

**SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY & TEXAS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2016

1:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Mike Buttram, Texarkana College
Dr. Ken Crane, Texarkana College
Patricia Harman, Texarkana College
Mike Sandefur, President of SRBA
Pat Wommack, Director of SRBA
Nancy Rose, Administrator/Project Manager
Alexandra Smith, TCEQ/Project Manager
Sarah Eagle, TCEQ/Manager
Brook Noack, North Texas Municipal Water District
Robert Speight, Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
Leah Taylor, Tarleton State University
Adam Whisenant, Texas Parks & Wildlife
Tim Bister, Texas Parks & Wildlife
Paul Prange, Ark-La-Tex Council of Government
J.D. Phillips, Texarkana Water Utilities
Gary Smith, Texarkana Water Utilities
Rick Barton, Texarkana Water Utilities
Sandy Cash, Upper Trinity Regional Water District
David Nabors, Region D
Sharon Nabors, Region D
Kelly Mitchell, Riverbend Water Resource District
Dr. Jane Morris, FUSE
Jim Presley, FUSE
Andrea Williams McCoy, Ward Timber
Jennifer Middleton, Texarkana Gazette

ITEM # 1: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Mike Buttram of Texarkana College called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the 16th steering committee meeting of the SRBA.

Dr. Buttram asked that everyone in attendance introduce themselves and state their affiliation or interest for attending the meeting.

Dr. Buttram also introduced Michael Sandefur, President of Sulphur River Basin Authority. Mr. Sandefur made comments regarding his experiences at TC and events since his recent appointment to the SRBA Board and his assumption of the position of President.

ITEM # 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 22, 2015.

Dr. Buttram asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes of the last steering committee meeting held July 22, 2015. As there were none offered, Robert Speight made a motion to accept minutes as published. No second. The motion carried with all members voting AYE.

ITEM # 3: PRESENTATION ON UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CYPRESS BASIN WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

Robert Speight of the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District began his presentation by defining what a coordinated watershed protection plan is and indicated that this multistep plan is driven by the stakeholders of the watershed. The development of such a program requires technical support from multiple entities/partners to design and implement this intensive study. The resources and tools needed to develop the program are available and funding sources may include state environmental agencies, EPA, river authorities, cities, utilities, and private industry.

ITEM # 4: PRESENTATION ON NTMWD MONITORING OF JIM CHAPMAN AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Brook Noack of the North Texas Municipal Water District started her presentation with some historical information about the water district by identifying the member cities originally served by the district when it was created in 1951. Currently the district serves about 70 cities and over 1.6 million residents. They are currently involved with the Clean Rivers Program and partner with 3 river authorities including the Sulphur River authority. They test a large number of parameters in Jim Chapman Lake, Jernigan Creek, and 2 sites on the Sulphur using a district in-house lab. Monthly monitoring was initiated in September of 2015.

ITEM # 5: PRESENTATION ON SRBA FY2015 BASIN HIGHLIGHTS REPORT AND RECENT CHANGES IN LISTINGS OF SULPHUR RIVER BASIN WATER BODIES

Ken Crane of Texarkana College presented information about the FY2015 highlights report. He explained that the Clean Rivers Program is administered by TCEQ and individual river authorities carry out their portion of the program. SRBA coordinates the CRP activities and

Texarkana College is responsible for the monitoring efforts. TCEQ sets the standards for the program that the EPA approves. There was discussion of the Texas Integrated Report and the monitoring activities required to investigate “concerns” associated with water bodies in the basin. For the 2016 monitoring, these include streams in Bowie County, Red River County, and Wright Patman Lake. Some systematic studies of streams in Bowie County that have not formerly been studied are included. There was a general discussion of reasons that particular streams (White Oak Creek) have been reclassified in the report.

Mike Sandefur suggested developing a “strategic plan” for the Clean Rivers Program that involved more entities that could partner in the effort.

ITEM # 6: ADDITIONAL PROJECT ON WHITE OAK CREEK

Guest speaker Leah Taylor of the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton College presented information about a current study that is part of a Watershed Protection Plan on White Oak Creek. This water body is on the 303D list as it does not meet the standard for primary contact recreation due to elevated bacteria. By conducting a Recreational Use Availability Analysis, they hope to collect information about contact recreation that provides evidence that may support a change in the recreational use category. If so, White Oak Creek may possibly be delisted from the 303D due to a change in the recreational use category for that water body.

ITEM # 7: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

General questions were addressed during the individual presentations. David Neighbors commented that “this was the best Clean Rivers meeting we have ever had! Thanks to all!” There was much agreement among the attendees.

ITEM # 8: ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Buttram thanked everyone for coming to the steering committee meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.