

Smith Creek watershed public meeting set for March 6, 2014 in Paris

PARIS, TEXAS – The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research invite residents in the Smith watershed to a public meeting to discuss a water quality project. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers Room at the Paris City Hall located at 150 1st St SE in Paris. Sign-in will begin at 5:45pm and the meeting will start at 6:00pm.

Smith Creek is within the Red River Basin within Lamar County. Smith Creek extends from the confluence with Pine Creek north of Paris to the upstream portion of the stream in north Paris in Lamar County. Smith Creek is on the state's list of impaired waters for having bacteria levels that exceed water quality standards for primary contact recreation.

At this meeting, landowners and citizens will have the opportunity to learn about a new project, *Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Ten Creeks in the Red River and Neches River Basins*, which focuses on assessing the level of recreational use occurring among Smith Creek.

Since decisions made about these waterbodies will affect landowners, citizens, industries, and municipalities, local participation is fundamental to the success of this project. Stakeholders will be asked to provide guidance on the direction of this project.

Stakeholders will be given an opportunity to review historical land use data and discuss how this effort will create an updated recreational use classification for the Smith Creek watershed.

Nikki Jackson, with the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research, will give background information on Smith Creek and introduce the recreational use attainability analysis project. "Stakeholder input on survey sites and recreational use is crucial to the success of the project," Jackson said.

This project is funded by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board through a general revenue nonpoint source grant to the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research.

For more information about the meeting, visit the project website at <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/index.html> or contact Jackson at 254-968-1902 or njackson@tiaer.tarleton.edu

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs through the State's 216 soil and water conservation districts. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is the lead agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution. The agency also administers a water supply enhancement program through the targeted control of water-depleting brush; works to ensure the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams are protecting lives and property by providing operation, maintenance, and structural repair grants to local government sponsors; and facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.

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