

White Oak Creek watershed public meeting set for April 4, 2016 in Sulphur Springs and April 5, 2016 in Mount Pleasant

Sulphur Springs and Mount Pleasant, TEXAS – The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER) at Tarleton State University invite residents in the White Oak Creek watershed to a public meeting to discuss a water quality project. *For logistical convenience of the White Oak Creek's stakeholders, two separate meetings will be held.* The first on April 4, 2016 at the Hopkins County Civic Center located at 1200 Houston St in Sulphur Springs. The second meeting will be April 5, 2016 at the Mount Pleasant Civic Center located at 1800 N. Jefferson in Mount Pleasant. Both meetings will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and will discuss the same material.

White Oak Creek is within the Sulphur River Basin within Franklin, Hopkins, Titus, and Morris Counties. White Oak Creek is a tributary of the Sulphur River and flows north of Naples in Morris County to the upstream perennial portion of the stream east of Sulphur Springs in Hopkins County. White Oak 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 One Water Body in the Sulphur River Basin and One Water Body in the Cypress Creek River Basin*, which focuses on assessing the level of recreational use occurring in White Oak Creek.

Since decisions made about this waterbody 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.

This project is funded by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board through a state 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/white-oak-creek.html> or contact Leah Taylor at 254-968-0513 or at ltaylor@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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