

# Lake Conroe Watershed Protection Plan



## *Stakeholder Meeting*

*April 14, 2015  
9:00am - 10:30am*

San Jacinto River  
Authority

# Agenda

- **Introduction**
  - Welcome & Introductions
  - Objectives
- **Watershed Protection Plan**
  - Introductory discussion
  - Presentation
  - Follow-up discussion/comments
- **Lake Conroe Rules & Regulations**
  - Introductory discussion and handout
  - Presentation
  - Follow-up discussion/comments
- **Future Stakeholder Involvement**
- **Adjourn**

# Document Outline

- Executive Summary
- Section 1 – Introduction
- Section 2 – Watershed Overview
- Section 3 – Water Quality
- Section 4 – Management Activities
- Section 5 – Public Education and Outreach
- Section 6 – Implementation Plan

**Current conditions  
are good.**

**How we keep it  
that way.**

# Summary

- **Problem identification**
  - urbanization creates potential water quality degradation
- **Plan goal**
  - maintain water quality
- **Plan activities**
  - monitor watershed conditions
  - assess potential sources of pollution
  - develop and implement management activities to address pollution

# Potential Sources of Pollution

- **Stormwater runoff (nutrients and sediment)**
- **Malfunctioning OSSFs (nutrients and bacteria)**
- **Wastewater effluent (nutrients and bacteria)**
- **Construction site runoff (nutrients, sediment and bacteria)**
- **Litter and waste from roadways, commercial areas, and aquatic recreational activities**

# Management Activities

- **Ongoing**
  - **expected to continue into the future**
- **New**
  - **near-term development over next 5 years**
- **Future**
  - **long-term development and implementation as resources and funding become available**
- **Public education/ outreach**
  - **in cooperation with other public agencies and local private organizations**

# On-Going Management Activities

- **Monitoring water quality**
  - detect future changes or trends
  - detect violations
- **Maintaining the Plan**
  - review, revise and update the Plan
  - update the Report every five years
- **On-Site Sewage Facility Program**
  - SJRA - TCEQ Authorized Agent

# On-Going Management Activities (Cont.)

- **Shoreline mitigation and aquatic vegetation control**
  - physical removal
  - herbicide treatments
  - biological control
  - shoreline native vegetation restoration
- **Solid waste management**
  - support “Rivers, Lakes, Bays ‘N Bayous Trash Bash”



# New Management Activities

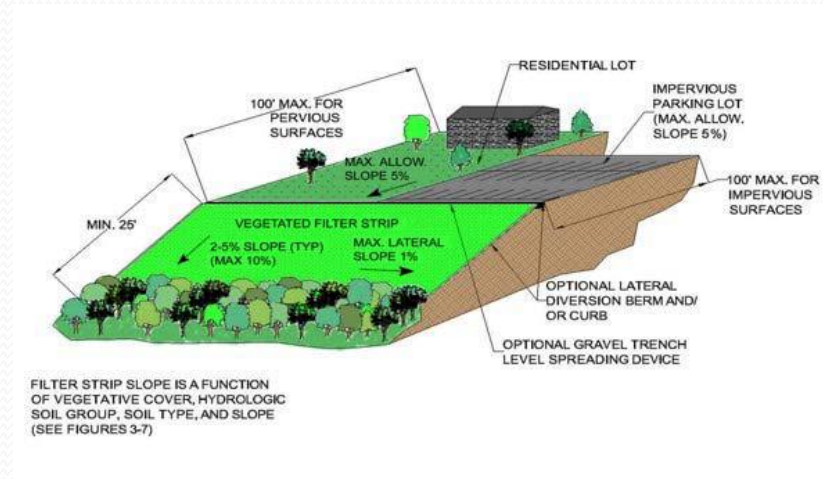
- **Regulatory changes for the OSSF program**
  - amend OSSF orders to include more stringent requirements than those required by TCEQ
    - ATU systems to be maintained by a licensed maintenance provider or TCEQ-certified homeowner
    - increased inspections and audits of OSSFs
- **Urban runoff regulations**
  - strengthening regulatory system within Water Quality Zone and encourage the use of LID principles
- **Solid waste management**
  - collaborate with TCEQ, H-GAC and other local agencies

