

TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR THE RIO GRANDE BASIN

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE COORDINATED MONITORING MEETING

April 24, 2018
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Laredo, Texas

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Participants

Leslie Grijalva, USIBWC Clean Rivers
Robin Cypher, TCEQ Surface Water Quality
Mario Gomez, USIBWC Laredo FO
Rudolph Duran, City of Laredo Health Lab
Elsa Hull, TCEQ Laredo
Erika Saenz, TCEQ Laredo
Tricia Cortez, RGISC
Rebecca Castro, City of Laredo Health Lab
Juan Vasquez, City of Laredo Env. Services
Don Lueckenotte, RGISC

Kelly Rodibaugh, TCEQ Clean Rivers
Gerardo Flores, City of Laredo Env. Services
Rudolph Duran, City of Laredo Env. Services
Daniel Maldonado, City of Laredo Health Dept
Eli Mendoza, USIBWC Falcon Dam FO
Lauro Cantu, USIBWC Falcon Dam FO
Agustin Boone, CILA Nuevo Laredo
Victor Wong, TCEQ Border Affairs, Laredo
Carlos McMullen, City of Laredo Env. Services

Meeting Notes:

- Leslie Grijalva opened meeting and began with introductions from all participants.
- Leslie briefly explained the handouts and other materials available.
- Discussion went straight into 303d list to discuss impairments and concerns.
- Robin Cypher went briefly over the Integrated Report.
- TCEQ Laredo: They had a significant bacteria spike at the station below the bridge at Amistad.
 - Leslie and Mario brought up a recent issue of a broken sewage pipe in Acuña- could this be tied to that broken pipe? Elsa will provide the date to Leslie and see if that can be tied to the high bacteria.
- Bridge II is no longer blocked by barbed wire, so access has been restored.
 - Segment 2304: There are still significant bacteria issues.
 - Phase 2 of the Laredo Bacteria Study has been approved by the IBWC as a binational project. However, the change in administration in MX, along with lack of funding in MX, has postponed this study.
- Nuevo Laredo Wastewater discharges:
 - It is estimated that about 17% of the wastewater in N. Laredo still needs to be treated.
 - Discharges from N. Laredo are actually worse now, not better.
 - Seeing about 200 L/s discharging into the river.
 - La Joya, Las Alazanas, America Drain and Arroyo El Coyote are still major points of discharge.

- Per CILA and USIBWC Laredo, Arroyo El Coyote is still flowing and is receiving raw sewage. Population in this area has grown significantly and everything flows into Arroyo el Coyote.
- NADBank provided 5 million dollars to N. Laredo to make repairs, but the infrastructure repairs would not eliminate the problem, although it would reduce the flows.
- The sewage collector system citywide is collapsing, and repairs just can't keep up.
- Ing. Boone is worried that rains during the monsoon season will cause extensive additional damage and will make the problem worse (catastrophic).
- CILA said all pumps at the Nuevo Laredo International WWTP are currently operational.
- RGISC: Multiple projects going on.
 - RGISC had an event be nationally recognized. World famous musician YoYo Ma's Bach Project came to the Laredo/N. Laredo area for a Day of Action, to highlight the them "Culture is a Bridge."
 - Carrizo Cane issues. TAMIU has a PhD student currently working on a pilot project to look at the effects of mowing the cane.
 - RGISC has become involved in a lawsuit challenging the declaration of a national emergency on the border.
- Rio Grande Cooter: Group from UTRGV is doing a study on the Rio Grande Cooter in the Laredo/N. Laredo area. Leslie has been working with them to assist and provide data, for now.
- Mussels: TX Hornshell has been listed as endangered. The Laredo population near La Bota Ranch is the largest community that exists.
 - Dr. Vaughan gave a brief summary of the mussel research going on in the area. This area is concerned mainly with the TX Hornshell and the Mexican Fawnsfoot.
 - Tom Miller, of Laredo CC, is doing research on the Mexican Fawnsfoot. Tom Miller is still working on this.
 - Is SWQM still planning on coming down to do a study? Leslie has not received additional information. Robin said she would check with Lauren.
- TCEQ brought up a bill that had been proposed in the TX Legislature. Leslie stated she received an email from Senator Zaffirini's office asking her to review and comment on the proposed bill. It is essentially duplicating what CRP and the IBWC gages already do. Spoke with USGS at length about partnering together so they don't duplicate anything that is already being done.
- Leslie reviewed the Coordinated Monitoring schedule:
 - TCEQ Laredo:
 - The collecting entity is incorrect on the CMS for Station 15818. Leslie will go in and correct this.
 - TCEQ Laredo picked up Apache Ranch from the USIBWC Falcon Dam FO and San Ygnacio from CRP.
 - Discussed the sediment samples that are being collected by both TCEQ Laredo and the UISBWC Amistad Dam field office at Stations 20997 and 18792 with SWQM. The USIBWC CRP will be discontinuing the sediment sampling, since there have been no hits.
 - RGISC

- Station 15817, Webb/Zapata County Line, was dropped completely.
 - San Ygnacio (15818) taken over by TCEQ.
 - No additional changes.
- City of Laredo Environmental:
 - No issues or changes for sampling.
 - New staff after retirements. They have one senior member still who has been training them.
- Laredo Health Department:
 - No changes and no issues.
 - Erosion has become an issue at Father McNaboe, Azteca, and Masterson.
- Laredo Health Department Lab:
 - No changes or issues.
- USIBWC Falcon Dam Field Office:
 - Apache Ranch (17596) was taken over by TCEQ Laredo.
 - No additional changes or issues.
- Leslie spoke about the 2019 Basin Highlights Report, it will be out soon. Leslie will notify everyone via email.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Training Participants

Leslie Grijalva, USIBWC CRP

Daniel Maldonado, City of Laredo Health Dept.

Tricia Cortez, RGISC

Gerardo Flores, City of Laredo Environmental Services Department

Juan Vasquez, City of Laredo Environmental Services Department

Carlos McMullen, City of Laredo Environmental Services Department

Eli Mendoza, USIBWC Falcon Dam FO

Lauro Cantu, USIBWC Falcon Dam FO

Training Notes:

- Went over the training materials with the partners.
- Provided new sensors and supplies to all partners.
- Leslie took notes on partners who needed supplies, etc.

AGENDA

- 1:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 1:45 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
- 2:15 Ongoing research and projects
- Laredo Bacteria issues: Updates
 - Infrastructure repairs in Nuevo Laredo
 - Any projects or research in the Middle Rio Grande Basin
- 2:45 Monitoring Schedule
- Discussion of statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule (CMS)
<http://cms.lcra.org/> - current and FY 2020 monitoring
 - Stations- any issues
 - Shipping issues
 - Safety/security issues
 - Potential new sites
- 3:15 Other announcements and information
- 2018 Basin Summary Report for the Rio Grande Basin
- 3:30 Final comments and adjourn
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- 3:30 USIBWC CRP Partner Meeting- **Required**
- Monitoring Guidance Updates
 - Discuss issues with new equipment, if any
 - Answer questions and review monitoring procedures on USIBWC YSI multiprobe Standard Operating Procedures for maintenance and calibration for the YSI ProDSS, as needed
 - Review of Field form, Chain of Custody forms, cooler shipment procedures
 - Answer questions and review monitoring procedures, as requested
- 4:30 Adjourn partner meeting
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