

**SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY/TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM ANNUAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 26th, 2018 at 1:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Nancy Rose, SRBA

Dr. Ken Crane, SRBA/Texarkana College

Howard Barrons, TCEQ, Austin, Texas

Marna Martinez, Sulphur Springs, Texas

Johnny Martinez, Sulphur Springs, Texas

Paul Prange, Ark-Texas Council of Government, Texarkana, Texas

Karen Grisham, Texarkana College

Walt Sears, NETMWD, Hughes Springs, Texas

Robert Speight, NETMWD, Hughes Springs, Texas

Patricia Harman, Texarkana College

Mike Buttram, SRBA

Sandy Cash, UTRWD, Talco, Texas

Tom Wooten, Texarkana, Texas

Dr. Jane Morris, New Boston, Texas

ITEM# 1: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & ROLL CALL AT 1:30 P.M.

It was explained that Chris Spencer, Chairman was unable to attend today meeting due to conflict of schedule's. He very much wanted to attend but with the Business that he owns, plus SRBA he has two full time Jobs.

Dr. Crane introduced Mr. Howard Barrons, Project Manager of Texas Commission on Environmental of Quality.

Dr. Ken Crane welcome everyone in attendance and thanked all for attending.

ITEM# 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR JULY 27, 2018.

Dr. Crane stated that everyone has a copy of the minutes for last years, July 27, 2017, of the Steering Committee Meeting.

Dr. Crane asked if anyone had any questions or concern with the Minutes? He stated that since there were no questions or comments, that he made a motion to approve the Minutes as written.

Dr. Mike Buttram seconded the motion of approving the Minutes for July 27, 2018.

The motion and seconded carried with everyone in attendance voting AYE.

ITEM# 3: PRESENTATION OF THE 2018 BASIN HIGHLIGHTS REPORT:

Dr. Ken Crane gave the presentation on the 2018 Basin Highlights Report.

He stated that White Oak Creek (WOC) listed for bacteria & dissolved oxygen.

Sandy Cash stated that the wild hogs are properly part of the bacteria problem. He stated that the hogs are very thick in this area.

It was stated that open season on hogs is encouraged.

Dr. Crane stated that ALU has been adjusted from high to intermediate. White Oak Creek data looks a lot better in bacteria. White Oak Creek is not a place for swimming or drinking the water. It was discussed that White Oak Creek is not a place for drinking or swimming. It was also noted that no one knew of anyone swimming in White Oak Creek.

Walt Sears recommend spending time to understanding why we have elevated bacteria before the problems overcomes the entire segment. It was stated that the worse time for bacteria is in the months of January, February and March.

Marna Martinez asked why South Sulphur merges into White Oak Creek and where? She stated that it is full of debris and other items. She stated that it causes the road and woods to flood. She stated that there is a major Log Jam.

She asked, where does Sulphur River and White Oak Creek merges together. She stated that the upstream from floods and back up causing water to stand. She stated that it leaves debris along the side of the road.

Ms. Martinez stated that the Corps of Engineers will not do anything about this mess. She stated that the Texas Department of Transportation won't repair the problem either.

Mike Buttram stated that landowners up stream could start doing "best practices" to control rate of erosion and the increase of sedimentation in the runoff.

Sandy Cash explained how Jim Chapman was established by City of Irving, Texas.

Dr. Jane Morris recommend that Ms. Martinez contact an environmental lawyer, Dr. Morris told her that she had the name and telephone number of a good lawyer in Austin, Texas. She stated that the floodwater can be a safety hazard that prevents fire truck and ambulance responses.

Mike Buttram stated that if they raise the level of Lake Wright Patman that they have to mitigate area as wildlife area then Texas Department of Transportation would raise the road level.

Sandy Cash recommend that Ms. Martinez could contact he district engineers about the flood situation. He stated that the problem can't be solved, it can only be managed forever.

Mike Buttram wants to talk about the hogs. He stated that the hogs keep everything clean up from the cattle disposals.

Dr. Morris asked if there was any new information about the paddle fish?

Walt Sears stated one was caught in upper area of Lake Wright Patman. He stated that they require large amount of flowing water. He stated that they are large when they get fully grown, about 200 lbs. Walt stated that reproduction takes about 7 years and then they live for about 40-50 years.

Walt Sears stated that on August 2, 2018 that approximately 1,000 pounds of paddlefish will be released in the Cypress River at Jefferson, Texas. He stated that the paddlefish are very interesting.