

**Lavaca-Navidad River Authority
Clean Rivers Program
2020 Steering Committee Meeting
August 20, 2020**

The annual Lavaca Basin Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Annual Meeting was held via video conferencing on August 20, 2020.

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
Sandy Johs, Board of Directors
Leonard Steffek, Board of Directors
Patrick Brzozowski, General Manager
Karen Gregory, Deputy General Manager, Administration
Doug Anders, Deputy General Manager - Operations
Scott Hartl, Assistant Manager – Operations
Brannon Clark, Senior System Administrator
Miles Harrison, System Administrator

Others Attending:

Richard Gonzales, Science & Spanish Club Network, Inc.
Emily Monroe, Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
Kelly Rodibaugh, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Harrison Stafford II, Jackson County Resident
Marie Day, Lavaca Regional Water Planning Group
Jeff Kaiser
Raetsch

Chad Kinsfather, LNRA Environmental Services Director
Kinsfather opened the meeting.

Kinsfather briefed the attendees on the Clean Rivers Program and presented copies of the 2021 LNRA Water Monitoring Schedule and Monitoring Sites in the Lavaca Basin.

Kinsfather also presented to the Group the draft 2020 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 report indicates elevated bacteria levels in Segment 1602 while other Segments are reported with no impairments or concerns. The TCEQ will make necessary changes to the draft report and bring the second submission of the Draft 2020 IR before the Commissioners for approval to submit to EPA.

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.

Marie Day discussed having a meeting in the Hallettsville area to involve local landowners and explain the issues with E. Coli bacteria and the means by which it can enter the river system. Day recommended to have a very informal and non-scientific discussion so interested parties may better understand the complexity of the problem and solutions that may alleviate the bacteria quandary.

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 11:42 a.m.