

2015 CYPRESS CREEK BASIN
CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

The annual steering committee meeting was held at 10am on April 14, 2015 at the Executive Offices of the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District (NETMWD) in Hughes Springs Texas.

27 stakeholders were in attendance

NETMWD Team Leader for Water Quality, Robert Speight (RS) introduced himself to the group and gave a little background on his experiences in Water Quality and in the Basin.

All stakeholders introduced themselves.

Randy Rushin presented the Basin Highlight Report (BHR) for the Cypress Basin. The focus of this highlight report was invasive species in the watershed

Lucas Gregory with TWRI gave an update on the Lake O' the Pines TMDL for phosphorus. Lucas then gave a presentation about the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) that is being started in the basin. This is a program with NRCS helping landowners minimize the amount of nutrients running off their property into the basin. There will be monitoring of the sites where work is being done as well as some control sites so that the differences can be measured. At the conclusion of Lucas' presentation, Robert Speight shared a draft spreadsheet that will be used in monitoring phosphorus outputs from all the WWTP's that are part of the Total Phosphorus Load Agreement (TPLA). The entities will submit their data each month and it will be compared to their maximum allowable releases per the agreement. Pilgrims representative Dave Townsend then informed the group as to his companies improvements to their WWTP that will allow them to reduce their releases to the required levels by May 2015,

Tim Bister, Fisheries Biologist for TPWD gave an update on the Paddlefish Restoration project on Big Cypress. 47 paddlefish with radio transmitters were released in two locations about 13 months ago. The fish have been tracked by 3 fixed receivers along the bayou and by mobile receivers in boats. The batteries on the transmitters will be going dead soon but as of a few days ago 39 of the 47 fish are still transmitting and to date, none have left the basin by going over the spillway at Caddo Lake. As a result of this success, 2000 fingerling paddlefish were released in the same areas, each fitted with a small copper tag so they can be identified as part of this release in the future.

Tim Bister, then gave an update on all lakes in the basin with regards to what invasive species are in each lake and what treatment regimes were used in the last year for each. Giant Salvinia weevils have been released in Caddo Lake by TPWD and Caddo BioControl Alliance. Alligator weed flea beetles have been released on Lake o the Pines and Lone Star Lake.

Andy Gray, USACE gave a presentation about an MOU between NETMWD, USACE and TPWD to combat invasives on Lake O' the Pines. Andy had hoped to have the results of a spring

vegetation survey for our meeting but due to extremely high water it had to be pushed back till a later date.

Laura Speight, Regulatory Biologist for TPWD and Chairperson for the East Texas Conservation Delivery Network (CDN) made a presentation about what a CDN is and what they want to accomplish.

RS gave an update on the On Site Sewage Facility program. RS stated that the District administers the OSSF program in 4 counties; Upshur, Cass, Marion and Morris. The area totals over 2400 square miles with a good portion of it in the Cypress Basin.

Setting a date for the next Stakeholder meeting was discussed but it was the consensus of the group that a mid spring 2016 meeting was desirable but did not want to set a date at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm