

**Lavaca-Navidad River Authority
Clean Rivers Program
2018 Steering Committee Meeting
July 31, 2018**

The annual Lavaca Basin Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Annual Meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the Lavaca Navidad River Authority Office Complex, 4631 FM 3131, located approximately seven (7) miles east of Edna, Jackson County, Texas on July 31, 2018.

Annual meetings provide an opportunity to share information about water quality issues with Basin stakeholders, to obtain guidance on the use of resources from the Clean Rivers Program and to allow LNRA to gain insight from local stakeholders and expertise from such members as Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), United States Geological Survey (USGS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Texas AgriLife Extension, and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Input from the attendees allows LNRA to prioritize water quality issues and determine the most effective water quality monitoring program. It also provides an educational opportunity for the community.

Attending from Lavaca-Navidad River Authority:

Chad Kinsfather, Environmental Services Director
Brandon Byler, Environmental Services Technician
Ronald Kubecka, Board of Directors President
Jerry Adelman, Board of Directors Vice President
Patrick Brzozowski, General Manager
Karen Gregory, Deputy General Manager, Administration

Others Attending:

Chris Janak, USDA – NRCS
Brian Koch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Jack Maloney, Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group (Region P)
Michael Schramm, Research Associate, Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
Phillip Spenrath, Wharton County Judge
Micalah Spenrath, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Jeff Stroebel, Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER)
David Turk, Intoplast Group

Chad Kinsfather, LNRA Environmental Services Director

Kinsfather opened the meeting. He welcomed everyone and introduced Patrick Brzozowski, LNRA General Manager and Karen Gregory, Deputy General Manager. He thanked everyone for attending and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

Kinsfather briefed the attendees on the Clean Rivers Program and the 2018 Lavaca Basin Highlights Report. Copies of the report were provided for attendees along with several other hand-outs with information to be discussed at the meeting.

Kinsfather discussed with the attendees the erosion issues associated with the East Mustang Creek Watershed. The East Mustang Watershed is located along an agrarian community with a tendency for high flows during rain events. The localized runoff from adjacent land in conjunction with poor riparian areas and failing drop structures has intensified erosion and increased sediment loading. An increase in sediment can escalate other water quality parameters in the watershed including total suspended solids, turbidity, and nutrients. In the upcoming year, LNRA proposes to start a focus group with local stakeholders to address the issues associated with Mustang Creek.

Patrick Brzowski, P. E., LNRA General Manager

Brzowski presented information about zebra mussels. Zebra mussels are an invasive, fingernail-sized mollusk that is native to fresh waters in Eurasia. Their name comes from the dark, zig-zagged stripes on each shell.

It is thought that zebra mussels arrived in the Great Lakes in the 1980s via ballast water that was discharged by large ships from Europe. They have spread rapidly throughout the Great Lakes region and into the large rivers of the eastern Mississippi drainage. They have also been found in Texas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California.

Although there has been no evidence of zebra mussels present in Lake Texana, LNRA is providing information, including signage to educate the public in caring for and cleaning boats before entering and exiting Lake Texana.

Zebra mussels negatively impact ecosystems in many ways. They filter out algae that native species need for food and they attach to and incapacitate native mussels.

Programs are in place to document the zebra mussel's geographic distribution and to learn as much as possible about their behavior and biology. The resulting information is considered critical in helping to develop strategies aimed at containing and controlling its spread.

Jeff Stroebel, Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER)

Stroebel discussed the Rocky Creek Recreational Use Attainability Analysis (RUAA) involving bacteria levels in Rocky Creek. Water quality monitoring conducted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) indicated that sections of the Lavaca River and Rocky Creek exceed the water quality standards for primary contact recreation. The Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) was developed to plan and implement actions necessary to restore water quality and ensure safe and healthy water bodies in the Lavaca River watershed for residents and visitors. Copies of the Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan were available for the attendee's review.

The group was given the opportunity for an open discussion.

Kinsfather expressed appreciation on behalf of LNRA to all who attended. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:06 p.m.