

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will hold a meeting July 12th for the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan Project.

The meeting, which is free and open to the public, will take place at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's River Annex, 905 Nolan St. in Seguin.

Sign-in and refreshments will begin at 5:30 p.m., with proceedings to begin at 6 p.m.

"The partnership has held many informational meetings to facilitate public involvement in developing a water quality protection plan for these watersheds," said Ward Ling, AgriLife Extension program specialist. "The public's participation is essential to ensure the success of this important project."

Ling said information and data obtained from this and previous meetings are being used for watershed characterization and evaluation toward developing a "comprehensive, sustainable voluntary and locally driven watershed protection plan."

An Urban Biologist from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will be presenting information on things to consider when feeding wildlife in an urban environment. Also, AgriLife Extension will be presenting estimates of increases in bacteria and stormwater runoff as a result of continued urban development in the project area.

To review sections of the draft Watershed Protection Plan, as well as the draft agenda for the July 12th meeting, go to the project's website, at <http://geronimocreek.org>. Additional information and materials from previous partnership planning meetings also can be found at the site.

Geronimo Creek and its tributary, Alligator Creek, which flow through Comal and Guadalupe counties, were identified for watershed protection plan development due to concerns about high levels of nitrogen and elevated levels of bacteria, as reported in the Texas Water Quality Inventory published by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

"As development and population growth in the region surrounding Geronimo and Alligator creeks continues, and urban land use increases, the need for improved water quality is also increasing," said Debbie Magin, director of water quality services at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

A Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant was provided to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to facilitate the development of this watershed protection plan.

Other key area partners supporting watershed protection efforts include Comal and Guadalupe counties, the cities of Seguin and New Braunfels, New Braunfels Utilities and the Comal-Guadalupe Soil and Water Conservation District.

For more information on the meeting, contact Ling at 979-845-6980 or wling@ag.tamu.edu or Magin at 830-379-5822 or dmagin@gbra.org.