SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY AND TCEQ
CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 30th, 2014
1:30 P.M.

STAFF & MEMBERS: **Dr. Mike Buttram, Texarkana College**
Alexandra Smith, Project Manager/TCEQ
Patricia Harman, Texarkana College
Dr. Ken Crane, Texarkana College
Michael Russell, President SRBA
David Neeley, SRBA
Pat Wommack, SRBA
Adam Whisenant, Texas Parks & Wildlife
Shirley Shumake, DeKalb, Texas
Dr. Jane Morris, New Boston, Texas
Paul Prange, Texarkana, Texas (ATCOG)
Bill King, Texarkana, Texas (TWU)
J.D. Phillips, Texarkana, Texas (TWU)
Nancy Rose, SRBA
Walt Sears, Hughes Springs, Texas (NETMWD)
Robert Speight, Hughes Springs, Texas (NETMWD)
Gary Spicer, Dallas, Texas (Luminant)
Sandy Cash, Talco, Texas (UTRWD)
Gary Cheatwood, Bogata, Texas
Doris Cheatwood, Bogata, Texas
Tom Coleman, Texarkana, Texas (Texarkana College)
Mary McQueen, Texarkana, Arkansas
James Henry Russell, President (Texarkana College)
Jim Presley, Texarkana, Texas

ITEM # 1: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Dr. Mike Buttram. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the 14th steering committee meeting of the SRBA.

Dr. Buttram asked that attendees introduce themselves and state their affiliation or interest for attending this meeting.

ITEM # 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Buttram asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the minutes of the last steering committee meeting held July 25, 2013. Mike Russell made a motion to accept minutes as presented. David Neely seconded that motion. The motion carried with all members present voting AYE.

ITEM # 3: PRESENTATION ON SOIL, WATER ASSESSMENT TOOL (SWAT)

Dr. Ken Crane was introduced by Dr. Mike Buttram as the next presenter.

Dr. Crane gave a presentation on the SWAT model that is currently in use as a soil and water assessment tool. By definition, SWAT is a modeling tool that is a mathematic application for data that interprets changes in populations that are due to interactions between those populations.

SWAT is already developed and is available for use to model a river basin using available data from sources including USGS. There are several SWAT executables including Map Window SWAT and ARC SWAT for GIS data.

ITEM # 4: PRESENTATION ON THE FY2014 BASIN SUMMARY REPORT

The next presentation was given by Dr. Mike Buttram.

Dr. Buttram started his discussion of the report by explaining how the basin is broken up into watershed or segments. Each watershed is addressed individually in the report.

Dr. Buttram explained that there are many different types of data that are used for screening purposes. Examples used were: specific uses for that particular water body and the screening limits for nutrients found in the water. Much of the collected data is graphically represented in the report.

There was a brief discussion of differences in the 2 lakes that are part of the Sulphur River basin. It was noted that while the water level is fairly constant on Wright Patman Lake, that is not the case for Jim Chapman Lake. A normal water level at Jim Chapman cannot be maintained. Multiple factors including the current drought and local water demand contribute to this difference.

Dr. Buttram's discussion of Wright Patman Lake included summary information gleaned from extensive amounts of data collected by multiple entities.

He presented graphs that indicate that long-term trends for dissolved oxygen at most sites on the lake were fairly level. However, the trends for chlorophyll *a* values are increasing. His assumption was that these values could be attributed to increasing nutrient levels and the shallow nature of the lake.

The last site discussed was the Days Creek at Stateline site that is downstream from the Texarkana Wastewater Treatment facility on Stateline. Currently the only parameter of interest was a problem with elevated nitrates.

ITEM # 5: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question Walt Sears: Walt offered an observation on the DO and chlorophyll *a* levels at WPL based on his results of a study conducted on the Cypress River Basin. His suggestion was to maintain the current level of monitoring and to consider addressing and lowering the chlorophyll *a* levels at WPL.

Question Gary Spicer: How would changing the water level on WPL change specific parameters like decomposing vegetation, etc… Modeling could help with predictions.

Question Dr. Jane Morris: Dr. Morris requested that the assessment of Rice Creek due to the landfill be continued. She asked if an alternate site could be chosen for monitoring due to occasional flooding over road at current site. She also asked if depth profiles were conducted on TP Lake.

ITEM # 6: ADJOURNMENT

At the conclusion of the question and answer session, Dr. Buttram thanked the attendees for coming to the steering committee meeting and adjourned at that time.