

Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Steering Committee to meet June 16

July 18, 2011

Contact: Lisa Prcin

LAMPASAS, TEXAS – The Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Steering Committee is slated to meet on June 16, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Lampasas to discuss and finalize recommendations made by Work Groups over the past few months. The meeting, which is free and open to the public, will be at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau Building at 1793 U.S. Hwy 281.

Texas AgriLife Research and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board have partnered with concerned citizens within the Lampasas River watershed to address local water quality concerns through the development and implementation of a watershed protection plan.

Watershed protection plans are cooperative partnerships that address all nonpoint sources of water quality impairment and implement best management practices and restoration strategies that assure long term health of the watershed. With these goals in mind, the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership was formed.

According to Lisa Prcin, Lampasas River Watershed Coordinator, Texas AgriLife Research, the purpose of the upcoming Steering Committee meeting is to discuss the best management practices, outreach and education strategy and long term water quality regime recommended by both the Urban Nonpoint Source and the Agriculture and Wildlife Work Groups.

“Our Work Groups have been working diligently over the last several months to develop management strategies that should be appealing to all of our stakeholders. They have developed a laundry list of recommended practices and programs that can be utilized to mitigate the bacteria impairment within the watershed. We will review all of these strategies at our upcoming Steering Committee meeting.” said Prcin.

The Lampasas River rises in western Hamilton County 16 miles west of Hamilton and flows southeast for 75 miles, passing through Lampasas, Burnet and Bell counties. In Bell County the river turns northeast and is dammed five miles southwest of Belton to form Stillhouse Hollow Lake. The Lampasas River watershed also includes portions of Coryell and Mills counties. The Lampasas River above Stillhouse Hollow Lake is listed as impaired on the 2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List due to elevated bacteria levels.

“It is important that we garner much stakeholder interest and participation at this Steering Committee meeting so that we may be sure that we have addressed all stakeholder concerns. This may be stakeholders’ last chance to have input on what goes into the WPP before it is released for public comment. The draft WPP will be made available this summer for a 45-day Public Comment period. We will then hold a public meeting during the Comment Period to allow stakeholders to give verbal comments,” said Prcin

Additional information about the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership, including a meeting agenda is available on the project website (<http://lampasasriver.org>) or by contacting Lisa Prcin at (254) 774-6008. Funding and support for the development of the Lampasas Watershed

Protection Plan is provided through a Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source grant from the TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.