



Aquatic Vegetation Management in Texas: A Guidance Document

Appendix E. How to Develop a Local Vegetation Management Plan

How to Develop a Local Vegetation Management Plan

1. Consistency with State Plan

Local plans may take into account particular local needs and uses of the water bodies and/or systems for which they are written; needs which may not be addressed in the broader statewide plan. In order to address local issues individual lake management plans may be more restrictive than the statewide plan. However, all individual lake management plans must meet the minimum standards set by the statewide plan.

2. How a Local Plan Differs from a Treatment Proposal.

The purpose of a local plan is to transfer to a governing entity TPWD's authority to oversee nuisance aquatic vegetation control on the public bodies of surface water that the local plan covers. Local plans must be approved by TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), TDA, and TPW, as provided in §57.934. Where a local plan governs, treatment proposals are not subject to TPW approval. Local plans may or may not address specific nuisance aquatic vegetation problems and treatment alternatives. The law requires that the local plan be at least as stringent as the state plan.

Treatment proposals, by contrast, describe specific actions planned to address one or more nuisance aquatic vegetation problems. Where no local plan is in place, treatment proposals are subject to review and approval by TPWD as provided in §57.932(a)(3). A treatment proposal may propose a one-time treatment event, or a series of treatment events over several months. Where a local plan is in place, treatment proposals are to be submitted to the governing entity for approval, and to TPWD for informational purposes.

3. Standards for governing entities preparing local plan

- i. Local plans shall be developed in cooperation with, and approved by, TPWD, TDA, and TCEQ. The plan should be submitted to TPWD, which will coordinate approval by the other agencies. Other requirements for the content of local plans are in § 57.934 of the rules.
- ii. Before final approval, there shall be a period of public review and comment for local vegetation management plans. The review period will include at least one public meeting sponsored by TPWD, TCEQ, or TDA.
- iii. The period of public review will be no less than one month in duration.

4. Format for local plans

i. The rules do not prescribe in detail what local plans must look like. In developing the regulations, TPWD chose to allow governing entities maximum flexibility in designing local plans. One simple way of adopting a local plan is for a local governing entity to submit a document to TPWD stating that the local plan is the same as the state plan, with a list of exceptions where the local plan is more stringent. The governing entity should also describe how the local plan will be implemented, for example, through local ordinances or pesticide labeling. The local plan need not describe specific management actions, such as details of where target plants are. Maps may be included with the local plan if they would be helpful.