

Cypress Creek Project

Stakeholder Discussion Forum Saturday August 2nd, 2008

How do you define good water quality?

- Taste
- Ingest, swim with no worries
- Don't have to filter
- No pesticides or fertilizers in it
- Chemical and microbe free
- Supports life – man and animal

How do you define good water quantity?

- Return Jacob's Well flow to 20 years ago, increase qty of flow down to Blanco
- Qty that exceeds daily use of Wimberley and surrounding areas
- Need to know more about the creek to define this.

Changes in health of the watershed over time:

Past

- In the 70s, everything flowed all the time, 2-3 inches over the dam
- 2000 Jacob's Well went dry
- Enormous floods washing out fences
- Long-term cycles of flood & drought, basically a dry area
- Very dry for 7-8 years in 1950s then a hurricane came and the weather changed

Present

- Not as consistent flows
- Fragile, build up plus not enough rain
- Stagnant
- Last week Blue hole was in good shape
- Last year water flowed over low water bridges, this year, nothing

Future

- Not good, need a miracle
- 1000s of water connections committed
- 1000s more platted to have connections
- When everyone moves in, no one will have water

What activities have the most impact on the watershed? In order of most to least from a vote:

- 1. Aqua Texas
 - Sewer system leaks
 - Water system leaks, decreases pressure (have to maintain high pressure to offset this)
 - Frac Tank off Wide Canyon Rd, used to pump sewage because of leaking infrastructure.
The tank has overflowed at least two times
- 2. Pumping out water
- Individual residential water use
- Fertilizer runoff, many people in Woodcreek have lawns
- Construction sites disturb natural surface, increase sediment runoff
- Filling swimming pools
- Septic systems, inadequately maintained (not all places can have septic)
- Improper treatment of effluent on golf courses
- Population Growth
 - Increases all of the above issues
 - Increased water use = decreased flows, increased pollution levels

General Notes/Suggestions

- Increase motivation by
 - Public awareness/education
 - Demonstration project/education, i.e. Bamberger Ranch
 - Pass on to next generation
- Include hidden immigrant populous in project
- Factor in the possibility of headwater changes in the future, i.e. Blue Hole as opposed to Jacob's Well
- Quick Sand development and its impact on water resources
- Storm Ranch, 5000 acres protected by Hill Country Conservancy
- Populous needs increased awareness of water conservation
- Public awareness
- Controlling growth is important, conservation
- Education, including where watershed and creek are
- Bring water providers into accountability
- Water infrastructure is poor and failing with a 30 – 50 % loss
- Creek should be more visible, increase awareness
- Increase surface water holding areas, collection points within developments within creek area
- Land management and vegetation control (Bamberger Ranch) can make a change within 20-30 years, quick turnover
- For planning, keep in mind variability, cycles of flood and drought
- Increase signage to denote creek, show CFS of the day on a sign as you cross and mark watershed boundaries on the roadway.

- We need a miracle, we must be the miracle
- Education, schools, WVWA interpretive center, water conservation, printed and verbal education
- Divers found a salamander rare to Jacob's Well
- Show footage of divers on the website
- Developers here should be liable to commit to stakeholder's ideas of conservation
- Lack of planning + growth = problems
- True Ranch and County were not listening to citizen's ideas of aesthetics and rainwater collection
- Real Estate needs to be involved
- Water pressure in Woodcreek is very low and very high, proof of inefficient system
- New residents moving to city don't know about water shortage