

Cypress Creek and Sulphur River Basin Steering Committee Meeting March 21, 2024

The joint Cypress Creek and Sulphur River Basin Stakeholder Meeting was held in the Community Room on the Northeast Texas Community College campus. The meeting began at 9 AM and concluded at 11:45 AM. One virtual and four in-person presentations were given to the Committee. There were nineteen in-person and twelve virtual attendees.

Lake Ralph Hall Update:

Jason Pierce Upper Trinity Regional Water District

UTRWD is currently installing a 32-mile 66" pipeline and balancing reservoir built at the water treatment plant.

R. Rushin: When will impound of water be?

J. Pierce: Unknown timeline. Suggested that Randy follow up with Jason regarding any updates.

Sulphur River Basin Summary Report

Randy Rushin Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.

Presented information on water quality trends and possible sources of impairments throughout the basin. *E. coli* was the most common impairment followed by dissolved oxygen. The sources of most bacteria impairments appear to be due to livestock and wildlife. Recreational Use Attainability Studies are recommended to determine whether streams are being used for contact recreation. Most dissolved oxygen impairments were likely due to low flow. impairment in White Oak Creek – feral hogs are likely a major contributor.

No questions.

Total Phosphorus Load Agreement and On-Site Septic Systems

Robert Speight Northeast Texas Municipal Water District

The TMDL in LOP determined that the low DO issues were due to excess Phosphorus. The Total Phosphorus Load Agreement includes 7 entities and 8 WWTPs – agreed to reduce Phosphorus discharge by 56%. Pilgrim's Pride WWTP agreed to take on the reduction and spent millions upgrading their plant in 2015. All the other entities have a phosphorus limit, too. The agreement was renewed for another 10 years in 2023.

OSSF Program – permitted 309 new or replacement systems in 2023. Since inception, 4100 systems permitted that can treat over 1 MGD. Permit applications began increasing significantly in 2020; largest increase is in Upshur County north of Longview.

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LA Overdyke: Why is Daingerfield not meeting its phosphorus allocation?

R. Speight: Not real sure, but they are being worked with.

LA Overdyke: How much does it cost to permit a system?

R. Speight: The following fees \$360 - single family home / \$610 – commercial. The majority of systems are residential.

LA Overdyke: Are most systems conventional or aerobic?

R. Speight: Most are aerobic due to soil conditions in our area.

Invasive Aquatic Species

Tim Bister Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries - Marshall

Sulphur:

Texas Tech & Auburn research on the invasive Bighead Carp & native fish species work.

Chapman: Alligator Weed, Hydrilla – surveyed twice per year – very limited invasive vegetation.

Wright Patman: Alligator Weed, Hydrilla trace water hyacinth – not seen since 2015, 2012 - Giant Salvinia infestation eliminated.

Cypress:

Cypress Springs – trace Alligator Weed; no Hydrilla.

Bob Sandlin – Hydrilla last treated in 2016, water hyacinth – small amount treated each year, Alligator Weed – Flea Beetle treatment.

Welsh: Hydrilla – the hot water suppresses growth Alligator Weed – Flea Beetle treatment.

Gilmer: Hydrilla stable, trace of Alligator Weed, Giant Salvinia repeated occurrences – very low coverage & treated.

Ellison Creek: Giant Salvinia established and treated with herbicides; Alligator Weed coverage is stable; Hydrilla has caused some issues for homeowners – they treated about 17 acres.

Pines: Hydrilla variable; Alligator Weed coverage is low, Giant Salvinia has been treated with herbicides. NETMWD also does some applications.

Caddo: Giant Salvinia was down in 2021 probably due to the winter and back up to 3000 acres in 2022. TPWD and CBA continue releasing Giant Salvinia Weevils. Over time Giant Salvinia Weevils may build up cold tolerance & do more suppression than herbicide treatment. Crested Floating Heart expanding 655 acres in 2022. Weevils has been released for over 10 years.

LA Overdyke: Why are other mussels surviving in Cypress, but Zebra mussels are not?

T. Bister: Unknown but possibly due to limited amount of calcium. We need to remain diligent to ensure that they do not become an issue in these lakes.

LA Overdyke: Is there anywhere in Texas that herbicide treatment is managed by non-TPWD employees?

T. Bister: Yes.

LA Overdyke: Does TPWD do any spraying from their own boats and using their own personnel or is it all contracted?

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T. Bister: Yes, manage small infestations such as those on Lake Lone Star/Ellison Creek Reservoir, Lake Murvaul, and Lake Bringle - north of Texarkana.

LA Overdyke: Is there any way to know how/when herbicides are applied?

T. Bister: Caddo is contracted because of the number of acres that need applications.

Cypress Creek Basin Highlights Report

Randy Rushin Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.

Presented information about impairments throughout the basin. Detailed the results of the nutrient impairment study on Lake Cypress Springs and provided a brief overview of a similar study on Lake O' the Pines in summer 2023. Discussed using host fish species to prioritize streams for Louisiana Pigtoe sampling, and the results of the streams studied for possible future mussels work.

