

STAKEHOLDER ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY BREAKOUT GROUPS
AT THE JUNE 8, 2004 STAKEHOLDER MEETING

[PLEASE NOTE THAT THE STAKEHOLDER ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THIS DOCUMENT HAVE NOT BEEN
PRIORITIZED BY THE INDIVIDUAL STAKEHOLDER GROUPS AT THIS TIME – JUNE 23, 2004]

GROUP: NEIGHBORHOOD INTERESTS

- Long - Term preservation management of watershed and aquifer for future generations as independent neighborhoods.
- Assuring the costs is fairly distributed including monies from developers.
- Water quality projects are adequately funded, constructed, maintained, monitored and enforced.
- Reporting mechanism for enforcement.
- What is clustering?
- Neighborhood education on water quality, low water use xeriscape, water collection, conservation.
- Property valuation.
- Tax assessment forcing sale of properties on large acreages.
- Well water quality and quantity.
- Wildlife water sources.
- Critical water quality features.
- Impervious coverage percentage.
- Roadway runoff - low water crossings.
- Septic tanks number.
- Protect recreational water use.
- Retrofitting (reclamation).
- Pesticide-fertilizer-chemical uses/residential education on uses.
- Water collection.
- Agriculture waste.
- Wastewater effluent runoff.

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GROUP: CONCERNED CITIZENS

What are the issues?

- Development density impact on water quality.
- Waste water management.
- Runoff - water quality and quantity.
- Enforcement of regulation of water quality.
- Non-degradation of existing water quality.
- Non-point source (runoff from various places – golf course, autos, home fertilizers).
- Education of pollution prevention.
- Stressing alternatives (rainwater collection and septic).
- Low impact development.
- Preservation of open space.

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GROUP: PROPERTY OWNERS

- Too many wells - impact on aquifer.
- Property owners uninformed, left out of the process.
 - Better communication
 - Outreach
- Extraction of parkland during subdivision process.
- Incompetent regulation based on politics/anecdotal stuff
- Property values – short term and long term
 - affected negatively by punitive regulations.
- Water quality - all aspects - not just stormwater (USFWS) - e.g. wastewater.
- Over-development - overly intensive/dense.
- Equality and fairness of allocation of resources (resources=impervious cover and water).
- Promotion of vegetative cover that will promote water infiltration
 - Including juniper control, other invasive, destructive plants.
- Shifting burden of mitigation of water quality to undeveloped land.
- Share the economic pain.
- Different water quality guidelines for rural and urban areas within the region.
- Conservation easements.
- Expansion of water lines, roads and other infrastructure - impact on water quality.
- Publicly owned and financed open space vs. forced dedication.
- Grandfathering of existing platted subdivisions.
- Rules should be site-specific.
- Rural neighborhood associations
 - look out for the (rural) neighborhood.
- Restoration of land and vegetation following pipeline construction.
- Upstream development consequences on downstream property owners (value and water quality).
- Incentives for high quality development (to include high water quality measures) - flexibility to innovate.
- Market & science should dictate density limitations, not emotions.
- Regional planning project needs to stay on schedule.

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GROUP: ECONOMIC INTERESTS

- Water value vs. land value (eminent domain).
- Public utilities - water and sewage.
- Residential and commercial land use.
- Commercial tax base.
- Transportation infrastructure.
- Master planned development.
- Consistent and steady course regulation.
- Impervious cover requirement.
- Water buffer zone setbacks.
- Stewardship of resources.
- Reasonable balance.
- Water availability - groundwater vs. surface.
- Restoration - riparian/ historic (downtown).
- Promotion of renewable and sustainable resources - i.e. rainwater collection/ solar.
- Overly burdensome regulation & permits - i.e. fees & taxes.

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GROUP: DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS

- Science-based water quality protection.
- Balance environment, affordable housing, economic & development issues. Keep central Texas open to all.
- Liability concerns. Who is responsible for regulations that are adopted? Can we depend on legally defensible regulations?
- What are the development needs of central Texas? Economic diversity and population.
- Water quality regulations based on science, not emotions.
- Educating the public (landowners and concerned groups) on avenues for public/private conservation (i.e., Hill Country Conservancy, Nature Conservancy, etc...).
- Focus our energies on enabling good development vs. regulating “bad” development.
- Encourage collaborative planning to better coordinate effective water quality features.
- Acknowledge and respect property rights.
- Provide a safe harbor for the development process - dependable and predictable.
- Provide a set of rules that allow the flexibility to plan for all types of development. Not impervious cover, but establish a water quality goal and allow engineering measures to accomplish.
- Achieve consensus among all parties.

