

TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR THE RIO GRANDE BASIN

UPPER 2 RIO GRANDE COORDINATED MONITORING MEETING (Forgotten Stretch in Presidio County to Amistad Dam)

March 28, 2016
1:00 p.m.
Alpine, Texas

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Participants:

Carlos Rincon, US EPA Region 6	David Long, TPWD, BBRSP
David Long, TPWD Barton Warnock Center	Sarah Eagle, TCEQ Clean Rivers Program
Larry Curtis Jr., USIBWC Amistad Dam FO	Andres Garcia, USIBWC Clean Rivers Program
Zeke Bustamante, Amistad Dam FO	Patt Sims, Presidio ISD
Leslie Grijalva, USIBWC Clean Rivers Program	Marty Kelly, TPWD Austin
Robin Cypher, TCEQ SWQM	Samantha Stiffler, USIBWC Presidio FO
Lydia Smith, BBNP	

Meeting Notes:

- Leslie Grijalva began meeting with welcome and introduction of all participants.
- Leslie gave a short overview of the 303d and what it is, for the new people in attendance. She also went into the impairments and concerns for this area of the basin.
 - The 2014 standards have still not been fully approved by the EPA, so 2010 standards still stand for federal permits.
- Leslie asked about any issues in the area.
 - Presidio FO: There are times when the water looks strange, and it coincides with water releases from MX. There are rumors that there are discharges directly to the river from the hospital in Ojinaga. Need to look into this.
 - Amistad FO: Bacteria counts are still very high at their stations. There are discharges in MX, and everyone seems to think these are causing the problems. However, the problem is consistent, so it may be more than just discharges.
- We've lost the two stations we had in the Forgotten Stretch, 20648 and Candelaria.
 - Robin asked if we could possibly get someone to volunteer to pick up samples in those areas.
 - TCEQ says they have incubators, etc. to provide them to help out.

- We can use this to do a bacteria screening of the area.
- Dr. Rincon stated that we could talk to Gilbert Tellez, EPA, who is in charge of infrastructure on both sides of the border.
- Patt will talk to Presidio ISD superintendent about making monthly trips to Candelaria.
- Presidio FO takes discharge measurements 2x/month.
 - Presidio may be able to pick up samples during one of these trips.
 - Need to take inventory of equipment that SWQM and CRP have in stock.
 - Get Candelaria site coordinates to Sam.
- BBNP: There are a few ecohydrology trips coming up, working with Univ. of Utah students.
 - CRP hadn't heard of this, requested information on who, project info, etc.

Coordinated Monitoring Schedule

- Wild and Scenic Stations: Can the stations be cut down and/or moved so that they'd be able to pick up samples conveniently.
 - Talk with TCEQ, Jeff Bennett and Lydia (include Bill Harrison) about why these stations were added, and are they still needed?
- Presidio FO: No changes. Look at adding Candelaria site back to schedule, quarterly.
 - Sam said it would be possible to take a sample at Candelaria if it's on a different day than the rest of the samples.
- Amistad FO: No issues, no changes.
 - Larry asked, "Does cane burning affect the water quality?"
 - Maybe on that exact day, or during the 1st rain event, but not long-term.
- TPWD: No issues, no changes, but this may change after they get new staff.
- Terlingua Creek: Now flowing on a regular basis. Leslie asked Lydia to talk to Jeff, since he had proposed adding that as a site at last year's meeting but never provided the coordinates, etc.
 - Lydia says it could be done on the day that they sample Station 13228, but what about the shipping issues. They won't arrive within temp compliance.
 - Need GPC coordinates, pictures, how often he wants to sample.
 - The Utah study, and TPWD have projects going on that we've never heard of, so asked all partners to please let me know when projects involve the RG (can just send me an email with basic info on the project and contact info and CRP will follow up)
- Parks are having shipping issues, with both UPS and FedEx. Resulting in coolers arriving out of temperature compliance.

- FedEx sells special shipping equipment to keep samples within 2-8 degrees. Look into this.
- What about yettis? May need to get some, at least for the parks.
- UPS does not have any rules against dry ice. Look into this as well.
- Both TPWD and BBNP have new sampling. Training needs to be done. Both parks are scheduled for on-site audits in May, so training can be done then.
- Leslie announced the draft 2016 Basin Highlights Report is currently being put together and will be put out sometime in May.
- Formal Meeting adjourned at 1400.
- Training started at 1415. All partners were present that were in the formal meeting.
- New equipment was assigned to the partners present.
 - Went over the new water sampling equipment that all partners had just received.
 - Explained the basic differences between the YSI 556 and ProDSS.
 - Explained the maintenance differences.
 - Assigned other basic supplies to partners (barometers, digital thermometers, battery packs)
 - SOP will be put out for the new sondes, will try to get it out to everyone by May. Can't use it until then.

Agenda

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| 1:00 | Welcome/Introductions |
| 1:15 | TCEQ Watershed Action Planning Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion of TCEQ's Integrated Report/303d list ● Identification of water quality issues, data gaps, sources ● Ongoing research and projects in the area addressing issues |
| 1:45 | Monitoring Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion of statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule (CMS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://cms.lcra.org/ - current and FY 2017 monitoring ○ Issues in the area ○ Big Bend Wild and Scenic stations ● Potential future projects and potential new sites |
| 2:20 | Other announcements and information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2016 Basin Summary Report for the Rio Grande Basin ● Current or ongoing projects of interest in the basin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watershed Characterization of the Lower Rio Grande |

2:30

Final comments and adjourn

3:00

USIBWC CRP Partner Training and Monitoring Guidance Updates- **Required**

- Issue new equipment to the CRP partners.
- Answer questions and review monitoring procedures on Draft USIBWC YSI multiprobe Standard Operating Procedures for maintenance and calibration for the new sonde.
- Answer questions and review procedures for YSI 556. Please bring your probes if you need assistance.
- Review of Chain of Custody and field forms.
- Cooler shipment and proper procedures and tips
- Sampling techniques and bottle configurations for coolers.

4:00

Adjourn refresher training portion