

TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR THE RIO GRANDE BASIN

COORDINATED MONITORING MEETING

April 22, 2026
09:00 – 10:00 AM MST
MS Teams Teleconference

AGENDA

MINUTES

- 09:00 Welcome and Introductions
- Martin Castro – RGISC
 - Albert Covos – Presidio FO
 - Gabriel Coronado – BPUB
 - Eli Mendoza – Falcon FO
 - Elizabeth Batha – TCEQ Midland
 - Grecia Torreblanca – BPUB
 - Joel Pipes – Amistad FO
 - Jose Bazaldua – Mercedes FO
 - Julian Alvarado – BPUB
 - Katrina Smith – TCEQ Austin HQ
 - Larry Curtis – Amistad FO
 - Nicolas Havlik – TPWD
 - Sarah McCartney – American Dam FO
 - Terra Lindgren – TCEQ Austin HQ
 - Tom Vaughan – RGISC
 - Seth Burruss – USIBWC CRP
 - Lisa Torres – USIBWC CRP
- 09:10 Discussion of various water quality topics
- Discussion of TCEQ’s 2024 Integrated Report and upcoming 2026 report
 - Mr. Burruss discussed the following:
 - Overview of Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, monitoring sites, and River Segments.
 - Discussion on revised standards and upcoming changes effective May 2026.
 - Integrated Report (IR) updates:
 - Removal of impairments from the 303(d) list.
 - Review of current impairments on the 303(d) list.
 - Presentation of maps illustrating Bacteria and Salinity impairments.
 - Implications of low Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Nitrate, and Ammonia.

- Drought status: Review of "Water Weekly" for the week of 4/20/26.
 - Identification of data gaps:
 - 12 potential new sites for Rio Grande Basin
 - Ms. Torres discussed the possibility of adding more monitoring stations along the Rio Grande
 - Ms. Smith discussed funding for the addition of more sites for the fiscal years 28-29.
 - River segments 2301, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2314
 - Ms. Smith also discussed focus on river segment 2302, AU03 and 2302A for FY27.
 - Ms. Smith also requested 24-HR DO monitoring at station 13104.
 - Ongoing research and projects

09:30

Monitoring Schedule

- Discussion of statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule (CMS)
 - <http://cms.lcra.org/> - FY 2026 monitoring
 - No changes to the monitoring schedule for FY26 were recorded.
- Potential site changes, access issues, security
 - Dr. Vaughan indicated that border patrol continues to place buoys along sections of the Rio Grande and continues with the placement of border wall as well.
 - Dr. Vaugh Also stated that the Texas hornshell (freshwater mussel) might be affected by these activities, as it encroaches on their habitat.
- Border safety: <https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/along-us-borders/smart-wall-map>
 - Ms. Torres shared the interactive map provided by CBP. The map indicates areas of the border that have a border wall and the sections that have been awarded to erect a wall.
 - Mr. Castro discussed a risk analysis report conducted by Mark Tompkins, PhD and RGISC. The study was conducted to analyze the effects of the border wall and buoys on riparian habitat specifically in Webb and Zapata Counties. The full report can be found [here](#).

09:50

Other announcements and information

- 2025 Basin Highlight Report for the Rio Grande Basin
 - Mr. Burruss announced that the 2025 report for the Rio Grande Basin is scheduled to come out by June.
 - The report will be posted in the IBWC website.

10:00

Final comments and adjourn

- Training was requested by Amistad for a new hire that will be conducting CRP sampling.
- No other comments were made and Mr. Burruss excused non-sampling partners to go over monitoring guidance.

USIBWC CRP Partner Training and Monitoring Guidance Updates- Required

- Discuss issues with the CRP partners.
 - Submitting field sheets
 - Reminded partners to submit field sheets correctly filled out to Ms. Torres and Mr. Burruss.
 - Field sheet should be submitted on the same day of sampling if possible.
 - Secchi measurements
- COC forms
 - Ms. Torres went over submitting COC forms, since some shipments of samples were missing the forms.
 - The lab must receive the forms before they can continue with formal analysis.
 - Forms must be completed thoroughly and legibly for the lab to know what they are analyzing and at what time samples were collected for proper hold times.
- Shipping
 - Shipping continues to have some issues in some of the remote areas since there aren't any shipping facilities from UPS or FedEx. This is especially true for Big Bend and TPWD sampling sites.
 - Mr. Covos stated that samples from Big Bend and TPWD can be dropped off at the Presidio Field Office for UPS pick up if needed.

Adjourn refresher training portion.
