



MEETING MINUTES

UPPER NECHES RIVER BASIN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 1:00 PM
TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
1903 ATKINSON DRIVE, LUFKIN, TX 75901

Attendees:

Brian Sims	Angelina & Neches River Authority (ANRA)
Hannah Lucia	Angelina & Neches River Authority (ANRA)
Jeremiah Poling	Angelina & Neches River Authority (ANRA)
Chuck Whitehead	Angelina & Neches River Authority (ANRA)
Dyan Stanford	Angelina & Neches River Authority (ANRA)
Kelley Holcomb	Angelina & Neches River Authority (ANRA)
Matthew McBroom	Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU)
Mike Prater	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Tommy Wheeler	Nacogdoches County
Adrian T. Van Dellen	Sentinels
Lucas Gregory	Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
Amy Uyen Truong	Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
Kirby Peddicord	Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
Adam Whisenant	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD)
Monty D. Shank	Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority
Ron Hufford	Texas Forestry Association
Bret Higginbotham	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Ft. Worth
Bart Dearborn	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Sam Rayburn
Todd Thomas	Texas Forest Service
Buddy Stalnaker	Campbell Global
Wayne McGee	
Sally Sowell	

I. Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Brian Sims, with Angelina & Neches River Authority (ANRA), welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with a brief overview of discussion topics on the agenda. He explained the operations of ANRA and its structure.

II. Overview of the Clean Rivers Program

Mr. Sims provided a brief history of the Clean Rivers Program (CRP), noting its funding sources and purpose. ANRA's CRP budget by category was presented. The presentation highlighted ANRA's water quality monitoring activities in the Upper Neches River Basin. ANRA monitors 40 stations for conventionals, bacteria, and field parameters. A map listing sampling sites and schedules was included in the packet provided to those in attendance.

III. ANRA's Water Quality Monitoring Program – What We Test For and Why

Mrs. Hannah Lucia, with ANRA, explained the testing procedures in the *Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures Manual* that ANRA tests for and why the parameters are important. Mr. Adrian Van Dellen questioned which organization tests for dioxin within Segment 0604 (Neches River) in regards to the fish consumption advisory. Mr. Sims explained that fish tissue testing is performed by the Department of State Health Services. Dioxin is not tested for annually, thus the fish advisory was not reported until 2012 or 2013. Mr. Van Dellen asked if there are any ideas as to the source of the dioxin. Mr. Sims stated that officials are not certain, but are continuing to research and determine the source.

IV. Neches River Wildness

Mr. Van Dellen, with the Sentinels, is an author and photographer. He presented various pictures from his work on the Neches River. His photographs detailed the natural beauty of the Neches River, including the plants and wildlife in the basin.

V. Interagency Flood Risk Management (InFRM) Neches Basin Hydrology

Mr. Bret Higginbotham, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), presented information on a joint project being conducted by the USACE and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This project incorporates hydrological modeling from various agencies and sources within the state. Mr. Kelley Holcomb questioned the ultimate use of the data. Mr. Higginbotham responded that the information is connected to FEMA's flood insurance program. This information will act as a library for multiple agencies to utilize. Mr. Van Dellen asked if ground water condition interacts with this project. Mr. Higginbotham responded that it does make a difference. Mr. Holcomb agreed the data will allow more active monitoring.

Discussion occurred regarding gate releases at Lake Sam Rayburn. Mr. Higginbotham noted that the USACE does not change gate releases based upon forecasts. Mr. Bart Dearborn, Lake Manager for Sam Rayburn Reservoir, explained that releases are based upon guidelines. Mr. Holcomb asked if an overtopping/breach model has been developed. Mr. Dearborn explained that emergency management modeled for that type of occurrence.

VI. Sam Rayburn Reservoir Master Plan Revision

Mr. Dearborn noted that the USACE's Master Plan is awaiting adoption. He explained the changes in land classifications and their amounts. Mr. Van Dellen and Mr. Dearborn discussed oil and gas and its effects on the land classifications. Mr. Dearborn explained that shoreline classification would be a consideration, but the USACE owns some mineral rights, while most are privately owned.

VII. Forestry Best Management Practices to Protect and Preserve Water Quality

Dr. Matthew McBroom, with Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU), presented information on best management practices (BMP) usage and its efforts to get more precision agriculture in forestry. He discussed technical advances within the forestry arena.

VIII. Update on Ongoing and Upcoming Nonpoint Source Grant Projects for the Attoyac Bayou, Angelina River, and La Nana Creek Watersheds

Ms. Amy Truong, with Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI), provided information on upcoming meetings within the Watershed. An on-site sewage facility training course for homeowners will be provided on September 7th at the Nacogdoches County Extension Office.

Ms. Kirby Peddicord, with TWRI, presented information on upcoming projects within the Angelina River and La Nana Creek watersheds, to include new proposed additional sampling sites.

IX. The 2017 Basin Highlights Report

Mr. Sims expressed ANRA's appreciation and collaboration with the multiple entities in attendance. He explained ANRA's basin highlights report and provided copies to those at the meeting.

X. Open Discussion for Steering Committee Member Recommendations and Concerns

No further discussion occurred. The meeting was closed at 4:35 p.m.