

**Clean Rivers Program
Middle Basin Steering Committee Meeting
Brady, Texas
July 6, 2004
Meeting Notes**

Alicia Reinmund: Welcome and Introductions, CRP History

Alicia gave an overview of the Clean Rivers Program since it began in 1991, including its purpose:

- to provide a statewide funding mechanism for water quality monitoring
- to enhance public participation and outreach
- to identify, analyze and report on water quality issues

No questions/discussion.

David Cowan: Funding, Workplan, Public Outreach, Special Studies

David gave a presentation on CRP activities including funding. A copy of the presentation can be found at <http://www.lcra.org/crp/crpmeetings.html>. The following is a series of questions and responses generated during the presentation.

Q: If 80% of data used by the State to assess water quality comes from Clean Rivers Partners, who handles the other 20% of data?

A: TCEQ field staff or other entities that collect and submit data to TCEQ.

Q: Is there real-time data on the web?

A: There are real-time flow data on the web at LCRA's web site under the topic of water. However, it takes approximately 3 months for water quality data to appear on web due to lab analysis and the quality assurance process.

Q: Does the Brazos River Basin have the same number of monitoring sites as the Colorado?

A: There are actually more sites within the Brazos (Alicia Reinmund). Some sites are sampled for different parameters; different basins have different approaches to monitoring; some basins have no river authority (Patricia Wise, TCEQ).

Comment: Some data is contributed for "free," that is, from non-paid CRP partners such as the City of Austin (Patricia Wise).

Comment: Coordinated monitoring meetings have turned into a very effective way to manage resources; LCRA has developed a web site (<http://cms.lcra.org/>) that everyone in the state uses to coordinate monitoring activities (Fred Teagarden).

Dave Bass: Water Quality Overview

Dave gave a presentation on data collected from several sites on the Colorado and San Saba Rivers. A copy of the presentation can be found at <http://www.lcra.org/crp/crpmeetings.html>. The following is a series of questions and responses made during the presentation.

Q: Would nitrate numbers considered acceptable for surface water be acceptable for ground water?

A: Yes.

Comment: Some nitrate problems can be seasonal and/or attributable to farming (Fred Teagarden).

Q: Why biological monitoring not being conducted in the Colorado River directly below Lake O.H. Ivie?

A: A good site has not yet been identified. A good site has two items - appropriate habitat and a landowners permission to access the river (Dave Bass).

Q: Is there a relationship between numbers and flow (Randy Young)?

A: Yes, rain events can cause increase or decrease in nutrients depending on the situation. In most cases runoff from adjacent lands will cause a spike in nutrients (Dave Bass).

Q: Are current/past drilling operations contributing to chloride problems (Bob Vann)?

A: Yes, RRC has investigated (Dave Bass); Jerry Guajardo has studied wells within the watershed and would like to do further investigation (Alicia Reinmund).

Q (of Bob Vann): Are there any specific areas/wells that may be a concern (Alicia Reinmund)?

A: Will look into (Bob Vann).

Comment: The source of chloride problems can be difficult to trace (Fred Teagarden).

Comment: High nitrates are a problem in drinking water supply and are being treated (Judge Amos).

Response: In June 2000 UCRA published a special study entitled, "High Levels of Nitrates in Groundwater within the Lipan Aquifer, Tom Green & Concho Counties & the Effects on Surface Water Quality." The study was funded by the Clean Rivers Program and concluded that high nitrate concentrations in the Concho River at Paint Rock are due in part to local agriculture. A copy of the study can be obtained from Fred Teagarden at fteag@ucratex.org.

Fred Teagarden, Kelvin Hendrichs, P.E.: Brady Water Quality Project

Fred spoke on the history of nonpoint source-pollution (NPS) and 319 funding to develop several NPS projects in San Angelo. Fred explained how the Upper Colorado River Authority teamed up with Brady City Officials, TCEQ and LCRA to develop a storm water masterplan to address NPS concerns in Brady. UCRA received \$300,000 which can be used to develop a model for mitigating storm water in cities the size of Brady. Phase I of the project includes the completion of one best management practice (BMP) to filter runoff into Brady Creek. Kelvin, who is with the firm Jacobs and Martin, gave an overview of the proposed BMP including location and pollutant removal based on monitoring studies performed by UCRA. He also discussed the City of Brady's new reverse osmosis water drinking plant.

Q: What is the goal of the project (Alicia Reinmund)?

A: The master plan includes public outreach, BMPs, and improving water quality in Brady Creek.

Q: Where is the monitoring site with history of water quality problems that lead to the development of the NPS project (Patricia Wise)?

A: At Elm Creek.

Comment: Drinking water from Hickory poor quality (Joe Mosier).

Discussion: High radionuclides in drinking water (Kelvin, Judge Amos).

Discussion: Controversial feedlot in Concho County seeking TCEQ permit (Judge Amos, Alicia Reinmund).

Response: Tapia Industries withdrew permit application and the property was sold.

Comment: Water quantity is bigger issue than water quality in Concho County (Judge Amos).

Dr. Allan McGinty: Saltcedar

Allan gave an overview of saltcedar, an invasive plant that has overtaken the Colorado River basin above O.H. Ivie Reservoir. The plant poses a threat to water quantity and water quality. Quantity because it is a phreatophyte – an excessive user of water. And quality because it out competes native vegetation.

Q: Could FEMA be involved in Saltcedar control (Randy Young)?

A: Good idea, currently 319 grants are best source of funds. But worth looking into

Alicia Reinmund: Special Project Opportunities/Suggestions for Middle Basin

Q: What should the focus be for the middle basin?

A: Chlorides, Saltcedar, NPS pollution (Fred Teagarden).

A: NPS pollution (Joe Mosier).

A: Devote more time/money to public outreach/ public participation; more study on bacteria and contact recreation concerns; more water conservation initiatives (Jason Pinchback).

Q: How do we get more people to attend meetings (Alicia Reinmund)?

A: Do demonstrations (e.g. fish shocking demo), tie into existing events, involve CRWN, advertise in paper (Jason Pinchback).

Comment: Public is generally not involved unless there are current hot issues (Randy Young).

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.