

MINUTES

Upper Colorado River Basin Clean Rivers Program
Steering Committee Meeting
March 16, 2005

The meeting of the Upper Colorado River Basin Steering Committee convened at 10:00 a.m. on March 16, 2005 at the Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) facility. UCRA Chairperson *Fred Campbell* welcomed everyone to the meeting and *David Cowan* with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) gave an overview of the current program status as well as remaining deliverable and tasks for current fiscal year '05. Cowan solicited input from steering committee members regarding the Basin Highlights Report. *Alicia Reinmund* (LCRA) briefly discussed FYE06-07 funding and guidance mandates.

Okla Thornton, Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) provided updates of TMDL Stream Segment 1426 in reference to the Salt Cedar Program.

General discussion followed Thornton's presentation addressing such issues as; Role of Steering Committee, salinity and brush control, non-point source, current projects. *Question posed* was; *"Have we made a difference in the (13) years since the inception of the Clean Rivers Program"*. General consensus was yes, that issues are still the same but progress has been and continues to be made.

Larger question addressed the next step for this committee; *"Do you look for new ideas or continue on the path status quo?"* Watermaster program status was also discussed. Quantity and quality are both issues, can't have one without the other, though from a CRP perspective standpoint, "quality" seems to be the main issues.

Meeting broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Will resume after lunch.

Presentation made by *Wendell Barber* (CRMWD) regarding their water quality region. Issues remaining at the forefront of this agency's concern are related salinity issues. Salt Cedar, nutrient issues and golden algae are also being explored.

UCRA staff hydrologist *Chuck Brown* presented information on water levels for Twin Buttes, Nasworthy and O.C. Fisher. Special issues included the Grape Creek/Willow Creek study pertaining to brush control and permit complaint investigations at YFZ Ranch in Schleicher County.

Ralph Hoelscher, committee member and Tom Green County Commissioner presented information relating to a pending river bank stabilization project. Program proponents are seeking funding through the County Commissioners Court. Preliminary work has been conducted to identify the problem and possible solutions but funding is still being explored. Hoelscher asked for assistance from the committee or any committee members regarding possible funding sources and/or support for this project.

Fred Teagarden (UCRA) asked committee for guidance involving the current UCRA project, Concho River Basin Watershed Protection Program, as pertaining to this Steering Committee. General consensus reached expressed that sub-committee or “off-shoot” be formed as well as other suggestions for members for new committee.

David Cowan thanked committee members for attending and asked members to complete survey disbursed earlier. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ellen Groth

UCRA