

## **MEETING NOTES**

Brady Creek Watershed Protection Plan Implementation (WPP) Project  
Stakeholder Meeting  
November 5, 2021 -- Brady, Texas @ 10 a.m.

### **Welcome & Introduction:**

Ellen Groth, UCRA, expressed appreciation to everyone for their attendance and participation at the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Groth stated that the meeting would be very informal and encouraged everyone to comment or ask questions.

### **Project Overview**

Groth provided a project overview and mentioned program partnerships with EPA, TCEQ and the City of Brady. A brief history of UCRA's implementation of EPA Non-Point Source programming in Brady over the last 20 years was presented. There are two components to the current project. The first component is the construction of a demonstration project, also called a "Best Management Practice" (BMP) which shows how pollution is mitigated by a structural control. The second component is Education and Outreach (E & O). The purpose of E & O is to create an understanding of why NPS programming is valuable to the community, educate as to what non-point source pollution is and increase the understanding of how pollution abatement is beneficial to a healthy watershed.

### **What's Next? Project Status and Updates:**

At the beginning of January 2020, UCRA staff made a presentation at the Chamber of Commerce "Good News" luncheon and meetings were conducted with various agencies to begin partnership building. Design plans for the demonstration project were outlined by UCRA's engineering firm and construction bids were initiated.

When the Pandemic arrived in early spring 2020, construction plans continued and the structural BMP was completed in the summer of 2020, however, all of the E & O efforts came to a halt.

UCRA General Manager, Scott McWilliams showed slides of the construction site, both during and post construction. McWilliams provided details of the construction phase. The project, completed by McWilliams and City of Brady staff, allowed the project to come in under budget. McWilliams thanked Gary Jacobson and the City staff for the dedication and hard work that went into this part of the project.

A vortex separator has been installed in Richards Park and sampling is now underway. UCRA has staff collected a really good sample from one significant storm event. They have had to tweak the site for proper collection and may need to enlist the City in some additional outlet cleanout work. McWilliams also showed pictures of the sampling equipment and explained what happens during and after a monitoring event. A hydrograph featuring rainfall and outlet discharge was displayed to show what the autosamplers measure and explain how we get the data we're using.

The contract period has already been extended once with a scheduled completion date of February 28, 2022. Due to delays created by the pandemic, the EPA has granted another year's extension, which will take the project through February 28, 2023. The extension will allow for an additional year of monitoring to provide us with a larger data set to determine if pollutant loadings have been reduced. If loadings have not been significantly reduced, there will be a re-evaluation of the original modeling and we will need to implement what TCEQ calls "adaptive management".

The ultimate goal is to remove Brady Creek from the impaired list. The Brady Watershed Protection Plan is a multi-phased project, with plans to apply for additional funding every couple years and build more structural controls over a twelve year or longer time span.

### **Education Outreach Workgroup & Community Involvement:**

Lexi Woods, UCRA's Environmental Specialist, spoke to the group about a large scale event on April 9, 2022, to be held in conjunction with the Keep Brady Beautiful "Trash Off". The event is a BioBlitz to be held in Richards Park. The event consists of various hands-on activities which include, *Sit and Spy, Water Walkin' and Microbe Mania*.

A BioBlitz is a celebration of biodiversity. It is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. Students, scientists, naturalists, and community members join together to explore the natural world. UCRA is partnering with Keep Brady Beautiful, the Hickory Underground Water District, Texas AgriLife, Texas Master Gardener's and Texas Master Naturalists for the event.

There will also be an opportunity for participants to tour the project site to learn about the equipment installed in the park. We will be ordering some permanent vinyl stickers for the project job boxes to explain their function. This will provide information for anyone walking through the park to learn about the project.

### **Open Discussion:**

Mayor, Tony Groves discussed the potential of re-routing of wastewater, a topic previously considered. Groves said that while it would be beneficial, it was cost prohibitive. McWilliams said this might not be completely off the table as there could be some funds from the TWDB available in the future.

Some questions ensued from members of "Keep Brady Beautiful" about the BioBlitz collaboration and Groth suggested that they meet on another day to go over the details. Woods and Groth were invited to their meeting the following week.

Steve Miller, Public Works, City of Brady talked about seeing UCRA staff in the Park. Also stated that trash collected during cleanups is mostly in one area *in Richards Park right along the bank of Brady Creek. Since the area is so high in recreation it's difficult to keep it clean, so they are always looking for ways to reduce littering there.*

Hayden Keyser, NRCS said he tried to encourage the State Board to come to today's meeting as he feels like all agencies play an integral part in the community. He expressed his enthusiasm and support for the project.

There was some discussion about advertising at the school for the BioBlitz. It was suggested that Erin Corbell, (City of Brady) has some names of the science teachers that she can share with UCRA. It was also suggested that we reach out to the outlying school districts as well.

Groves mentioned that the radio station records the city council meeting and is always looking for content. He said we could just drop in and set something up McWilliams asked if it would be beneficial to attend a City Council Meeting and make a short presentation and the group felt like it might be.

There was no further discussion. Woods thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned.