

Possible Stakeholder Organizational Frameworks and Decision Making Processes

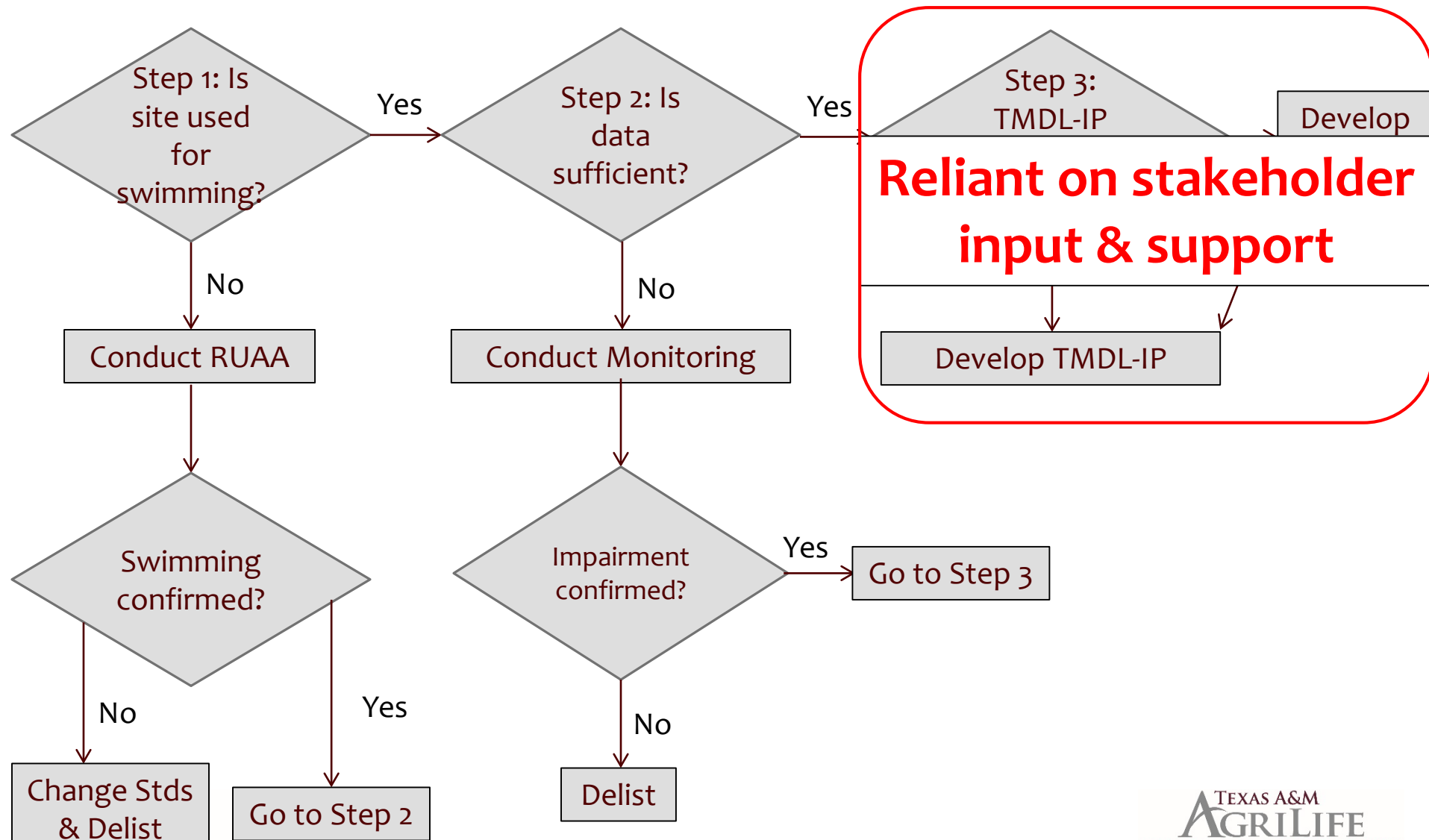
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General approach used today



Reason for Structure and Importance of Decisions

- ⦿ To gain as much input and support from the local stakeholders as possible and allow them to make decisions that benefit everyone within the watershed
- ⦿ Decision making process is critical to the development of the Watershed-Based Plan
- ⦿ Mechanisms used affect the efficiency of the process

