

TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR THE RIO GRANDE BASIN

PECOS RIVER COORDINATED MONITORING MEETING

March 17, 2015
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
3600 N. Garfield, Midland, TX 79705

AGENDA

Meeting Participants

Michael McCullough, PCWID #3, RG Env. Flow Committee
Hilary Cosby, TCEQ Midland Regional Office
Jason Blackledge, TCEQ Midland Regional Office
Rajesh Roy, TCEQ Midland Regional Office
Leslie Grijalva, USBWC Clean Rivers Program
Michael Edmiston, TCEQ Midland Regional Office
Robin Cypher, TCEQ SWQM
Patrick Dearen, Pecos River Resolution Corporation
Greg Larson, Midland College
Sarah Eagle, TCEQ Clean Rivers Program
Hannah Riseley- White, NM Interstate Stream Commission

Meeting Notes:

- Participants introduced themselves and Leslie gave an introduction to the meeting.
- Greg gave a brief summary of the undergraduates he has doing research on the Pecos. He is teaching them about field techniques, data collection, and data analysis. They are monitoring the two sites with him, upstream and downstream of Independence Creek.
 - Sampling has been hard at times since the flood in October 2014.
- Greg mentioned that he is interested in looking at dilution effects in the Lower Pecos from waters coming from upstream.
 - Even though flows have been high, salinity is still very high (8,000-10,000 uS/cm3)
 - This goes back to previous meetings when Dr. Miyamoto had said that when flows go up and pull the leachate from the banks, salinity will also go up.
- The flood in October-November 2014 filled Red Bluff Reservoir to 100% capacity.
- Red Bluff started releasing last week, to prepare for the 30,000 cfs that will come from Brantly in NM.
- Gaging stations: As far as anyone at the meeting knows, USGS is still operating all of them. Some stations were damaged by the flood and are still being repaired. Some are considered

low flow stations and don't record past 225 cfs, so they did not record above that during the flood.

- Patrick Dearen from the Pecos River Resolution Corporation gave an update of this manuscript on the history of the Pecos. It should be published by March 2016.
- Senate Bill 3: Pecos group was charged only with the Pecos confluence with the Rio Grande, but the bill did not proceed. Michael McCullough submitted a report to TCEQ.
- TCEQ Regional office had no changes to any other TCEQ stations.
- Each participant that had updates presented on projects existing or completed in the past year.
- Watershed Protection Plan is now non-existent. No support from TWRI or TX A&M AgriLife.
 - Sul Ross may be able to resurrect it, but not sure for now.
- Michael McCullough: Some of the monies won in the lawsuit between NM and TX should be given to universities so that they could do more projects like Greg's.
- What does the IBWC think of the Pecos' contribution to flows in the Rio Grande?
 - Leslie answered that she is not knowledgeable on flows, as that's covered by a different department in the IBWC. Clean Rivers is water quality only.
- Leslie discussed that there is only one impairment, for depressed dissolved oxygen, in the Upper Pecos. There are several concerns in both the Upper and Lower Pecos, including harmful algal blooms, bacteria, and nutrients.
- Michael M.: About the concern for algal blooms- are you saying you are predicting algal blooms?
 - Robin Cypher answered: TCEQ uses the TPWD Kills and Spills Team's fish kill reports in our assessments. If an algal bloom has been reported, we look at the frequency and extent of the kill, and the assessor makes a judgement call on whether or not to consider it a concern. However, once it's a concern, it is carried forward because there is not enough supporting data to remove it.
- CMS:
 - Midland College will be adding bacteria (E.coli) to Station 14163.
 - Discussion on whether bacteria could be added to Station 14163. Currently, both stations are listed as being in Segment 2310, which has E.coli as an indicator. Greg says that the upstream station, Station 13248, is further upstream that what is actually described in SWQMIS and should actually be in Segment 2311 (with Enterro as the indicator).
 - Need to look into this, double-check the coordinates and station description for 14163, but especially for 13248.
 - TCEQ Midland Office made no changes.
 - Robin asked why there is metals testing at Station 13249 (added in FY13).
 - There is no historical reason to be taking metals, and there is no industrial discharge in the area.
 - Maybe TCEQ Midland should consider doing semi-Vols instead?
 - TCEQ is still doing 24-hr DO at Independence Creek. They take Orla and Girvin 24-hr data from the USGS gages.
 - TCEQ Midland is still working with Bill Harrison's Least Disturbed Streams study.
- Patrick Dearen: Is there any monitoring on the Delaware River?
 - No, there is not.

- NMISC is working with the USGS TX Water Science Center on a salinity study in TX. Also, Deborah Dixon is the new director of the NMISC. There is also a new state engineer in NM as well.
 - Salinity study is NM/TX, but TX portion is the Upper Pecos.
- The NMISC is also involved with the possible listing of the TX Horshell mussel by the USFWS as Endangered. Now located in the Upper Pecos in TX, below Red Bluff.
- Michael M: Will the IBWC be attending the Pecos Compact Commission meeting in Santa Fe, NM on April 28th?
 - Leslie stated no, she was unaware of the meeting and had not received notification. She would speak with her supervisor to see if she could attend.
- Adjourned formal meeting at 1415.
- Leslie gave Midland College information on the new equipment that will be purchased. Midland College uses a different YSI than the rest of the partners, but Leslie wanted to make sure they were informed of the equipment changes.

1:00	Welcome/Introductions
1:10	Update on Pecos River studies, projects, and Watershed Protection Plan
1:40	TCEQ Continuous Water Quality Monitoring Stations
2:00	TCEQ Watershed Action Planning Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of TCEQ's Integrated Report/303d list • Identification of water quality issues, data gaps, sources
2:20	Monitoring Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule (CMS) http://cms.lcra.org/ - current and FY 2014 monitoring • Potential future projects and potential new sites
2:50	Other announcements and information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 Basin Summary Report for the Rio Grande Basin
3:00	Final comments and adjourn
3:30	USIBWC CRP Partner Refresher Training and Monitoring Guidance Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go over USIBWC YSI multiprobe Standard Operating Procedures for maintenance and calibration, if needed. • Briefly review new equipment • Answer questions and review monitoring procedures, as requested
4:00	Adjourn refresher training portion

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LIST OF ATTENDEES

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