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GROUP: PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

- WQ impacts on E&T species.
- Drinking water.
- Land acquisition for WQ protection.
- Legal analysis/evaluation of efficacy of various regulations.
- Filling scientific research gaps.
- Enforcement jurisdiction/mechanisms for Aquifer water quality and management.
- Retrofitting of old infrastructure/developments with outdated management practices.
- Wastewater (septic vs. central).
- Water conservation (rainwater collection)
 - Provide incentives.
 - Eliminate restrictions (financing).
- Education/outreach.
- Research needs
 - BSS - levels of WQ constituents which may affect species
 - Dissolved oxygen.
 - pH
 - Contaminants
 - Types of BMPs/effectiveness.
 - Designing effective cumulative impacts analysis.
 - Funding Sources.
- Land acquisition/easements.
 - How much/where.
 - Configuration (landscape level).
 - Funding sources.
 - Revenue streams.
 - Recharge.
 - Critical environmental features.

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GROUP: ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION & LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

- Open space and land acquisition as part of the Plan.
- Clean water laws enforced and protection ensured.
- Non-degradation impervious cover limits - runoff is as clean as before development.
- Open public decision-making in the government process.
- Conservation of Barton Springs salamander.
- Land stewardship for water quality and water quality effect on wildlife.
- Allow conservation easements to become a part of rural development.
- Water quality structures must be properly designed and maintained.
- Get more citizens involved in this process.
- New paradigm to replaced bulldozing the environment.
- Create an authority to enforce the measures/plan.
- Citizen panels/groups help adopt and implement plan/measures. Continued participation throughout.
- Conservation measure to include the needs of the other species like the Austin Blind Salamander to prevent deterioration of habitat and listing as endangered.
- Developers required to do rigorous environmental impact studies before getting approvals to build.
- Combine the Trinity Aquifer District and BSEACD and give them authority to review and approve development applications for compliance with water quality provisions.
- Infrastructure like roads, water lines, wastewater directed off the Barton Springs zone.
- Limit density of development to allow sustainability and sufficient water supply and quality.
- A transportation plan that limits access to the Barton Springs Zone.
- Wastewater management/reuse must be considered and its impact on the environment, conservation and supply.
- Advocate rainwater harvesting as the first source of supply.
- Prevent additional traffic in the Barton Springs Zone and reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Research to fill gaps in technical knowledge about the effect of water quality.
- What effect will centralized sewer have vs. septic systems.
- Neighborhood notification process that effectively gets the neighbors informed.
- Prohibit industries that would pollute the aquifer from locating in the Barton Springs Zone
- Control the bad effects of increased volumes of runoff from development. Post development hydrology should equal pre-development hydrology: both peak flows and volume.
- Captured volumes that are re-irrigated and percolate into the Aquifer should not pollute the Aquifer.
- Some pre-developed flows may exceed good levels due to poor land management.
- Require xeriscaping and IPM (integrated pest management) to eliminate the use of herbicides and pesticides.
- Developer and neighborhoods conduct joint predevelopment planning sessions.

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GROUP: GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

- Water quality too narrow, include other water impact related issues (stream erosion, head water protection, water use).
- Recharge water quality.
- Legally defensible measures.
- BMPs that require minimal maintenance.
- Institutional framework for BMP maintenance.
- Funding for monitoring BMPS.
- Preference for non-structural BMPs.
- Define governmental roles and responsibilities.
- Is a regional entity needed and appropriate (centralized vs. decentralized)?
- Resolution of mandated missions with respect to goals of this process.
- Confidence that plan will provide adequate protection.
- How do we define success?
- Balance science against best professional judgments.
- Is non-degradation achievable?
- Define non-degradation.
- What level of degradation of aquifer is acceptable, if any?
- How does sustainable yield of the aquifer factor in this discussion?
- Cost/benefit analysis.
- Acknowledge legitimacy of secondary impacts of government investment in infrastructure (+ and - impacts).
- Balance community responsibility with private property rights.