



Coordinator's Watershed Corner October 2011

A note to the Clean Water Committee, Paso del Norte Watershed Council from the 319(h) Grant Watershed Coordinator, Brian Hanson

Hello all,

As you know, we are actively engaging our 319(h) stakeholders in discussions regarding the composition of the Watershed Based Plan (WBP), which we anticipate will be completed next year. Outreach continues to target the public, encouraging good watershed practices.

October Stakeholder Meeting

The stakeholder meeting was held at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park on October 21. We discussed the general outline of the WBP, as well as the draft of the outreach section for the plan. In addition, I presented an outreach poster designed by Peter Bennett that explicates the nine possible *E. coli* sources that potentially affect the 319(h) study area. Chris Canavan then demonstrated the process and equipment used in water quality sampling, showing the results of an actual sample that had been taken.

Dia del Rio Event

On October 12, the Council was represented in the Dia del Rio celebration which provides educational information about water quality in the Rio Grande. This was the second year in which the Paso del Norte Watershed Council participated in the event, and the Council was joined by three middle school classes. Students spent time taking water quality samples of the river and learning about the effects of pollution, specifically with regard to *E. coli* exceedences in the Rio Grande.



U.S. Green Building Council (U.S.G.B.C.), Chihuahuan Desert Chapter, Presentation

On October 25, I gave a presentation at the U.S.G.B.C. luncheon, "Landscape Development and Healthy Watersheds," which encouraged the preservation of natural drainages through developed areas. I also spoke about the importance of low impact development and its affect on the reduction of high runoff which often leads to erosion and pollution. This type of comprehensive land planning seeks to maintain and enhance the pre-development hydrologic regime of urban and developing watersheds by reducing off-site runoff and ensuring adequate groundwater recharge (www.lowimpactdevelopment.org).



Water quality sampling, Dia del Rio 2011

Watershed Tip: Waste from Waterfowl

Waterfowl is noted as a possible source of *E. coli* bacteria. In fact, an *E. coli* source tracking study in northwest Oregon found that 52% of the bacteria in the Tualatin River were from avian sources (<http://www.cleanwaterservices.org/content/documents>).

Waste from waterfowl can pose an issue for small retention ponds, lakes, streams and rivers. Goose and duck waste, as well as waste from other migrating waterfowl, accumulate along the banks of waterways, having a significant impact on water quality. Here are some ways to help reduce waste from waterfowl:

- Healthy riparian areas near streams, drains, and rivers can reduce the effects posed by waterfowl by mitigating pollutants from entering the water.
- Dense, tall vegetation along the banks of waterways can also prevent pollution by discouraging waterfowl from concentrating in one area.
- Cessation of feeding waterfowl may prevent waterfowl concentrations.
- Programs can be implemented to repel nuisance waterfowl. Available methods include habitat modification, decoys, eagle kites, noisemakers, scarecrows, or plastic owls. Trained dogs can also be used to chase waterfowl, and hunting is another possible solution for areas where it is legal to do so.

Websites that may be helpful for more information:

- http://www.ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca/research/documents/fleming_waterfowl.PDF
- http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_12145_25065-59467--,00.html

Anyone thinking of using hazing techniques must contact either the NM Department of Game and Fish or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before implementing any action. Migratory birds are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

One of the nine possible sources of *E. coli* is addressed as the *Watershed Tip* in each monthly edition of *The Coordinator's Corner*.

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October Events

*Oct 12: Dia del Rio @
Mesilla Valley Bosque
State Park*

*Oct 21: Stakeholder
meeting @ Mesilla Valley
Bosque State Park*

*October 25: Presentation
to Green Builders Council*