

LCRA Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee
Meeting Summary
March 29, 2013
LCRA Redbud Center
Austin, TX

Regional Council members from both the Central Basin and Llano County regions were present at this meeting. The program included two presentations on water quality: Clean Rivers Program Overview by David Cowan and the Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance/Stakeholder Process by Lisa Hatzenbuehler. Council Chair Mitch Fuller called the meeting to order at 11:00AM with 29 people in attendance.

LCRA Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Coordinator David Cowan began his presentation by explaining the history, purpose and budget of the CRP in the Colorado River basin. He stated that the basin receives \$422,000 per year from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and that funding has remained at this level since the program began in 1991. David informed the audience that LCRA has contributed additional funding to support CRP efforts in the Colorado River basin as the program costs have increased over the years.

David then gave an overview of water health throughout the basin. In general, he stated, water quality is “good”, but 20 segments do not meet state standards in the most recent assessment period. David encouraged attendees to look at the 2012 Colorado River Basin Summary Report Executive Summary to find specific information on impairments in the watershed. Several questions from the audience then focused on what was being done to address these impairments. David explained the process by which we monitor and report findings to TCEQ, and several of these impairments are rather historic and have been known about for many years. He encouraged attendees to get involved with the CRP process by joining the Water Quality Advisory Committee, which segued into a brief presentation by Lisa Benton, LCRA Water Quality Coordinator.

Lisa started by reiterating the importance of getting involved with the Clean Rivers Program public outreach initiative, and then explained the Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC), formerly referred to as the Steering Committee. She stated that by getting involved, individuals can help guide water quality protection efforts in their area and gain a better understanding of how to characterize water health. The WQAC will be a minimal time commitment, she explained, with only one meeting scheduled each year and relatively infrequent email communications asking for feedback. Lisa gave examples of some special projects that CRP committees have helped initiate in the past throughout the basin and ended by answering questions about the potential structure of the committee.

Lisa Hatzenbuehler, LCRA Manager of Water Quality Protection, then took the floor and explained the Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance and asked for feedback on which stakeholders should be involved in the upcoming revision process.

After discussing regional council business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00PM.