Keys to developing successful strategies

- ⊙ Involvement of a diversity of interests
- ⊙ Collaborative decision-making
 - ⊙ Joint goals and priorities for partnership initiatives
- ⊙ Decision-making based on sound science and accurate information
- ⊙ Strong communication and outreach
- ⊙ Short-term doable action items and long-term objectives/goals

What is a Stakeholder

- ⦿ A group or individual who:
 - ⦿ *Has the responsibility for implementing a decision*
 - ⦿ *Is affected by the decision*
 - ⦿ *Assists with problem identification*
 - ⦿ *Promotes awareness, education, and action*
 - ⦿ *Facilitates implementation of solutions*

Types of Stakeholders

Stakeholders can belong to the following entities:

- ⊙ Landowners
- ⊙ County or regional representatives
- ⊙ Local municipal representatives
- ⊙ State and federal agencies
- ⊙ Business and industry representatives
- ⊙ Citizen groups
- ⊙ Community service and Religious organizations
- ⊙ Universities, colleges, and schools
- ⊙ Environmental and conservation groups
- ⊙ Soil and water conservation districts

Major Tasks for Stakeholders

- ⦿ Provide guidance and input on potential sources of bacteria and estimated pollutant loads
- ⦿ Set goals and objectives
- ⦿ Guide identification of measures that could be implemented to address bacteria
- ⦿ Identify level of implementation that's reasonable
- ⦿ Identify outreach and education that is needed
- ⦿ Oversee development of an implementation plan & schedule

Goals for today

- ⦿ Initiate discussions on how best to organize stakeholders to maximize local input
 - ⦿ Possible frameworks
 - ⦿ Possible members
 - ⦿ Possible processes for decision making

Stakeholder Group Frameworks

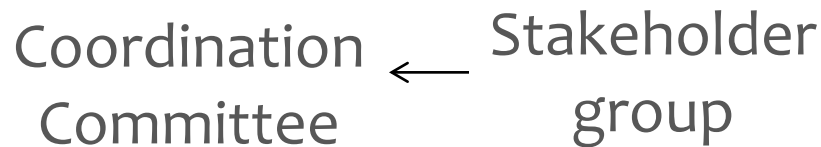


Key Definitions

- ⦿ Stakeholder Group – The general body of individuals who participate in public meetings
- ⦿ Coordination Committee – A decision making body made up of stakeholders from diverse interest/backgrounds
- ⦿ Workgroup – Groups made up of stakeholders of a similar interest/background

Possible Frameworks for Organizing Stakeholders

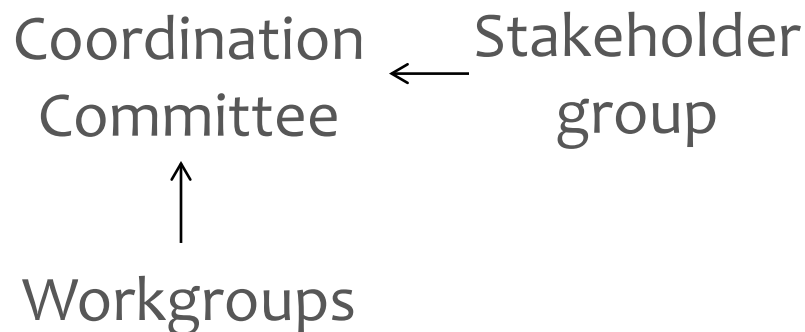
Option 1



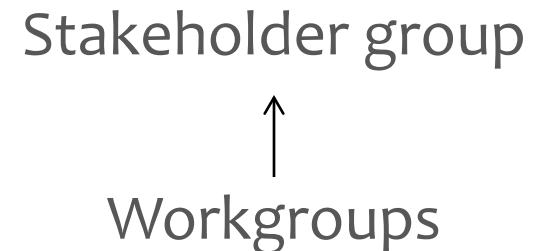
Option 3

No formal framework

Option 2



Option 4



Buck Creek Example

Watershed Characteristics:

- ◉ Almost exclusively rural watershed
- ◉ Very limited human influence with low population

Structure:

- ◉ Used Stakeholder Group

Coordination Committee Reps:

