

**SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY
CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013
1:30 P.M.**

STAFF & MEMBERS: Michael Russell, SRBA President
Borden Bell., Jr., SRBA Vice President
Patricia Wise, TCEQ
Alexander Smith, TCEQ
Dr. Mike Buttram, Texarkana College
Patti Harmon, Texarkana College
Nancy Rose, SRBA
Patricia Wommack, SRBA
David Neeley, SRBA
Dan Boyles, Texarkana, Texas (MTG)
Dr. Jane Morris, New Boston, Texas
Shirley Shumake, DeKalb, Texas
Adam Whisenant, Texas Parks & Wildlife

VISTORS: David Coffman, Ft. Worth, Texas (Freese & Nichols)
Walt Sears, Hughes Springs, Texas (NETMWD)
Jack Solmon, Hughes Springs, Texas (NETMWD)
Paul Prange, Texarkana, Texas (ATCOG)
Paige Alexandra, Texarkana Gazette
Darrell Grubbs, Mt. Pleasant, Texas (TCFWD)
John Jarvis, Texarkana, Texas (SRBA)
Sandy Cash, Talco, Texas (UTRWD)
Bob Murray, Texarkana, Texas (MTG)
Scott Albert, Texarkana, Texas (RiverBend Water Resource)
Bill Cork, Texarkana, Texas (Tex-America)
Gary Cheatwood, Bogata, Texas
Delores Cheatwood, Bogata, Texas
Cheri Stuart, Domino, Texas (Int'l Paper)
Anne Redelfs, Texarkana, Texas
Mary McQueen, Texarkana, AR.
Jo Ann Duman, Texarkana, Texas
Jennifer Meyer, Texarkana, Texas
Becky Griffith, Ft. Worth, Texas (Freese & Nichols)

ITEM# 1: CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL-----1:30 P.M.

Michael Russell, President of the SRBA's Board of Directors called the Meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. He welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. President Russell, stated that the Clean Rivers Program is handled by Dr. Mike Buttram, Texarkana College and Nancy Rose, Administrator of SRBA.

ITEM# 2; APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Michael Russell, President of SRBA's asked were there any questions or comments to the Minutes for July 12, 2012.

David Neeley made the motion and Borden Bell, Jr., seconded to accept the Minutes for July 25, 2012 as presented.

The motion carried with all members present voting AYE.

ITEM# 3: MICHAEL RUSSELL, PRESIDENT INTRODUCED DR. BUTTRAM:

Dr. Mike Buttram, Texarkana College welcomed everyone for attending.

Dr. Mike Buttram introduced James Henry Russell, President of Texarkana College and Ms. Patricia Wise and Ms. Alexander Smith with TCEQ.

Dr. Buttram explained that at the FY2012 Steering Committee Meeting that David & Stephanie Coffman, with Freese and Nichols in Ft. Worth, Texas spoke on SWAT. Dr. Buttram stated that they did such a great job that we invited them back this year to give an update on what they had learned since last year.

Dr. Mike Buttram introduced David Coffman and stated that he would turn the Meeting over to David Coffman at this time to talk about SWAT (Soil & Water Assessment Tool).

David Coffman, Freese & Nichols Engineers, Inc. stated that Sedimentation has reduced the storage capacity in Lake Wright Patman by one-third. He stated the soil and water assessment tool has been applied to examine the effects of implementing best management practices to reduce sedimentation from running down stream into the lakes. Mr. Coffman stated the (6) best management practices are changing cropland to pastureland, terracing, in channel grade control, filter strips, riparian buffer strips, and critical pasture planting. Mr. Coffman stated the amount of metric tons of sediment deposited in Lake Wright Patman dropped by 28% when four of the management practices were done.

Becky Griffith, Freese & Nichols gave a Presentation of "Overview Basinwide Feasibility Study".

ITEM# 5: QUESTIONS AND ANSWER PERIOD:

Question Jane Morris: Has sediment removal been considered in solving the problem

Answer Becky Griffin: Dredging does solve the problem but is very expensive. Sediment is fine, very heavy and is not desirable and is hard to dispose.

Question Gary Cheatwood: Why was this problem not addressed 40-50 years ago?

Answer Becky Griffin: Problem was not recognized at the time. The best solution was not to have destabilized the Sulphur River in the late 1920s. Model shows problem is accelerating.

Mike Russell: (Comment) Number one desired real estate is farmland. Pasture is being converted to farmland in the basin. Possibly 100,000 acres in last two to three years.

Answer Becky Griffin: May be contributing to acceleration of erosion and sedimentation.

