and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. For eligibility criteria and application, please [visit the website](#) or contact **Shane Harrington** with the Texas A&M Forest Service at 979-458-6650.

## Contact:

**Emily Monroe**, Extension program specialist for TWRI, works with local stakeholders to develop plans for restoring and protecting water resources, including securing funding for projects. She manages the Attoyac Bayou programs for TWRI and works closely with ANRA, SFA and Pineywoods RC&D to ensure successful project implementation.

(979) 458-3154, [emily.monroe@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:emily.monroe@ag.tamu.edu)

**Ken Awtrey** is the coordinator for Pineywoods RC&D in Nacogdoches. He and Jo Nell Haltom, program assistant, work with local environmental health and safety officials and OSSF installers to manage the Attoyac Bayou OSSF repair and replace program.

(936) 568-0414, [pineywoodsrgcd@att.net](mailto:pineywoodsrgcd@att.net),  
[kenawtrey@yahoo.com](mailto:kenawtrey@yahoo.com)

**Jeremiah Poling** is the information systems manager at ANRA and leads the coordination of the local activities for all WPP-related projects. ANRA is responsible for water quality analysis to monitor the effectiveness of project implementation. You can read the [ANRA's 2019 Basin Highlights Report](#) for additional water quality information in the surrounding areas.

(936) 632-7795, [jpoling@anra.org](mailto:jpoling@anra.org)

**Matthew McBroom** is an associate dean and professor in the College of Forestry and Agriculture at SFA. SFA collaborates with the watershed coordinators to conduct instream water quality monitoring.

(936) 468-2469, [mcbroommatth@sfasu.edu](mailto:mcbroommatth@sfasu.edu)



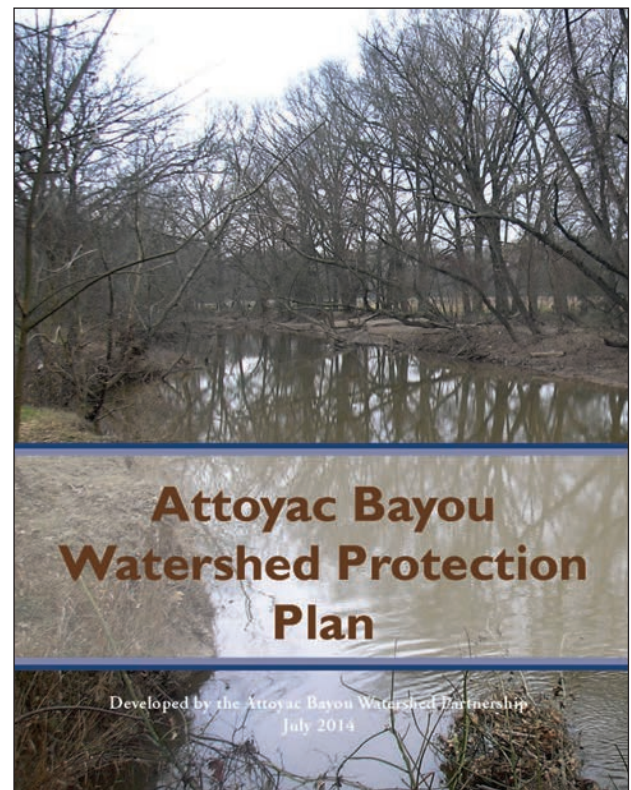
## Attoyac Bayou Watershed Stakeholder Meeting:

December 10, 2019

Nacogdoches, TX  
(Location TBA)

*Keep up to date with ongoing activities in the watershed by visiting our website and following TWRI on social media:*

@txwri



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