- ◉ Texas AgriLife Extension Agent
- ◉ Landowners
- ◉ TPWD
- ◉ River Authority
- ◉ SWCD Board Members
- ◉ County Commissioners
- ◉ Other Citizens

Arroyo Colorado Example

Watershed Characteristics:

- ◉ Multiple Issues/parties involved
- ◉ Significant Growth
- ◉ Multiple environmental concerns

Structure:

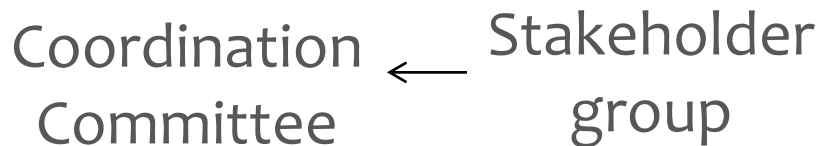
- ◉ Established Coordination Committee and Workgroups including:
 - ◉ Habitat
 - ◉ Agricultural Issues
 - ◉ Wastewater Infrastructure
 - ◉ Education and Outreach
- ◉ Coordination Committee typically has final say of activities in watershed

Coordination Committee Reps:

- ◉ RGV UT-Brownsville
- ◉ Coastal Conservation Assoc.
- ◉ Watershed Resident
- ◉ Texas Department of Ag
- ◉ Nueces River Authority
- ◉ TSSWCB
- ◉ City of Harlingen
- ◉ TWDB
- ◉ LRGV SW Task Force
- ◉ Harlingen Irrigation District
- ◉ Texas State Bank
- ◉ LRGV Dev. Council
- ◉ Sierra Club
- ◉ TAMUK
- ◉ USFWS
- ◉ TPWD
- ◉ Arroyo Property Owner
- ◉ Cameron Co. DD #5
- ◉ City of McAllen
- ◉ Texas Citrus Mutual
- ◉ Coalition to Save the AC
- ◉ Sea Grant Marine Advisory Committee
- ◉ Military Highway WSC
- ◉ Cotton Growers Assoc.
- ◉ Valley Land Fund
- ◉ Sugar Growers
- ◉ Port of Harlingen Authority

Preferred Framework?

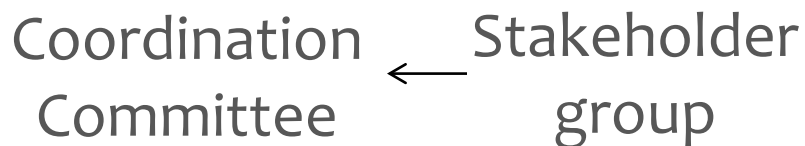
Option 1



Option 3

No formal framework

Option 2



Option 4

Stakeholder group



Possible Committee Members – If Needed

- ⊙ Citizen
- ⊙ City of Edna, Shiner, Hallettsville, Moulton, and others(WWTP, Chamber of Commerce)
- ⊙ Landowners
- ⊙ Lavaca County Extension Agent
- ⊙ Lavaca County Health Inspector
- ⊙ Lavaca County Judge or Commissioner
- ⊙ Lavaca County Soil and Water Conservation District
- ⊙ Subdivision or homeowner's association
- ⊙ Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- ⊙ USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ⊙ Jackson County Extension Agent
- ⊙ Jackson County Health Inspector
- ⊙ Jackson County Judge or Commissioner
- ⊙ Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District
- ⊙ Texas Sea Grant
- ⊙ TSSWCB
- ⊙ Others

Possible Work Groups – If Needed

Work Groups Used in Other Watersheds:

- ◉ Agricultural Issues
- ◉ Coordination and Policy
- ◉ Education and Outreach
- ◉ Habitat
- ◉ On-Site Sewage
- ◉ Ordinance and Planning
- ◉ Natural Resource Management
- ◉ Science and Monitoring
- ◉ Urban Storm Water
- ◉ Wastewater Infrastructure
- ◉ Wildlife

Work Groups to Consider for Lavaca River:

- ◉ Ag & Wildlife
- ◉ Wastewater and Septic

Decision Making Processes



Possible Decision Making Processes

⦿ Formal

- ⦿ Established bylaws that govern the actions of the committee
- ⦿ Adhere to Open Meeting Act Requirements

⦿ Informal

- ⦿ Develop a set of ground rules that will be used to govern the committee
- ⦿ Committee members approve ground rules and their use

