

# TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR THE RIO GRANDE BASIN

## UPPER 2 RIO GRANDE COORDINATED MONITORING MEETING (Forgotten Stretch in Presidio County to Amistad Dam)

March 26, 2014  
1:00 p.m.  
Alpine, Texas

### MEETING MINUTES

#### Meeting Participants:

Christin Cosby, RG Research Center  
Samuel Burch, RG Research Center  
Sergio Lopez, USIBWC Presidio Office  
Tony Sanchez, USIBWC Presidio Office  
David Long, TPWD Barton Warnock Center  
Larry Curtis Jr., USIBWC Amistad Dam FO  
Lisa Ramirez, USIBWC Clean Rivers Program  
Sean Hopper, RG Research Center

Zeke Bustamante, Amistad Dam FO  
Leslie Grijalva, USIBWC Clean Rivers Program  
Christine Kolbe, TCEQ SWQM  
Stephanie Hunnicutt, RG Research Center  
Reed Ojala-Barbour, BBNP  
Jeff Bennett, BBRSP  
Dr. Kevin Urbanczyk, Sul Ross State University  
Sarah Eagle, TCEQ Clean Rivers Program

#### Meeting Notes:

- Lisa Ramirez began meeting with welcome and introduction of all participants.
- Sarah Eagle, TCEQ gave a short overview of the Watershed Action Planning Process. She also introduced the new WAP online tool that is now complete and will be available soon.
- Jeff Bennett began the meeting by asking about the impairments at Segments 2306 and 2307 and how they are being handled. He was extremely concerned with salinity. 2307 is introducing salt into 2306 and he wanted to know what was being done by TCEQ.
- Chris Kolbe, TCEQ, addressed his question. She said that usually the method is to just increase the standard. The higher standards have already been approved by the TCEQ Commissioners, but have not yet been approved by the EPA. They were also not put out for public review.
- Jeff Bennett was not happy and said that was not an appropriate way to deal with the issue, and he wanted to know how to protest. Chris recommended protesting to the EPA.
- The overall average for each reach doesn't look like it will be above current standard. Last year it was recommended that Segments 2306 and 2307 be split to

- create a new Segment 2315, to separate out the spring waters. This was proposed but then they made a new standard (higher) for the new split segment. EPA still has to approve it. If approved the DO impairment for the Upper will go away.
- Dr. Urbanczyk said Pecos has to be huge source of salinity. Jeff Bennett had a huge concern that all of this wasn't publicized. He felt that TCEQ should have done a better job in letting shareholders know this information was out there on proposed changes.
  - Chris, TCEQ, announced that the 2014 Integrated Report could not be released due to technical issues, but she did tell us that the new Integrated Report shows that Amistad will be listed as impaired for Chloride and Total Dissolved Solids.
  - 2014 Integrated Report is on the website but still awaiting EPA approval. Sarah did mention that EPA has rejected changes before, so these changes may or may not go through.
  - Dr. Urbanczyk reported that several of his students are finishing up thesis work between now and the summer. In addition, a trip to the Lower Canyons is coming up for him and several students.
  - Lisa Ramirez asked for notification of the theses publications.
  - Dr. Urbanczyk also reported that Shaftner Mine has stopped all mining in the State Park. No copper mining or silver occurring. This was a concern at last year's meeting.
  - Public is concerned in the Del Rio area (Amistad) for low fish catches. Public blames copper mines in Mexico. Chris did research in this area and found no active copper mines on visit or in online research. Leslie said TCEQ Laredo office will doing testing in April. They will be collecting water, sediment, and fish tissue samples in light of the public's concern, even though CRP data has shown no problems. CRP provided all metals data to TCEQ Laredo.
  - Larry Curtis from Amistad said fisherman said they aren't catching fish because the pressure in the water isn't ideal and the lake level is low.
  - Chris reported that she has over 51 benthic invertebrate samples from 2005-2011. Sorting was finished last week and identification will begin next week. She is hoping to have a report out before the end of the fiscal year.
  - Jeff Bennett recommended everyone in the region attempt to sample in the same week. This does require coordination.
  - Dr. Urbanczyk also mentioned flow is a huge priority and suggested everyone take flow. The State park does not have the resources at this time to measure flow.
  - TCEQ stated that the CWQM stations funded for next few years. Sites are being moved according to Jeff Bennett.

- Leslie says Lajitas site not safe to wade for the partner who monitors there. Also, it would require the purchase of another flowmeter, for which we do not currently have funds, and additional training. It would also add on a considerable amount of time to the sampling event.
- Jeff commented that coolers should continue to be sent last week of month before sampling month.
- Sul Ross will sample Monday and then will be caught up with sampling after not sampling for some time.
- No changes to Del Rio, Parks, or Sul Ross sampling.
- Jeff suggested we add a site at Terlingua Creek right next to the USIBWC gage. After confirmation from Jeff that he can, indeed, sample this site, a SLOC will be requested and it will be added to the schedule. This sample would be sampled quarterly by BBNP.
- Candelaria site (Station 17407): Still no staffing to support this site, so it will remain off the schedule.
- Big Bend Wild and Scenic stations will be sampled (some of them) in 2 weeks during BBNP's Lower Canyons canoe trip. Locations might have to be flexible. Chris informed them they have about ¼ mile range from station site to sample without requiring a new site as long as no major hydrological inputs or changes happen in that ¼ mile. Jeff and Chris will coordinate sites that will be sampled on that trip. Scheduled for April 6-13.
- Formal Meeting adjourned at 1400.
- Training started at 1415. All partners were present that were in the formal meeting.
- Leslie went through a list of issues/concerns.
  - Procedures for notifying USIBWC of missed sampling
  - Correct field sheet procedures
  - Correct Chain of Custody Procedures
  - Proper correction procedures on all CRP forms
  - E. Coli does not have a field duplicate, scratching this out of the Chain of custody
  - Sample and cooler shipping preparations
  - Mercury sampling procedures
  - Proper bottle configurations for conventional samples and QC
- Lisa announced the new 2014 Basin Highlights was available hardcopy on the side table.

- 1:00 Welcome/Introductions
- 1:15 TCEQ Watershed Action Planning Process
- Discussion of TCEQ's Integrated Report/303d list
  - Identification of water quality issues, data gaps, sources
  - Ongoing research and projects in the area addressing issues
- 1:45 Monitoring Schedule
- Discussion of statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule (CMS)  
<http://cms.lcra.org/> - current and FY 2014 monitoring
    - Candelaria station and Big Bend Wild and Scenic stations
  - Potential future projects and potential new sites
- 2:20 Other announcements and information
- 2013 Basin Summary Report for the Rio Grande Basin
- 2:30 Final comments and adjourn
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- 2:35 USIBWC CRP Partner Refresher Training and Monitoring Guidance Updates
- Go over USIBWC YSI multiprobe Standard Operating Procedures for maintenance and calibration. Please bring your probes so we can go over DO membrane replacement, etc.
  - Chain of Custody forms and new field forms for drought monitoring
  - Answer questions and review monitoring procedures, as requested
- 4:00 Adjourn refresher training portion