# Future Management Activities

- **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharges**
  - work with City of Conroe and Montgomery County to adapt the beneficial elements of SWMP
- **Centralized wastewater collection and treatment plants**
  - assist in monitoring and inspections of problem-facilities
  - encourage operators to install backup power generators at lift stations
- **New centralized wastewater systems**
  - encourage “regionalization”
- **Encourage Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

# Example BMPs and LID for Urban Runoff

- Grassed swales
- Bio-Retention Cells
- Curb-and-Gutter Elimination
- Inlet Protection Devices
- Vegetated Filter Strips
- Infiltration Trenches
- Permeable Pavement
- Permeable Pavers



# Example BMPs and LID for Urban Runoff (Cont.)

- Riparian Buffers
- Sand and Organic Filters
- Soil Amendments
- Green Parking Design
- Storm Inlet Markers



Storm drains can be labeled with stencils to discourage dumping



# Public Education and Outreach

- **Ongoing**

- special event's/expos
- Texas Stream Team
- educational tours
- media outreach

- **Future**

- develop and implement a more integrated and diverse outreach program
- rely heavily on Stakeholder input
- provide a better understanding of potential sources and causes of pollution and future threats
- to establish behaviors and guide human activities toward beneficial actions





**Questions?**

# Future Stakeholder Involvement

- Assist with development of public education and outreach materials
- Attend quarterly or Biannual status meetings
- Provide input to SJRA on additional topics

***Tentative Next Meeting  
September 22, 2015***

# Lake Conroe Rules and Regulations



## *Stakeholder Meeting*

April 14, 2015  
9:00am - 10:30am

San Jacinto River  
Authority



# Cover

## Lake Conroe Reservoir Rules and Regulations

Effective June 1, 2015



San Jacinto River Authority  
Lake Conroe Division  
P. O. Box 329  
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# SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO LAKE CONROE RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Lake Conroe Rules and Regulations (the "Rules") were last amended on August 28, 2003. The proposed amendments reformat and restructure the Rules. This allows for reference to specific Rule provisions by Chapter, Section, Subsection and Subdivision. The revisions were requested by Montgomery County law enforcement so that citations could be issued with reference(s) to the specific provisions of the Rules.

Aside from reformatting and restructuring the Rules, the proposed amendments make the following substantive revisions to the Rules (summarized below by Chapter):

- **Definitions.** Certain definitions were added or clarified. Notably, the term "Private Structure" was added to refer to a basin, pier, wharf, floating structure, boat dock, or any other structure providing for anchorage or storage of Vessels, that Vessels that are privately owned or operated and not associated with a commercial operation. A "Marina" is defined to apply to the same types of structures, with the difference being that they are associated with a commercial operation. The term "Encroachment" is revised to refer to any structure, building, appurtenance or other fixture permanently placed upon Authority land, that cannot be immediately removed from Authority land, or that otherwise infringes upon the rights of the Authority in and to Authority land.

# SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO LAKE CONROE RULES AND REGULATIONS

- **Boating.** The proposed amendments specify the various federal and state laws and regulations that apply to the operation of boats and vessels on Lake Conroe. This will put boaters on notice that the Rules are not the primary source of law related to boating. The amendments clarify the Authority's additional local rules related to the operation of boats and vessels on Lake Conroe. Notably, amplified music and other noise that unreasonably disturbs the public is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Amplified music containing explicit lyrics is prohibited at any time if audible to the general public
- **Public Access and Use.** The proposed amendments clarify that, except where prohibited by the General Manager, the public has the right to travel over and across Authority land to access Lake Conroe and no person has the right to exclude the public from Authority land without the Authority's prior written consent.

# SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO LAKE CONROE RULES AND REGULATIONS (cont.)

- **Picnicking and Camping.** The proposed amendments make specific provision to allow for picnicking and camping on Authority land in designated areas. The amendments prohibit extended camping stays, littering, burning refuse, bringing glass containers on Lake Conroe or Authority Land, unreasonable noise between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., Conspicuous public consumption or display of alcoholic beverages that unreasonably disturbs other members of the public is prohibited on the Reservoir or Authority Land. It is a violation of these Rules for any intoxicated individual to enter upon Authority Land. It is a violation of these Rules for any individuals to become intoxicated while on Authority Land. Any Person that violates this Section is subject to penalties under these Rules and is further subject to removal and/or ban from Authority Land. The amendments make provisions for pets on Authority land and prohibit abandoning animals and grazing livestock. Fires may be burned in designated areas or contained grills, stoves or fire pits. Natural resources (e.g., timber and gravel) may not be removed from Authority land without prior written approval.

# SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO LAKE CONROE RULES AND REGULATIONS (cont.)

- **Fishing and Hunting; Firearms; Feral Animals.** The amendments clarify the Rules relative to fishing, hunting, and use of firearms for hunting. The amendments clarify that commercial guide services require a permit from the Authority. Feeding of feral or wild animals on Authority land is prohibited in an effort to discourage deer feeders on Authority land and associated feral hog and nuisance animal problems.
- **Encroachments.** The amendments clarify that all encroachments on Lake Conroe or on Authority land require a permit from SJRA, with the exception of immediately removable items (e.g., deck chairs), landscaping and irrigation systems. Bulkheading and dredge/fill work will require permits under the proposed amendments. Permitting of bulkheading and dredge/fill work will give the Authority the ability to stop "bulkhead creep" and give the Authority an opportunity to interact with a landowner to clear title to land behind bulkheaded area. In general, the structure of the amended Rules will allow staff and management to establish policies and guidance for permitting of encroachments.

# SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO LAKE CONROE RULES AND REGULATIONS (cont.)

- **Sanitary Conditions.** The amendments now provide that it is a violation of the Rules to violate federal, state or local laws related to sanitary conditions and pollution control, even if federal, state or local authorities are not enforcing such laws or regulations. The amendments point out that certain sanitary facilities on Authority land are subject to permitting as an encroachment, and that on-site sewage facilities are regulated by separate Order of the Authority.
- **Abandonment of Personal Property.** The amendments clarify that the Authority is not under an obligation to attempt to identify or locate the owner of abandoned personal property prior to removing and disposing of same. If the Authority is able to identify the owner, however, removal and storage fees may be assessed against the owner.



# SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO LAKE CONROE RULES AND REGULATIONS (cont.)

- **Commercial Operations.** The amendments clarify that all commercial operations on Lake Conroe or on Authority land require a permit from SJRA. The structure of the amended Rules will allow staff and management to establish policies and guidance for permitting of commercial operations and to deal with particular issues (e.g., insurance requirements) in the permitting process.
- **Raw Water Use.** The amendments clarify that it is a violation of the Rules to withdraw raw water from Lake Conroe without a permit from the Authority, except in the rare situation where a person has a TCEQ water right to so divert raw water. Note that the definition of a "permit" includes a firm water supply contract as well as an interruptible irrigation permit. The structure of the amended Rules will allow staff and management to establish policies and guidance for permitting of raw water use.



# SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO LAKE CONROE RULES AND REGULATIONS (cont.)

- **Penalties and Enforcement.** The amendments consolidate penalty and enforcement provisions and the rights of the Authority to recover for violations of the Rules. A violation of any part of the Rules is a Class C misdemeanor, which shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$25.00 or more than \$500 per day per violation. The amendments also allow for recovery of costs (e.g. repair/removal costs for unpermitted encroachments) and attorney fees. A severability provision is included.
- **Implementation.** The Rules direct newspaper publication of the amendments be given in accordance with the Authority's enabling legislation. The amended Rules are tentatively scheduled to become effective June 1, 2005, following such publication. The General Manager is authorized to implement the amended Rules. Prior Rules are repealed as of the effective date of the amendments.



**Questions?**