

**Lavaca-Navidad River Authority
Clean Rivers Program
2019 Steering Committee Meeting
July 15, 2019**

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 15, 2019.

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
Scott Hartl, Assistant Manager - Operations

Others Attending:

Yolanda Aviles, Science & Spanish Club Network, Inc.
Allen Berthold, Texas Water Resources Institute (TRWI)
Robin Flores, Science & Spanish Club Network, Inc.
Richard Gonzales, Science & Spanish Club Network, Inc.
Chris Janak, USDA – NRCS
Brian Koch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
Jack Maloney, Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group (Region P)
Emily Monroe, Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
Mike Rosas, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Micalah Spenrath, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Harrison Stafford II, Jackson County Resident
Micalah Spenrath, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Donnie Tegeler, Ganado Boy Scouts
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 draft 2018 Texas Integrated Report (IR). The Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality evaluates the quality of surface waters in the state and provides resource managers with a tool for making informed decisions when directing agency programs. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) produces a new report every two years in even-numbered years. The 303(d) List must be approved the EPA before it is final. The second submission of the Draft 2018 IR is closed for public comment. The TCEQ will make necessary changes to the draft report and bring the second submission of the Draft 2018 IR before the Commissioners for approval to submit to EPA.

The Draft 2018 IR indicates the segments of the Lavaca Basin with Water Bodies with Concerns for Use Attainment and Screening Levels and the Lavaca Basin segments on the 303(d) List, indicating impairments. Kinsfather presented the Group with copies of the draft IR for their review.

Kinsfather also presented information on Phragmites Cane and Carrizo Cane Giant Reed. The Carrizo cane is linked to sediment accumulation, channel constriction, and increased flooding frequency, threatening the riparian ecosystem it inhabits. Carrizo cane is a noxious brush species that consumes water resources to a degree that is detrimental to water conservation. Carrizo cane can be found throughout the Basin along roadways and bridge crossings.

Kinsfather also briefed the Group on the zebra mussel distribution in the United States. Zebra mussels are a small, destructive invasive species that can spread across areas by hitching a ride on boats and trailers. The zebra mussels can kill native freshwater mussels by attaching to the shells of native species and killing them and can outcompete native mussels for food. Currently there are no known findings of zebra mussels within the Lavaca Basin.

Emily Monroe, Extension Program Specialist, TWRI

Monroe presented the Group with an update on the Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan (WPP). The waters of the Lavaca River and Rocky Creek are impaired due to elevated levels of bacteria, especially *E.coli*.

The WPP was developed by TWRI and local residents and was accepted in April 2018 by the EPA. The WPP Project, funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, is the beginning of the implementation of the 10-year protection plan. The goal is to educate residents on how they can protect their water resources through voluntary management measures.

The Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was completed and executed in May 2019. The QAPP is a written document outlining the procedures a monitoring project will use to ensure the data it collects and analyzes meets project requirements. The project provides support for three years of monitoring by LNRA. The first monitoring for this project was in June 2019.

Brian Koch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

Koch presented to the group alternative eco-friendly ways of acquiring healthy soils to maintain water and nutrients that require less evasive methods which can help in reduced sediment transfer. These methods include no-till farming which reduces cost to farmers, retains moisture content, has increased nutrient value, and reduces the amount of erosion.

Richard Gonzales, Science and Spanish Club Network, Inc.

The Science & Spanish Club, Inc. is a multicultural approach to environmental education. Their focus is on educating-12 students about the Gulf of Mexico. Gonzales is looking to expand the Rio Research Roundup participation to all schools in the Lavaca Basin, including Moulton, Shiner, Yoakum, Hallettsville, Flatonia, Schulenburg, Weimar, Ganado, Louise, El Campo, Industrial, and Edna school districts.

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 3:30 p.m.