Question Unknown; Talco project and the pipeline from Sulphur River assumed availability of room in the Talco Lake which will sometimes be negated.

Answer Becky Griffin: Yes that is correct. The feature was included in scenario and has a non-zero benefit. Cost would need to be studied to determine value.

Question Unknown: Who established the water levels for the models?

Answer Becky Griffin: TCEQ has official models that are updated when TCEQ chooses. WAM model was last updated in 1998. Our model has been updated to reflect current conditions. TCEQ has a system for appropriating water so that water must be included.

Question Dr. Jane Morris: Will all of this data be available on the internet.

Answer Becky Griffin: Not currently, when Corps approves the results they will be available on to the public.

Dr. Jane Morris Did you say a lot of water is available simply by raising conservation pool level.

Answer Becky Griffin: Yes, think of WPL as horizontal layers. Bottom layer managed by Texarkana and the top belongs to Corps for use in flood control and is usually kept empty. Changing the bottom layer height would yield additional water. (Extended explanation)

Dr. Jane Morris: You said that Frees and Nichols you went outside of the WDB to collect this data because you could have more funding due to a recently passed law in April.

Answer Becky Griffin: No the two are not connected. The law that changed allowed the non-federal sponsors to get ahead of the Corps where before they could not.

Question Walt Sears: (Comment) The state protocol for defining the water use demand is carefully defined. For your aggressive flow scenario we are talking about 274,000 acre/ft of water and that is the sum total of all demand, cities, agriculture, etc. for the entire

basin. To compare this number to the Region D plan you would need to calculate the total of all the needs in the Region D plan.

Answer Becky Griffin: Correct, this number could be compared to the Region D estimate but it does not follow the exact process described by law. The 274 number is the most aggressive estimate of the all uses in the basin.

Comment Bill Cork: (Comment) There is over 70,000 acre-feet difference between the 274,000 acre-feet and the Region D estimate. Rules are very rigid and we have underestimated our demand so much. These numbers are a more reliable estimate of our demand. Compound the underestimation by the WDB with the accelerated erosion problem which limits our storage capacity, you have a crisis of significant magnitude in next two decades which is why we need a sense of urgency and bias for action both through voluntary best practices on erosion, potential regulation, an investment in infrastructure.

Question Unknown: Are programs available to encourage voluntary best management practices?

Answer: David Coffman: Yes, there are federal for rewarding best management practices. One of the best examples is the current effort on the Cedar Creek Reservoir which has positive results with mixed interest.

David Coffman (Comment on earlier question): It is not simple to raise the conservation pool of Wright Patman Lake. Becky Griffin: It is not impossible by any means but there are many problems in raising the conservation pool. (Extended explanation)

Question Unknown: Build more reservoirs with more evaporation or will we not be better off to take money and spend on BMPs send clean water to WPL?

Answer Becky Griffin: You are right; we could do just the BMPs. It could be practical. The savings decreases the bigger the allocation to WPL.

Question Mike Russell: What does WPL lose in storage space per date due to erosion?

Answer Becky Griffin: Estimated at between 7000 and 13000 acre-feet per year. One third of the storage capacity has been lost in last 50 years. (Extended discussion)

Question Walt Sears: Is WO Creek mitigation below impounded site Talco impoundment? There is conflict with use of land and water storage.

Answer Becky Griffin: Yes, some of the larger implications of raising WPL will impact the WO Creek Wildlife Area. The Talco site is above the WO mitigation but will be impacted by environmental flows. (Extended discussion)

Question Walt Sears: Environmental flow concerns are different for raising an existing reservoir than to build a new reservoir further upstream? (Extended question)

Answer Becky Griffin: That is correct. (Extended discussion)

Question Walt Sears: (In reference to map) Is the red line indicative of the length of the earthen dam required to produce the Talco impoundment? Dam looks like a horseshoe.
(Extended question)

Answer Becky Griffin: Red line is an approximation. It is the biggest impoundment you can put there. Looking at smaller impoundments, would yield different results.
(Extended answer)

Question Jane Morris: What is Gulf South Research Corporation and what are they doing.

Answer Becky Griffin: Firm out of Baton Rouge, La. They are doing a detailed habitat survey to established a baseline of the habitat and determine its ecological functions.

Question Jane Morris: Are there endangered species present.

Answer Becky Griffin: Probably not. There are the potential for critical habitat for endangered species but none of the species is listed.

Question Jane Morris: Is the paddlefish not endangered.

Answer Becky Griffin: Not on the national list. It is threatened on the state list.

ITEM# 6: ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Mike Buttram stated how pleased we were to have everyone attend the Meeting
And stated the meeting is now adjourned.