

MINUTES

Clean Rivers Program
Upper Colorado Basin Steering Committee
May 21, 2009

A combined meeting of the Clean Rivers Program Upper Basin Steering Committee and Concho River Basin Watershed Protection Plan (CRBWPP) Advisory Group convened at 9 a.m. on May 21, 2009 at the Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) facilities, 512 Orient, San Angelo, Texas. Dr. Christy Youker, Center Director, welcomed the committee with a few opening remarks.

Moderator Dan McClung, Chairman of the CRBWPP Advisory Group, took the floor and reviewed the agenda with committee members. McClung introduced David Cowan (LCRA).

Cowan gave the committee an overview of the current Basin Highlights Report (BHR), the upcoming Draft Workplan for FYE10-11 and how the tasks are applicable with current program and upcoming changes.

Okla Thornton, CRMWD, discussed specific Upper Basin water quality issues pertaining to chloride increases in the Lake Thomas Watershed. Stated that it is less a funding issue for oil companies and more a matter of doing the right thing to secure water quality for this watershed. Thornton stated that they would continue to watch and report to Railroad Commission (RRC) Midland office. Don Horner (RRC, San Angelo) stated that the area likely suffers from improper plugging and other committee members reached a consensus that education and awareness to oil companies is key in understanding proper well plugging techniques for prevention of future problems.

John Burch, CRMWD, made a presentation (which included a timeline) on the Water Reclamation Project in Big Spring. The pilot project which began in May, is expected to last 90-120 days. Several committee members emphasized public perception and confidence in the program as key to its achievement. Burch also stated that the city of El Paso has been implementing this type of program and to date have been very successful.

Dr. Christy Youker, Center Director for the Concho River Basin Education Center made a presentation regarding Center activities. Youker spoke at length about partnerships with other entities and upcoming plans and vision for the center.

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 1145

Chuck Brown (UCRA) updated the committee in regards to the Hogg Dairy Project. Robert Hogg, Dairy owner was present and also provided updates and fielded questions. Committee members were encouraged by Hogg's efforts and suggested that he be held as example to other dairy owners on how to properly run a facility of this type. Hogg was also asked to serve as a member of the committee and accepted the invitation.

Scott McWilliams (UCRA) presented information on the O.C. Fisher Ecosystem Restoration Project updating committee members on program status.

Chuck Brown provided information on the current status of the North Concho River Improvement Project. The dredge proposal site was identified as well as information on "in-stream" sediment characteristics. Craig Kinney (Kinney Architects) gave a presentation on conceptual planning and amenities pertaining to bank stabilization, trails and access points pertaining to the project.

Scott McWilliams discussed the status of the Mesquite Paired Watershed Studies, which included details and findings of a project study report, which will be published soon. The study contributors include Dr. Ali Saleh, other Texas Institute of Applied Environmental Research staff, and UCRA staff. Dr. Saleh was also present at the meeting to provide additional comments regarding the study.

Scott McWilliams provided information and answered questions pertaining to the drilling of an exploratory oil test on the Head of the River Ranch, very near Anson Springs (the headwaters of the South Concho River).

Fred Teagarden provided an overview of the Concho River Basin WPP implementation to date. Best Management Practices (BMPs) were identified which are planned to address water quality issues cited in the WPP and were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30

Respectfully Submitted:

Ellen Groth, Upper Colorado River Authority
