Nueces River Watershed Partnership

June 2019

To improve and protect the water quality of the Nueces River Watershed so that the river is restored and preserved for current and

Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Update

Nueces River Watershed Partnership Webpage Revisions

The website for the Nueces River Watershed Partnership, http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/, has been revised, primarily, to provide more information on the implementation of management measures identified in the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan (WPP).

Minor changes to the Home, Meetings, Publications, and Water Quality pages were also made. The major change was to the Implementation Activities Page. This page now has a summary of all work, and the current status of all of the WPP management measures. The links at the top of the page allow you to jump directly to a management measure of interest. These pages will be updated as additional activities take place.

Contact Rocky Freund at rfreund@nueces-ra.org if you have any suggestions for additional information you would like to see presented on the website.

Nueces River Preservation Associations' 8th Annual River Cleanup

The Nueces River Preservation Association will be holding their 8th Annual River Cleanup on July 13, 2019 at Hazel Bazemore Park. Volunteers with motor boats, kayaks, and canoes are needed to remove trash and debris from the river from the saltwater barrier dam in Calallen to upstream of CR 73. Check the Nueces River Preservation Association Facebook page for additional information.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Texas Watershed Steward Workshop

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will be hosting a Texas Watershed Steward Workshop on October 8, 2019, from 8am—12pm. The workshop will be held at the Hilltop Community Center in Calallen. Check the Nueces River Authority's website, http://www.nueces-ra.org/, in September for more information.

This program was initiated to encourage stakeholder involvement by helping citizens identify and take action to address local water quality impairments. Texas Watershed Stewards learn about the function of watersheds, potential impairments, and strategies for watershed protection. The program is open to all watershed residents including homeowners, business owners, agricultural producers, decision makers, community leaders, and other citizens.
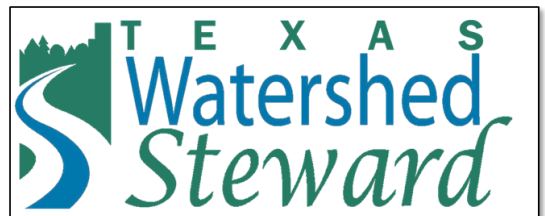
Nueces River Watershed Partnership Meeting—November 12, 2019

The next meeting of the Nueces River Watershed Partnership is scheduled for November 12, 2019 at the Hilltop Community Center, 11425 Leopard, Corpus Christi, 78410. Refreshments will be available at sign-in beginning at 5:30pm. The meeting will begin at 6pm. The agenda and a map of the meeting location will be posted on the website a few weeks prior to the meeting.

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www.nuecesriverpartnership.org

Nueces River Authority

Water Supply in the Coastal Bend and the Nueces River

The majority of the water supply for the Coastal Bend Region for municipal and industrial (M&I) use is stored in Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi, known as the Reservoir System. The water is released from Lake Corpus Christi into the Nueces River and then diverted from the river just above the Calallen saltwater barrier dam. The City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County Water Control and Improvement District #3, San Patricio Municipal Water District, Flint Hills Resources, and Celanese all divert water from the river for M&I use.

The Lower Nueces River WPP was developed to protect this portion of the river since it is the conduit bringing the water from Lake Corpus Christi to the water treatment plants. And being the primary water supply, there is concern when the lake level drops.

Unless there is enough continual inflow into Lake Corpus Christi to offset the water that is released for M&I use, passed through to satisfy the freshwater inflow requirements of the Agreed Order, and lost to evaporation, the level of Lake Corpus Christi will fluctuate and drop.

The City of Corpus Christi also receives water from Lake Texana and the Colorado River which reduces the amount of water that has to be released from Lake Corpus Christi for M&I use.

The Agreed Order is a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's requirement to provide freshwater, the pass-thru, to Nueces Bay and Estuary. It was initiated to mitigate the loss of inflow to the bay and estuary as a result of building Choke Canyon Reservoir. The Agreed Order contains a monthly target amount to be passed through. The target varies by month and the combined capacity of the Reservoir System. The actual pass-thru is the amount of water that comes into the Reservoir System, up to the target amount. For example: if the target is 5,000 acre feet (AF) of water and the Reservoir System only receives 3,000 AF that month, then the pass-thru requirement is 3,000 AF; if the target is 5,000 AF and the Reservoir
System receives 7,000 AF that month, then the pass-thru requirement is 5,000 AF.

Evaporation is actually the largest contributor to the reduction of the levels of Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir. On average, evaporation accounts for nearly half of the total use for the region in a given year.

Nueces River Authority (NRA) maintains a database and Water Use Summary webpage, https://www.nueces-ra.org/CP/CITY/pipeline.php, of the region's monthly water use. NRA has recently added graphs to the page showing the amount and percentage of M&I use from the Reservoir System, M&I use from Lake Texana, M&I use from the Colorado River, (beginning in 2018), the required pass-thru, and evaporation.   A companion page, https://www.nueces-ra.org/CP/CITY/pipeline2.php, has this same graphical information, by year, beginning in 2001. Below are graphs showing the difference between a dry year (2011), an "average" year (2015), and a wet year (2007).

2011 Water Use
13,194 , 3%
94,151 , 25%
40,908 , 11%
228,722 , 61%

2015 Water Use
28,106 , 10%
83,219 , 29%
38,744 , 13%
139,854 , 48%

2007 Water Use
68,359 , 20%
68,941 , 20%
45,130 , 13%
163,665 , 47%

■ Nueces M&I   ■ Texana M&I   ■ Evaporation   ■ Required Passthru