Bylaws Example

**Lake Granbury
Watershed Protection
Plan
STAKEHOLDERS GROUP**

BYLAWS

Adopted
March 24, 2006
Amended
February 13, 2007

◎ Outline:

- ◎ Organization
- ◎ Voting Membership
- ◎ Selection of additional groups/members
- ◎ Designated alternates
- ◎ Decision Making
- ◎ Adopting and amending bylaws

Ground Rules Examples

⦿ Geronimo Creek – More Formal

- ⦿ Goals
- ⦿ Powers
- ⦿ Timeframe
- ⦿ Membership Selection
- ⦿ Steering Committee
- ⦿ Workgroup
- ⦿ Technical advisory
- ⦿ Replacement/additions
- ⦿ Alternates
- ⦿ Decision making
- ⦿ Quorum
- ⦿ Facilitators

⦿ Upper Gulf Coast Oyster Waters – Less Formal

- ⦿ Speak up
- ⦿ Disagree respectfully
- ⦿ Silence is presumed consent
- ⦿ Listen during discussions
- ⦿ Respect opinions and don't criticize people
- ⦿ Be open to new ideas
- ⦿ Silence cell phones
- ⦿ Have fun

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Next Meeting

- ⦿ Decide on:
 - ⦿ Stakeholder framework
 - ⦿ Initial stakeholder group membership
- ⦿ Initiate discussion on specifics of decision making process
 - ⦿ Prior to next meeting, example bylaws or ground rules will be sent out

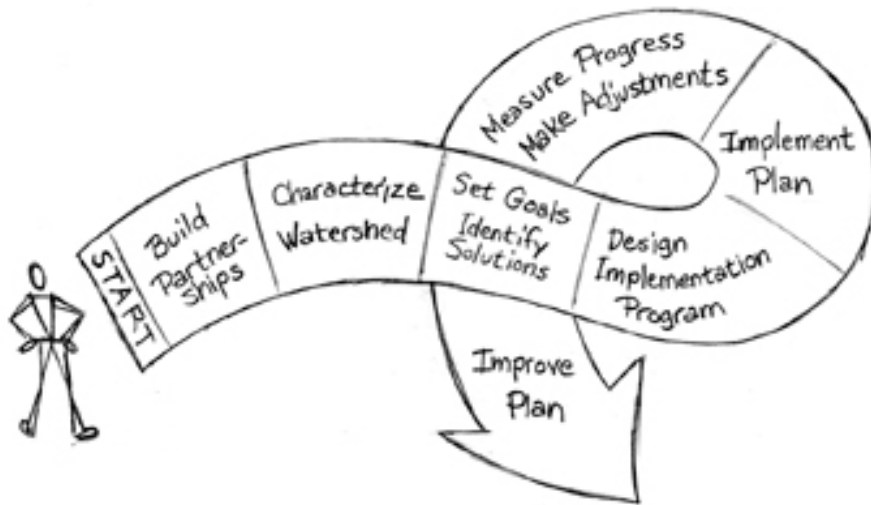
Next Steps and Timeline

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Next Steps – Near Term

- ⦿ Continue building partnerships
- ⦿ Work on characterizing the watershed
- ⦿ Finalize stakeholder structure (if needed)



Next Meeting

- ⦿ Recap meeting 1 – quick review of materials
- ⦿ Finalize watershed partnership (if needed)
- ⦿ Form work groups (if needed)
- ⦿ Discuss example watershed-based plan
- ⦿ Discuss next steps

Overall Timeline

- ⦿ Oct 2016 – Jun 2017: Stakeholder meetings and plan development– estimated total of 7 meetings
- ⦿ June 15, 2017: Submit TMDL/I-Plan and watershed-based plan to TCEQ for review
- ⦿ August 2017 – August 2018: TCEQ review of Plan
- ⦿ August 2018: Begin implementation of Plan

Upcoming Meetings

- ⦿ December 13, 2016 – Next Stakeholder Meeting
 - ⦿ Jackson County Extension Office, Edna, TX
 - ⦿ Time TBD
- ⦿ January 25, 2017 – Texas Watershed Stewards Meeting
 - ⦿ Jackson County Extension Office, Edna, TX
 - ⦿ Time TBD



Questions/Discussion

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