

Important meeting for anyone with an interest in water quality protection in the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer

If you have an interest in water quality in the Barton Creek Watershed area, mark June 8th on your calendar.

- **What:** Stakeholder meeting for the development of a Regional water quality protection plan for the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer
- **When:** June 8th. 6:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Waldorf School, 8700 South View Road, Austin
- **Contact:** Terry Tull, Executive Director, 512 858-2148 or e-mail him at regionalplan@zeecon.com, or check the website at www.waterqualityplan.org.

That is the date for the first in a series of stakeholder meetings to seek input from all interested parties to help create a Regional Water Quality Protection Plan.

The meeting is set for 6:00 p.m. on June 8 at Waldorf School, 8700 South View Road. The school is located off highway 290 West approximately one mile west of the "Y" in Oak Hill. (See map)

Efforts to address the water quality problems facing the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer and its contributing zone began at a Regional Summit convened by Hays County Judge Jim Powers and Austin City Council member Daryl Slusher in December 2002. These discussions continued and expanded to include representatives from Hays and Travis County governments, the cities of Austin, Dripping Springs, Bee Cave, Buda, Kyle, Rollingwood, Sunset Valley and the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District.

A series of early meetings lead to a decision that there was a need to develop a regional approach to water quality protection within the project area in order to protect the quality of drinking water and endangered species in the area, particularly the Barton Springs salamander.

The planning effort is funded by a grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and Texas Water Development Board. It also includes in-kind services from a variety of other entities.

The planning process will be a very public, stakeholder-involved process using a bottom-up approach to identify and prioritize concerns and issues facing this area, along with recommended solutions. The firm of Naismith Engineering has been retained to assist in developing the Regional Water Quality Protection Plan.

The ultimate goal is for the stakeholders to participate in creating a water quality plan that they accept and support.

Elements of the planning process include:

- Involve the stakeholders in all phases of development of the Water Quality Protection Plan
- Identify the best management techniques for the protection of water quality in the area
- Identify entities that can implement water quality protection measure within the planning area
- Develop model ordinances to implement and enforce water quality protection plans for the area
- Develop a consensus-based Water Quality Protection Plan including best management practices and water quality protection strategies and regional planning tools to protect both surface and ground water quality.

The project area includes the following political subdivisions: Hays and Travis Counties, the Cities of Austin, Buda, Hays City, Kyle, Mountain City, Rollingwood, Sunset Valley, Village of Bee Cave, Village of Bear Creek, and the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer and Hays Trinity Conservation Districts.

For further information call:
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