

Sulphur River Basin Authority
Coordinated Monitors Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2011

The FY 2011 SRBA Coordinated Monitors Meeting was held at Texarkana College by telephone conference on April 21, 2011 at 1:30 pm. Those in attendance included:

Michelle Blair, TCEQ-Austin

Jennifer Delk, TCEQ-Austin

Mike VanBuskirk, TCEQ-Region 5

Mike Buttram, SRBA-TC

The meeting followed the usual routine of going through the segments one at a time and discussing changes in sites and other issues. The segments are:

0301 Lower Sulphur River-No changes in monitoring schedule at this time.

0302 Wright Patman Lake-No changes in monitoring schedule at this time.

There was a discussion about the Near Dam site (actually approximately one mile west of ramp # 1) and its comparison with the IP site. The ND site has a long history but has a monitoring time gap that was introduced when the IP-Intake site was adopted. It is of interest to see if the two sites have the same characteristics and the data can be combined. At this time, it would appear not to be case. TCEQ and SRBA will continue to monitor at three sites (ND, IP-Intake, Site AC (Old Corps site that is center of the lake near the dam)). The issue of possible improved DO levels on WPL was discussed. These have possibly been impacted by higher lake levels in the recent year.

0303 Sulphur River-No changes in monitoring schedule at this time. Current sites will be continued until adequate data is collected for assessment.

0303B White Oak Creek-No changes in monitoring schedule on main stem of WOC. SRB will discontinue the monitoring of Rock Creek, Stouts Creek and East Caney Creek sites because adequate data exists for assessment purposes.

0304 Days Creek-The ALAs on Cowhorn Creek and Swampoodle Creek will be completed in FY 2011 and the monitoring of these streams will be discontinued. SRBA will pick up a site on Wagoner Creek to investigate or verify the high ammonia levels found in the SQMIS database from earlier years.

0305 Upper South Sulphur River-No changes in monitoring schedule at this time. The only sites that are in Region 5 have been impacted by the filling of JCL and the flow characteristics are not those of a stream. The sites further up stream are in Region 4.

0306 North Sulphur River-No changes in monitoring schedule at this time. It was noted that AU-02 is on the 303(d) list at this time and was left off due to a computational error. AU-02 is in Region 4. Region 4 personnel will need to be contacted so that they will have input into the basin CMM.

0307 Jim Chapman Lake- No changes in monitoring schedule at this time. AU-03 and AU-04 were considered for additional monitoring. With low water levels there are safety issues in that it limits what kind of boat can be used on JPL since it tends to have a lot of wave action. Considering that the lake is awaiting a change in standards for pH, it was decided to put off additional monitoring of these AUs until the standards are approved or disapproved.

During the meeting there was considerable discussion of the proposal of Art Crowe of TCEQ Region 5 to study streams in the basin under drought conditions. It was suggested that an evaluation of the point sources under drought conditions might also be valuable since they contribute most of the flow during periods of low rainfall. It may be possible to have a CRP component to the TCEQ project that would help to establish if streams are annual or perennial and the impact of point sources. This question is of

importance. The EPA's view may be different from that of TCEQ in that a stream cannot be made perennial by effluent from a wastewater treatment plant. The current TCEQ designation has been made by using observational data. This simple change could have a large impact on assessment. (Michelle Blair)