

## **Middle Yegua Work Group Meetings**

**June 26, 2025**

**Giddings, TX Extension Office**

### **Minutes:**

#### **WQMP and CP:**

Focus: Reduce bacteria loading from livestock

#### **Key Actions:**

- Enroll 30 new producers in WQMPs/CPs in 1-3 years
- Prioritize subwatersheds 5 and 8 emphasizing properties with riparian access.
- We will work to create a list of landowners with TSSWCB and the Lost Pines Ground Water District to provide outreach about best management practices and cost-share opportunities.
- A better map with county roads is needed for stakeholders to assist in identifying eligible landowners.
- Contact SWCD and TSSWCB for additional information and guidance.

#### **OSSFs:**

Focus: Reduce bacteria loading from failing septic systems.

#### **Key Actions:**

- Prioritize Subwatershed 5
- Lee County will host a Texas Well Owner's Network program in Fall 2025 that includes information on septic system maintenance. We will ask Extension if there is an opportunity to tailor the program to meet the needs of this area.
- Lost Pines offers free well testing so partnering with the TWON program might increase participation.
- We will look into cost-share opportunities for septic system repair and market those with the workshop to further incentivize participation.
- We could also include statistics on contaminated wells and failing septic systems with our marketing.

**Soil Testing:**

Focus: Prevent nutrient over-application in cropland and lawns.

Key actions:

- Lee County Extension will be promoting soil testing in Fall 2025 as well as through a Healthy Lawns Program with Lost Pines Groundwater.

**Feral Hog Control:**

Focus: Reduce bacteria and erosion from feral hog activity

Key Actions:

- Remove 1,242 hogs annually ( 15% Reduction)
- Prioritize Subwatersheds 5 and 7
- Lee County is hosting a Feral Hog Field Day on September 26, 2025. This will be an all day event that will offer CEUs and include speakers from varying agencies. We are looking into possible sponsorships for this event.
- Lee County has extended the feral hog bounty. \$5 per pair of ears brought to the courthouse. We will look into advertising opportunities for this bounty.
- The County tracks the number of bounties and will share that data with us. We would like to create a centralized area for landowners to report the number of hogs removed from the watershed annually. This might be possible through a link on the TWRI Middle Yegua website.

**Reduce Illicit and Illegal Dumping:**

Focus: Prevent direct bacterial contamination from dumping and keep water free of debris.

Key Actions:

- Identify dump sites within the watershed.
- Prioritize high traffic creek crossings.
- Install signage to deter dumping with listed penalties.
- Ask the county about additional waste drop off days or a designated dump so people have an alternative to dumping in the creek.
- Host creek cleanup event and/or contact County about removal options for large debris like appliance and tires.
- Notify local law enforcement of major dump sites.
- Contact County Commissioners for key site locations.

- LCRA/Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative is seeking proposals for their Community Grant Program that could provide funds for infrastructure like signage. The County or the Groundwater District will need to be the grantee but TWRI can assist with the proposal creation.
- TCEQ offers pick-up programs that may be available.
- Consider looking into programs like “Adopt a Highway” to keep publicly accessible stream areas clean.

### **New or Small Landowner Education**

Focus: Increase BMP awareness and adoption among new/small landowners.

Key Actions:

- Prioritize <20 acre properties across the watershed
- Identify these landowners for targeted mailers.
- Lee County is hosting a Small Landowner Workshop in Fall 2025 that will provide an opportunity to collect information for continued contact and introduction to the watershed.

### **Pet Waste Education and Management**

Focus: Reduce bacteria loads from unmanaged dog waste

Key Actions:

- Contact City of Giddings and City of Lexington about the number of pet waste stations in parks or near accessible riparian areas and the possibility of creating a designated dog park with a waste station within city limits.
- Develop some youth outreach materials about water quality and pet waste for distribution at schools or community events.
- We need to survey other community areas for possible pet waste station installation and the LCRA Community grant could potentially assist with funding.

### **Other Topics:**

- Create a Middle Yegua Creek logo for use on signage to promote awareness about the watershed.
- Stakeholders will survey the area for the best spots to install 4-5 signs and will consider what graphic would best represent the watershed in the logo.

- The next Full Stakeholder meeting will be July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm and will include a presentation on PFAS by Dr. Yina Liu. RSVPs are needed so that we can determine if the meeting needs to be moved from the Giddings Extension office to a larger facility like the Livestock Show Barn.
- The next Working Group meeting will be August 26 at 10:00 am at the Giddings Extension office.
- Minutes of meetings will be posted on the website.
- The full color WPP has been printed and limited copies are available to stakeholders.