

SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2007  
1:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Jim Thompson, SRBA President	Lily Vera, Texarkana College
Nancy Rose, SRBA	Sarah Helbig, Texarkana College
Jennifer Delk, TCEQ	Sarah Khoury, Texarkana College
Rob Cook, TCEQ	Maria Vera, Texarkana College
Roger Miranda, TCEQ	Jodi Sheridan, Texarkana College
Peggy Jones, HDR Engineers, Inc.	Kimberly Authrey, Texarkana, TX.
Dr. Mike Buttram, Texarkana College	David Nabor, Paris, TX.
Patti Harman, Texarkana, College	Sharon Nabor, Paris, TX.
Molly Berridge, Texarkana, Texas	Freda Smart, Paris, TX.
Elizabeth Layman, ATCOG	Pauline Greenwood, Paris, TX.
Dr. Jane Morris, New Boston, Texas	Justin Treas, Texarkana College
Bill King, Texarkana Water Utility	
J. D. Phillips, Texarkana Water Utility	
Mike Bransford, Corps of Engineers	
Shirley Shumake, DeKalb, Texas	
Doug Wadley, International Paper	

**ITEM#1: CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL---1:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Thompson, SRBA President, at 1:30 P.M.  
Jim Thompson, asked that each one state their name and who they represent.

**ITEM# 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 27, 2006:**

A motion was made by Shirley Shumake to approve the minutes as presented.  
Molly Berridge said that last meeting she stated that Wright Patman levels could be raised to provide enough water for all of our needs plus some.  
Motion by Doug Wadley to approve the minutes with the amendment and seconded by Molly Berridge. The motion carried with all members present voting AYE.

Jim Thompson turned the meeting over to Dr. Mike Buttram, chemistry professor of Texarkana College.

### **ITEM# 3: HEAR REPORT ON CURRENT MONITORING IN THE BASIN:**

Dr. Mike Buttram did a presentation on the basin monitoring carried out by Texarkana College. He stated the current years monitoring schedule include nine sites; four systematic and five routine. The systematic sites are all located on the North Sulphur River and the routine sites are on Days Creek, Anderson Creek, and Wright Patman Lake.

Dr. Buttram introduced Sarah Helbig, a student of Texarkana College that helps with the monitoring.

Ms. Helbig did a Power Point presentation on the systematic sites. She described the nature of the habitat and showed pictures to illustrate the channelization of two of the four sites monitored on the North Sulphur River this year.

Dr. Buttram stated that next year, FY 2008, they will study four new systematic sites and continue to monitor the five routine sites monitored in FY 2007. The new systematic sites include Horse Creek, White Oak Creek, Rock Creek, and Smackover Creek.

There was a discussion about including Rice Creek in the FY 2009 systematic sites.

### **ITEM# 4: REVIEW OF BASIN HIGHLIGHTS REPORT & WEB PAGE:**

Ms. Peggy Jones of HDR Engineering, Inc. stated the Basin Highlights Report is the overview of highpoints for the past year and include descriptions of land types. She stated they keep items posted on the web-page that include all updates to the monitoring schedules. Also, on the web-page is the QAPP Guidelines for TCEQ.

Molly Berridge asked Ms. Jones what was her interest in the basin here. Ms. Jones replied the water quality was what held her interest.

Molly Berridge stated that on page 3 of the Basin Highlights report that Marvin Nichols is not dead in the water and is still alive because the Legislatures put Marvin Nichols back in.

Dr. Jane Morris asked for data on Rice Creek per page 3 of the Basin Highlights Report in regards to a landfill running through Rice Creek. Dr. Buttram will get the data for Dr. Morris.

Dr. Morris stated if you find concern in any area you need to stay on top of it. So, she requested they stay on top of Rice Creek in response to the growing concerns of continued pollution.

Rob Cook, TCEQ stated that the fish tissue sampling is done by the Texas Department of Health. Because of the budget they only take samples from large bodies of water. He stated if residents are concerned enough, the next step would be to monitor the creek again.

Dr. Morris agreed and said she thought it would be appropriate to look at Rice Creek again to see if it is, in fact a consistent problem.

**ITEM# 5: HEAR REPORT ON 303D LISTED WATER WAY STREAM/LAKES:**

Rob Cook, TCEQ, talked about the FY 2006 303d and 305d listings for the Sulphur Basin. He described how TCEQ evaluates water quality. They check to see if water parameters meet “standards” (303d) or are considered a “concern” (305d). Dissolved oxygen and pH are examples of parameters that have “standards” and chlorophyll and nutrients can cause a “concern” to be listed.

Mr. Nabor asked if a problem shows up how long before something is done?

Mr. Cook stated it depends on what the problem is.

Molly Berridge stated then you are looking at point sources.

Mr. Cook stated the water level at Cooper Lake is the highest it has been in years. He said that at this time last year it was dry. He stated North Sulphur River water runs fast and the movement helps keep the oxygen level up. White Oak Creek moves slow and tends to have lower dissolved oxygen.

Mr. Nabor asked if dairy and sewer run together, is it tested together and if there has been research for filters in water systems.

Mr. King spoke on raising the water level at Lake Wright Patman. He stated Wright Patman Lake is important for the Ark-Tex, and since 1950, the lake has lost quite a bit of acre-feet of surface water. Mr. King stated a contract was signed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1968 which allowed Texarkana to pursue raising the level of the lake. He stated in 1996-1997 we were waiting on Cooper Lake to be repaired. So, now we are actively pursuing it. He stated that in 2004 the first step to raise the level was taken after meeting with the Corps and in 2005 the government agency came back with a \$2.39 million budget for the preliminary study. Mr. King stated the massive budget set Texarkana Water Utility back a bit but, as they can, they are doing parts of needed expensive cultural resources study. Mr. King stated the proposed increase in the lake level would be an extra five feet in elevation at the lowest point in the winter. However, the increase in elevation, in normal summer weather, would be about one foot. Mr. Bill King, Texarkana Water Utility, stated that decision would be made by elected officials which would depend on the cost. Mr. King stated Texarkana Water Utility is involved with officials from agencies like: Texas Water Development Board, the United States Geological Survey, and the Corps of Engineers. He stated one of the biggest factors in getting things done is the million dollars plus budget.

Dr. Morris asked if the water would be the property of Texarkana Water Utility.

Mr. King stated he could not answer that because that would be decided by others.

He stated they would probably take steps to try and obtain the water.

Molly Berridge asked why were we monitoring in Fannin County and were we going to continue monitoring in Fannin County when the Enabling Acts forbids it.

Ms. Elizabeth Layman, Ark-Tex Council of Government, did a presentation on “Human needs to be Educated”. She spoke on invasive aquatic species of Southern United States. (non-native)

(1). Giant Salvinia---A plant that grows very fast. The cost of exterminating salvinia is expensive because only the Parks & Wildlife Department can legally handle the disposal.

(2). Hydrilla Vermiculate---This plant reproduces by seeds and/or by cuttings pulled out of the water. It is known to spread very rapidly, covering large areas in a short amount of time.

(3). Water Hyacinth---This plant is found in the Red and Sulphur Rivers. The flower tops look beautiful and smell good. It spreads quickly and can be transferred by one boat into different areas of water. The plant is also known to causes problems in the Mississippi River. In the year 2002, nineteen counties declared a state of emergency due to the plant’s hosting of the West Nile Virus. This plant can grow anywhere and can filter water well, but too much plant growth can cause a problem.

Mr. Roger Miranda would like to do a special study called a TMDL on Wright Patman Lake. TMDL stands for total maximum daily load. The goal of the study is to resolve water quality issues that have been documented on the 303d List.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.