

# TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR THE RIO GRANDE BASIN

## LOWER RIO GRANDE COORDINATED MONITORING MEETING

April 25, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Harlingen, Texas

### MEETING MINUTES

#### Meeting Participants

Leslie Grijalva, USIBWC Clean Rivers  
Robin Cypher, TCEQ Surface Water Quality  
Chris Caudle, TCEQ Harlingen  
Jose Bazaldua, USIBWC Mercedes

Kelly Rodibaugh, TCEQ Clean Rivers  
Raul Montemayor, USIBWC Mercedes  
Jaime Flores, TWRI

#### Meeting Notes:

- Leslie Grijalva began meeting with a welcome and introduction around the room.
- Leslie went straight into the 303d list of impairments and concerns for this region.
  - Segment 2302\_07 has been delisted for bacteria.
  - Segment 2303: No changes.
  - Segment 2301: Draft IR 2016, no changes.
- Data gaps: Large data gap between Station 13184 and 13664, and between 15808 and 13179.
- Is there any way that UTRGV could pick up Station 13177?
  - Would Mercedes be able to pick up additional sites? If we reduce monitoring frequency to quarterly, could they pick up additional sites? They stated yes. Leslie has to check on treaty obligations.
- Border wall gaps are being filled in, gates are being installed. TCEQ coordinates with Border Patrol and has not had any issues. Mercedes FO also said they've had no issues.
- Space X: Launching will begin soon (near Boca Chica State Park). Would like to cover the area where this will be occurring. Could UTRGV possibly pick up organics and volatiles in water at Boca Chica 4x/yr?
  - Need to talk to Dr. Ho.
  - Need to find funding for this, we currently do not have the flexibility in the budget. How would this be paid for? Maybe Section 106 funds? SWQM? CRP?
- Rio Grande Cooter study is being conducted in the area by UTRGV. Leslie has been working with them to provide them basic water quality and flow data.
- Arroyo CO implemented their WPP (approved in 2018). San Benito Phase II and III. Converted 50 acres of ponds into wetlands. Stocking with fish. Not open to the public yet. Called the San Benito Wetlands.
  - They do water monitoring; the data is sent to the Nueces River Authority.
  - Will be moving on to Phase 4.
  - 149 bird species have been identified to date.
- Leslie went over coordinated monitoring schedule.

- USIBWC Mercedes Field Office: Is there any way that someone else can pick up the station they have in Brownsville (Station 13177)? It's too far for them, and they usually have to work longer day when they sample here.
  - Leslie will check to see if UTRGV can pick it up. If they can, will Mercedes take on additional stations (if they're closer)? They said yes. Looking at adding another station or two between 15808 and 13179.
- UTRGV- Edinburg: Did not attend. Schedule will carry forward as is. Need to speak with them about Station 1377, as well as about collecting organics/volatiles at Boca Chica.
- BPUB did not attend.
- TCEQ: No changes to their schedule.
- TCEQ requested that at next year's meetings, can the USIBWC CRP please add the TCEQ stations on the maps.
- Leslie went over the 2019 Basin Highlights Report. It will be put out soon, and an email will go out with the link. You will be able to find it on the USIBWC CRP webpage.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

### **Training Participants**

Jose Bazaldua, USIBWC Mercedes

Raul Montemayor, USIBWC Mercedes

### **Meeting Notes:**

- Went over the handouts of partner issues with them.
- Provided needed sensors and supplies.
- Addressed any supply needs from the partners.

## AGENDA

- 10:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 10:40 Discussion of various water quality topics
- Discussion of TCEQ's Integrated Report/303d list
  - Identification of water quality issues, data gaps, and sources of pollution
- 10:55 Ongoing research and projects
- TCEQ Watershed Action Planning Process
  - Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative- Update
  - Other projects or issues in the area
- 11:30 Monitoring Schedule
- Discussion of statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule (CMS) <http://cms.lcra.org/> - current and FY 2020 monitoring
  - Potential new sites and site changes
- 11:50 Other announcements and information
- 2019 Basin Highlights Report for the Rio Grande Basin
- 12:00 Final comments and adjourn

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- 12:15 USIBWC CRP Partner Meeting - **Required**
- Monitoring Guidance Updates
  - Discuss any issues with equipment, if any
  - Answer questions and review monitoring procedures on USIBWC YSI multiprobe Standard Operating Procedures for maintenance and calibration of the YSI ProDSS
  - Review of Field form, Chain of Custody forms, Cooler Shipment Procedures
  - Answer questions and review monitoring procedures, as requested
- 12:45 Adjourn partner meeting
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