

MINUTES

COMBINED COMMITTEE MEETING CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM UPPER BASIN COLORADO RIVER STEERING & CONCHO RIVER 319 WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN ADVISORY GROUP

June 1, 2006

Upper Colorado River Authority Offices, 512 Orient Street, San Angelo, Texas

The combined meeting for the Clean Rivers Program Upper Basin and Concho River Water Protection Plan Advisory Group convened at 9:45 a.m. on June 1, 2006 at the Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) facilities. Opening statements and introductions were made by Moderator, Alicia Reinmund from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). David Cowan (LCRA) made a Clean Rivers Program (CRP) presentation and distributed the Basin Highlight Report for 2006. Discussion ensued regarding continued production of a hard copy document or electronic issue only. Consensus was to keep hard copy edition in addition the electronic version.

Fred Teagarden (UCRA) presented information regarding the Concho River Basin Protection Plan. The plan will include a watershed assessment report, the result of all data collections, data analysis, and alternatives and recommended actions for management of the watershed. The Advisory Group will be reviewing the plan in 2007. Teagarden also distributed copies of the Interim North Concho River Restoration Report, a report that makes the data and information collected to date in the response monitoring and research effort available and provides various state, local agency staff and lawmakers with the tools to plan future projects and make critical decisions regarding existing projects.

Kent Becher, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Ft. Worth made a presentation about emerging environmental contaminants and a nationwide study performed by USGS. Becher stated that more and more pharmaceuticals, antibiotics and hormones are showing up in our waterways and soils. The study indicated that contaminants were usually present only in trace amounts, but that further study is needed to isolate sources and what risks they cause to human health and aquatic ecosystems.

Okla Thornton, Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD), discussed loopholes in the permitting system. The Railroad Commission (RRC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have issued a permit to Kinder-Morgan (oil company) to discharge into a creek that flows into E.V. Spence Reservoir. Spence already has a TMDL and the discharge will impede water quality further. Mr. Thornton will work through the Clean Rivers Program with LCRA and TCEQ to address the loopholes in the permitting process.

Wendell Barber (CRMWD) made presentation regarding the American Magnesium Plant, a facility that extracts magnesium from pumped well water. Barber provided photos illustrating how the plant is not maintained. It was explained that due to no regulatory control over this type of operation a large runoff event has the potential to contaminate Lake Thomas. This particular operation falls through the regulatory cracks because it is classified as "mining" despite the fact that it is a brine water issue. LCRA suggested meeting with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Austin to receive assistance regarding this matter.

Kerry Neimann (TCEQ) gave a status report of TMDL's on Stream Segment 1426, Lake Spence. Mr. Neimann informed members that everything is heading in the right direction and implementation plans will be ready next year.

Presentation made by Don Horner (RRC) on the well plugging operations in the Upper Colorado basin. The majority of the plugging operations have been in Runnels County due to the Coleman-Junction and the proximity of the Colorado River.

Chuck Brown (UCRA) gave an update on the YFZ Land Company with photos and apprised members of the status of the YFZ wastewater permit.

David Cowan (LCRA) reported on the results from an aerial survey conducted on the Lower Colorado River. LCRA flew 1500 miles of river and logged over 240 dumpsites. It was determined that most sites were legal due to a law that allows landowners to dump up to 2000 pounds of waste on their own land. Alicia Reinmund thanked committee members for their participation and requested surveys be completed. Results from those surveys are attached to this document.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melinda Boshears

UCRA

Survey Results of Combined Meeting

June 1, 2006

Overall Rating of the day:

(13) surveys submitted

(8) said the meeting was excellent or very good

(4) felt it was good

(1) responded poor to good

Favorite Aspect of the Meeting:

Variety of topics, open discussion and interchange, variety of speakers, emerging contaminants, positive effects of brush control, basin updates, updates of long term issues.

Least Favorite Aspect:

Not more committee members present

Too short,

Too long

Meeting Length

(11) responded time just right

(2) felt it was too long

If you could change anything what would it be?

(11) said to change nothing

(1) would like tables

(1) would like fewer presentations

Suggested Future Topics:

Disposal of produced toxic waste (i.e. heavy metals)

Same issues

Real effects of increasing sites irrigation and stream flow in Concho Rivers

Suggested inclusion to future Basin Highlights Reports:

More info on local issues

Drought effects on water quality

Silting in rivers because of low flows

Other comments:

It was suggested West Teas Legislators (especially some of the new ones) be briefed on some of the meeting topics presented today.