

Harpeth River Watershed Stakeholder Meeting

Friday, December 1, 2017

Franklin City Hall Board Room

Attendees

In person:

TDEC: Regan McGahen, Jennifer Dodd, David Duhl, Stephanie Durman, Katherine Barnes
HC (HRWA): Dorie Bolze, Jim Redwine, Dan Fitzgerald
Franklin: Mark Hilty, Michelle Hatcher, Shauna Billingsley, Doug Noonan, Jeff Willoughby, Kristen Stanfill, Brittani Perez
WADC: Nick Tatum, Saya Qualls
Metro Nash: Mary Bruce
Sierra Club: Scott Heflinger
Berry's Chapel: Stacy Crouch, Bruce Meyer (also Cartwright Creek)
AquAeTer: Mike Corn
Williamson Co: Michael Scott

On conference line:

EPA: Chris Decker, Johnnie Purify, Amy Feingold, Elizabeth Belk, Amanda Howell, Glenn Fernandez
Bill Hall & Assoc: Bill Hall
Metro Council: Councilman Dave Rosenberg

Into/Welcome/General Discussion

Monthly Operating Report (MOR) Data:

- TDEC worked with HC volunteers to enter MOR data for multiple facilities in the watershed
- Expect to be done with data entry by end of year

Water Withdrawal Data:

- Question asked if water withdrawal data was needed
- EPA confirmed that they have withdrawal data for Franklin but could use other data for major withdrawals
- Survey done for previous TMDL might be a good starting point for collecting that data
- Many existing withdrawals do not have data

USGS Monitoring:

- HC talked with USGS prior to this meeting
- There is continuous monitoring data available in the upper reaches of the watershed
- Discussed potential relocation of the West Harpeth River station (near site #3) to the downstream site near Kingston Springs (near site #7)
- EPA will evaluate and repond

Data Discussion (ALL)

- The data reporting template from EPA was sent to group, no problems reported
- Data submittal status:
 - HC - Data has been submitted to EPA
 - Metro - Data has been submitted to EPA
 - WADC - MOR data has already been submitted to EPA but waiting on lab for recent sampling data
 - Franklin - Currently populating spreadsheet will submit to EPA as soon as possible
 - Gathering ambient data u/s and d/s pursuant to its permit
 - EPA confirmed that it would like these data in the spreadsheet, even outside of the growing season
 - Berry's Chapel - Submitted MOR data only, other data collection is through USGS

Data Availability to Public Discussion (ALL)

- HC - Will TDEC post data to new web page? How will data be made available to stakeholders so that they can review?
- TDEC - Unsure of how data will be made public, but will likely not go onto new webpage due to technical limitations
- EPA/Franklin - Both looking into options for making data available
- HC - Suggested that USGS may be able to assist

Model Update (EPA)

- Two models are up and running
- Watershed Model is done
- Continuing to calibrate WASP (water quality model) as data come in
- EPA should be able to present the initial calibration next spring
- Will have better idea of gaps in data by next meeting
- Consistency in data is most important
- Next monitoring season will be March-October
- More data at same locations is better than less data at more locations to properly calibrate the model
- Collecting data on the main stem is more important than on tributaries
- EPA will discuss and confirm for next meeting

BOD Discussion

- Who is doing BOD sampling/what type/frequency:
 - Franklin BOD_U every two weeks
 - WADC BOD_U every two weeks
 - Metro BOD₅ every two weeks
 - HC BOD₅ every two weeks
- Group discussed need for BOD_U because of cost
- BOD₅ results appear to be almost the same as the BOD_U results
- EPA will discuss data needs for next growing season and address at next meeting

Next Steps

- EPA is building the models and will continue to calibrate as data are submitted through growing season (likely to not be calibrated before 2019)
- TDEC will receive models from EPA and will run different scenarios
- TMDL will be drafted by TDEC with stakeholder input once models are complete
- Once drafted, the TMDL will go through the formal TDEC public participation process
- TDEC will continue to post agendas, notes and updates to web page
- AquAeTer will provide comments to the group via memo

Website/Social Media

- HC - Website should serve as a document repository, more like the permit dataviewer.
- TDEC - Will look into options. The documents would have to be public records specifically related to the TMDL development.
- HC - Should use social media to engage more stakeholders
- Sierra Club – Use of Social Media may be more useful at a much later date, after the data collection stage

Next Stakeholder Meeting

- Tentatively planning for early February, prior to the commencement of the 2018 Sampling beginning in March
- All partners should confirm availability/commitment to participate in sampling next growing season
- Data gaps will be identified by EPA and presented to the group
- Anticipate a separate meeting later in the spring for EPA to present the model calibration information