LA Overdyke: What is downgrading the habitat scores?

R. Rushin: The way the metrics are designed and scored.

W. Owen: What are the next steps?

S. Whitley: TCEQ management strategy are TMDL / WPP. The process is to identify impairments & the reasons that we have them. If the cause is natural conditions, then a Use Attainability Analysis may be used to determine what is the appropriate process to address the impairment.

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IN-PERSON ATTENDEES:

Robert Speight	Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
Wayne Owen	Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
Jack Salmon	Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
Reeves Hayter	Sulphur River Basin Authority
Kelly Mitchell	Sulphur River Basin Authority
David Weidman	Sulphur River Basin Authority
Christi McIntosh	Sulphur River Basin Authority
Jenna Wadman	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Sarah Whitley	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Samin Aziz	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Tim Bister	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Laura-Ashley Overdyke	Caddo Lake Institute
Gary Morrow	Franklin County Water District
Mike Ramin	private citizen
Eric Powell	City of Marshall
Randy Rushin	Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.
Wendy Rushin	Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.
Angela Kilpatrick	Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.
Roy Darville	Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES:

Jason Woods	Lower Colorado River Authority
Kelly Kukowski	Lower Colorado River Authority
Lauren Pulliam	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Ivan Cruickshank	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Myriam Loving	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Katie McElroy	North Texas Municipal Water District
Kristen Suprobo	North Texas Municipal Water District
Jason Pierce	Upper Trinity Regional Water District
Erik Duerkop	US Fish & Wildlife
Dan Keesee	US Department of Agriculture
Kyle Wright	US Department of Agriculture
Jeff Shiflet	City of Irving

Cypress Creek Basin Clean Rivers Program

Stakeholder Sign-in Sheet

DATE: March 21, 2024

	NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	EMAIL ADDRESS
1	Roy Darville	ETBU	ETBU/CLI	rdarville@etbu.edu
2	David Weidman	SRBA	SRBA	srba@srbatx.org
3	Christi McIntosh	SRBA	SRBA	srba@srbatx.org
4	Gary Morrow	FCWP		gary.morrow@sbcglobal.net
5	MIKE RAMBIN	MT VERNON	-	mcramb52@GMAIL.COM
6	REEVES HAYTER	PARIS	SRBA	rhayter@SRBATX.ORG
7	ERIK POWELL	MARSHALL	City of Marshall	powell.eric@marshall.texas.net
8	Kelly Mitchell	Texarkana	SRBA	KellyM@gotxar.com
9	JACK SALMON	AMBER	NETMWD	KCRES@HOTMAIL.COM
10	Jenna Wadman	TCEQ	CRP TCEQ	Jenna.wadman@tceq.texas.gov
11	Sarah Whitley	TCEQ	CRP TCEQ	sarah.whitley@tceq.texas.gov
12	Samin Aziz	TCEQ	SPWM TCEQ	samin.aziz@tceq.texas.gov
13	Laura-Ashley Overdyke	CLI	_____	Lao@caddlake.us
14	ROBERT SPEIGHT	NETMWD	_____	rspeight@netmwd.org
15	Wayne Owen	NETMWD	NETMWD	wowen@netmwd.org
16	Tim Boster	TPWD	TPWD	Timothy.Boster@tpwd.texas.gov
17	Randy Roshin	WMS	_____	Roshin@water-monitoring.com
18	Wendy Roshin	WMS	_____	
19	Angela Kulpdeck	WMS	_____	kulpdecka@sbcglobal.net
20				



David I Weidman, Executive Director
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SULPHUR RIVER BASIN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR STAKEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 @ 9:00 A.M.

Northeast Texas Community College
Community Room
2886 FM 1735 Chapel Hill Road
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Call to order and Welcome | | |
| 2. UTRWD | Lake Ralph Hall Updates | Jason Pierce |
| 3. SRBA | Basin Summary Report | Randy Rushin |
| 4. NETMWD | Updates on TPLA & OSSF | Robert Speight |
| 5. TPWD | Aquatic Invasives Update | Tim Bister |
| 6. NETMWD | Basin Highlights Report | Randy Rushin |
| 7. Public Comments of Questions & Answers | | |
| 8. Adjournment | | |

Note: FM 1735 is closed between SH 49 to FM 4000. From SH 49, take FM 2348 south to FM 4000 and then left (east) to FM 1735.

Please see the attached map for directions to the building on the NTCC campus.

VIRTUAL MEETING OPTION – ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

Register for this meeting at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpdOurqjwpHNeLz_zgJ7BLTtpGJVJzdQc3

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Reeves Hayter, Paris
Kirby Hollingsworth, Mount Vernon



NORTHEAST TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

CYPRESS BASIN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR STAKEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 @ 9:00 A.M.

Northeast Texas Community College
Community Room
2886 FM 1735 Chapel Hill Road
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

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Dominik Sobieraj
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3. SRBA Basin Summary Report Randy Rushin
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Community Room - Humanities Building

Northeast Texas Community College

2886 FM 1735, Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455

GPS Coordinates: 33.10666, -94.8817719

