



WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Preserving & Enhancing the Water Environment of Texas

Central Texas Section

November 2007

Central Texas WEAT's November Meeting Presents

MICHAEL F. BLOOM, P.E.
**BACTERIAL SURFACE WATER IMPAIRMENTS:
WHAT'S AHEAD FOR STANDARDS, TMDLS, AND PERMITS**

Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 6:00 pm
Joe C. Thompson Center, University of Texas, Austin

The State of Texas is required to promulgate surface water quality standards under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Standards include a designated use, a criterion to protect the use, and an antidegradation policy. Texas must review its water quality standards on at least a triennial basis. Texas has adopted water quality criteria for indicator bacteria recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect recreational uses in marine and fresh waters.

The EPA epidemiological studies used to form the technical basis of these criteria may not be applicable to all Texas water bodies. EPA based the freshwater criteria on studies that measured the incidence of illness in swimmers at three recreational lakes along with the concentration of various indicator organisms to determine the organism most correlated with disease incidence. The study led to EPA's recommendation that *Escherichia coli* be used to assess the recreational use in freshwater and established the 126 col/dL criteria to protect this use, based on an incidence rate of 8 in 1,000 swimmers. The studies were conducted during dry weather on beaches with nearby treated municipal wastewater discharges. The sites were not impacted by stormwater runoff in any manner. The sites were not streams or rivers or urban waterways.

The application of the freshwater criterion to urban waterways impacted by stormwater runoff poses significant challenges to permitted stormwater dischargers. Since stormwater frequently contains elevated indicator pathogen concentrations (from many sources, other than treated municipal wastewater), stormwater dischargers may be faced with extremely large and potentially unachievable load reduction goals as TMDLs are developed and implementation efforts are begun.

The presentation will summarize the history of the freshwater bacteria criterion and its application to Texas freshwater creeks and bayous and review some Texas bacteria impairments and some example bacteria TMDLs adopted or soon to be adopted by the TCEQ. The presentation will also provide an overview of the issues being raised during the current Triennial Review of surface water quality standards, the related position statement adopted by the Water Environment Association of Texas, and implications for permitted stormwater dischargers.

Meeting Information

RSVP by contacting Susan Kelly by November 8, 2007
Call (512) 569-9022 or Email: central@weat.org

Meeting Cost	Members	\$20.00
	Students	\$5.00

Please Note:

The Joe C. Thompson Conference Center (TCC) is currently under construction. Access through the south lobby entrance, which faces the LBJ Library and Museum, is no longer available. Please access the facility from the north lobby doors or the TCC dining room. There are two sidewalks which lead directly from the TCC parking lot 40, located on Red River and Dean Keeton, to our north lobby entrances.

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Snap Shot



2007 Stockholm Junior Water Prize Winner Jenna Kromann receives her award at the September Central Texas WEAT meeting. Ms. Kromann's project was on "The Effect of Drought on the Salinity Zone in the Edwards Aquifer."

Central Texas Section Officers are listed below.

- President - Brad Castleberry, 322-5856, bcastleberry@lglawfirm.com
- President-Elect – Heather Harris, 453-2468, Heather.Harris@ch2m.com
- Vice-President – Kelly Payne, 473-3251, Kelly.Payne@lcra.org
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- Section Rep. - Lynne Moss, 346-1100, mosslh@cdm.com
- Past President - Karol Menhard, 974-3373,

Upcoming Meetings and Events – Mark Your Calendar

December 6, 2007 YP Happy Hour Location TBD WEAT/TAWWA	January 15, 2008 Next Central Texas WEAT Meeting Austin, TX WEAT	January 27-30, 2008 Membrane Technology Atlanta, Georgia WEAT	January 31-February 1, 2008 Water Law Seminar New Directions in Water Austin, TX TWCA/TRWA	March 25-28, 2008 Texas Water San Antonio, Texas WEAT/ TAWWA
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Find out more about these calendar items at our web site: www.weat.org

Meeting Sponsors



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