The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
Texas State University
Texas Stream Team

TEXAS STREAM TEAM CHANGE LOG

Purpose: This document summarizes all updates to Texas Stream Team protocols, resources, and active projects since the 2024 Annual Trainer Meeting for ease of reference. More details will be discussed at the Annual Trainer Meeting. Items subject to be changed prior to the trainer meeting.

UPDATED RESOURCES

Resource	Description of Change
	General
Quality Assurance Project Plan Amendment 3	Now includes Optical Brightener monitoring language and protocols.
Partner Activity Report	• Transferred to an ESRI Survey123 form. • Removed sections for trainings (Certification Sessions) and Field Audit Sessions (QC Sessions) since these are now on the Monitoring Form and Training Sign-In Sheet. • Updated the name of the "Non-federally Supported Coordinator Travel" section to "Travel". Updated the name of the "Non-federally Supported Coordinator Hours" to "Staff time". • Removed activities planned for next quarter subsection.
Training Sign-In Sheet	• Transferred into a fillable form if trainers wish to populate post-training. Can be printed out and used regularly otherwise. • Includes time, distance, and certification statement for trainers to submit their match details for training events in one place. No PAR needed for these events anymore. • Optical Brightener training added.
Training Enrollment Form	• Confirmation email set up to send to submitter as proof of submission. • Trainer 'Other' option included if they are not listed; note, this option will not send an email confirmation to the individual listed.

	• Added Optical Brightener as a training option.
Trainer Enrollment Form	• Transferred into a fillable form. • Condensed language where possible and formatting to cleanup. • Added more text to clarify each phase and to provide more guidance. • Updated Date under each Phase to now state Training Date. • Removed trainer signature for Phase IV. • Added Group Monitoring Plan submission language under the Maintaining Certification section. • Added Trainer Status Form language under the Maintaining Certification section. • Adjust certification disclaimer. • Added Optical Brightener as a training option. • Added teacher credits question to the second page to prompt TEAAC/CPE trainer certification distribution.
Core	
Core Water Quality Community Scientist Manual	• Included clarifying language for the temperature method via the centigrade thermometer. Monitors are instructed to grab the temperature by placing the thermometer in the water body directly or the sample bucket. • Included the corrected conductivity standard solution options under Equipment Needed. • Included language to clarify that the titration vials and titrators need to be rinsed with DI water after monitoring. • Reduced the conductivity standard solution volume needed from 20-50 mL to just 20 mL.
Standard Core Field Guide & Standard Core Salinity Field Guide	Addressed all the bullet points above.
Standard Core Training Participant Packet	Updated to include the most recent Field Guide.
Standard Core Training Participant Packet (w/ EMF)	Updated to include the most recent Field Guide.
Standard Core Salinity Training Participant Packet	Updated to include the most recent Field Guide.

Standard Core Salinity Training Participant Packet (w/ EMF)	Updated to include the most recent Field Guide.
Core: Water Temperature Method Video	Improved video quality and added pre- and post-rinse.
Core: Conductivity Meter (Gray, PocketTester TM) Video	Added post-calibration protocol to the video.
Core: Transparency – Secchi Disk Method Video	Improved video quality.
Advanced	
Advanced: Phosphate Method Video	Improved video quality.
Advanced: Field Guide	Updated Nitrate-Nitrogen steps 7 and 8 to match the manufacturers guidelines. After tablets have been added and dissolved, the test tube should sit in the protective sleeve for 5 minutes (not 8).
Advanced: Nitrate-Nitrogen Video	Updated for better quality and to include the field guide updates.
Riparian Evaluation	
Riparian Community Scientist Manual	Added clarifying language to the manual to specify which bank should be evaluated for each indicator.
Riparian Monitoring Form	Updated the bull's-eye so that indicators 1, 2, 9, and 10 are highlighted in red, making it clear that both banks should be evaluated.
Riparian Presentation	• Updated the Trainings slide to include Optical Brightener. • Updated the programs slide to include the Junior Monitor Ambassador Program and removed outdated programs. • Added the new bull's-eye to the Riparian Monitoring section. • Removed Phase I demonstration due to feedback of preferring to do three different sites in person.
Riparian Training Participant Packet	Updated to include the most recent Monitoring Form.

NEW RESOURCES

Resource	Description
General	

Trainer Map	A new interactive map has been created to display the location of all active trainers in the state, the types of training they offer, and their contact information.
Discontinued Sites	A new form has been developed to identify monitoring sites that need to be discontinued due to safety or accessibility concerns. Discontinued sites will remain on the Datamap with their historical data preserved.
Texas Stream Team Data Hub	The (coming soon) central platform for all things water quality data collected by Texas Stream Team community scientists - accessing, visualizing, and analyzing.
Junior Monitor Ambassador Program Webpage	New webpage which includes resources, guidance, and an enrollment form to partake in the new Junior Monitor Ambassador Program.
Optical Brightener (NEW!)	
Optical Brightener Webpage	New webpage for the new Optical Brightener training.
Optical Brightener Field Guide	A quick reference guide providing an overview of Optical Brightener monitoring protocols, equipment use, and key procedures for field data collection.
Optical Brightener Fluorescence Guide	A guide showing the different visuals under UV light and explaining what the various fluorescence results indicate.
Optical Brightener Environmental Monitoring Form	The official data sheet used to record field observations, sample collection details, and fluorescence analysis results for Optical Brightener monitoring.
Optical Brightener Training Presentation	A PowerPoint presentation designed for training sessions, outlining the science behind Optical Brightener monitoring, step-by-step sampling techniques, and real-world applications.
Optical Brightener Module	A structured training module covering the content in the presentation. To be used as a prerequisite module to replace the need for the in-person lecture on the day of the training.
Optical Brightener Training Participant Packet	A comprehensive packet for training participants containing Monitoring Forms and field protocols for conducting Optical Brightener monitoring.
Optical Brightener: Modified Bottle Method Video	A step-by-step instructional video demonstrating the Modified Bottle Method for collecting and processing Optical Brightener samples.
Optical Brightener: Whirl-Pak Bag Method Video	A video tutorial guiding viewers through the Whirl-Pak Bag Method for Optical Brightener sample collection, ensuring consistency in sampling techniques.

Last Updated: February 13, 2025

Optical Brightener: Sample Analysis Video	A video demonstration on how to analyze collected samples using fluorescence detection techniques to determine the presence of Optical Brighteners.
Monitoring Sign Notice	A sign that can be printed to accompany the bottle used in the Modified Bottle Method so to avoid public disturbance.
Optical Brightener Monitoring Equipment	Detailed optical brightener equipment has been added to the Texas Stream Team Monitoring Equipment Directory webpage.