

Prairie Creek, the Neches River Above Lake Palestine, Mud Creek, and West Mud Creek watershed public meeting set for August 4, 2015 in Tyler

RUSK, TEXAS – The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research invite residents in the Prairie Creek, Neches River Above Lake Palestine, Mud Creek and West Mud Creek watersheds to the final public meeting to findings from the Recreational Use Attainability Analysis (RUAA) project. The meeting will be held at Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce located at 315 N. Broadway in Tyler, Texas. Sign-in will begin at 5:45pm and the meeting will start at 6:00pm.

Prairie Creek, the Neches River Above Lake Palestine, Mud Creek and West Mud Creek are within the Neches River Basin in Smith County. Prairie Creek, the Neches River Above Lake Palestine, Mud Creek and West Mud Creek are on the state of Texas list of impaired waters for having bacteria concentrations that exceed water quality standards for primary contact recreation.

At this meeting, landowners and citizens will be updated on the findings from the RUAA and discuss the path forward. The draft technical report entitled "*Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Kickapoo Creek in Henderson Count (0605A), the Neches River Above Lake Palestine (0606), Prairie Creek (0606A), Mud Creek (0611C), and West Mud Creek (0611) in the Neches River Basin*" will be open for a 30 day public comment period immediately following the meeting. Leah Taylor, with TIAER, "Stakeholder input on the draft technical report is essential to ensure current and historical uses of Prairie Creek, the Neches River Above Lake Palestine, Mud Creek and West Mud Creek are adequately represented".

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/index.html> or contact Taylor at 254-968-0513 or 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.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board grants permission for the use of this information as a free service to the news media. Articles may be used either in their entirety or in part, provided that attribution remains. You may print the story or post it on the Internet.