

TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR THE RIO GRANDE BASIN

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE COORDINATED MONITORING MEETING

April 5, 2023
2:00 – 3:00 PM CT
MS Teams Teleconference

AGENDA

2:00 Welcome and Introductions
Carlos McMullen, Laredo Environmental Services
Juan Vazquez, Laredo Environmental Services
Jerry Flores, Laredo Environmental Services
Elsa Hull, TCEQ Laredo Office
Katrina Smith, CRP – TCEQ
Terra Lindgren, TCEQ
Victor Wong, TCEQ – Border Affairs
Erika Saenz, TCEQ
Sarah Whitley, CRP – TCEQ
Tricia Cortez, RGISC
Martin Castro, RGISC

Ms. Torres opened the meeting with introductions.

- 2:10 Discussion of various water quality topics
- Discussion of TCEQ's Integrated Report/303d list
 - Ms. Torres discussed the 303d list from the 2022 integrated report. The discussion focused on segments for the Middle Rio Grande. Ms. Torres went over the impaired segments and the description. The Rio Grande Below Amistad Reservoir (segment 2304) is impaired for bacteria and Chloride.
 - Ms. Torres also discussed the new listings that came out with the report. There were no new listings for the middle Rio Grande segments
 - Identification of water quality issues, data gaps, and sources of pollution
 - Ms. Cortez requested more information on the impairment for sulfate in the Lower Pecos River.
 - Ongoing research and projects
 - Ms. Cortez, discussed the on-going Binational River Conservation Project
 - The project is currently in phase 1 and work is being done downstream of Bridge 2.
 - Mr. Castro also discussed several on-going projects in the area.
 - Project Uno from Las Palms to Zacate Creek. Working with city for restoration project.
(<https://www.lmtonline.com/local/article/Commissioners-would-commit-2M-to-Zacate-Creek-17736525.php>)
 - Will take two years to complete the project

- Another project is for recreational trails and 23-acre site improvement to include ADA compliant trails.

2:30

Monitoring Schedule

- Discussion of statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule (CMS)
<http://cms.lcra.org/> - current and FY 2023 monitoring
 - Mr. McMullen indicated that for Laredo Environmental in order to get to the site there is hike down to the creek. For now, it is not a safety concern.
 - Ms. Hull indicated that her office is having issues with getting access through the border wall as well.
 - Del Rio is a hit or miss on access
 - Moody ranch is better after contacting landowner.
 - Apache Ranch is difficult.
 - Ms. Cortez opened discussion the issues with Border Patrol in the area.
 - The Border Patrol is trimming Salt Cedars by International, upstream of the University.
 - The Paso del Indio, one of the oldest trails has been destroyed
 - There is no erosion control, or BMPs in place.
 - A chained linked fence has been placed upstream from Jefferson National Guard and DPS are also in the area.
 - A contract for the construction of the wall is in place for area by Webb and Zapata. There is 16 miles of wall that is slated for construction.

2:50

Other announcements and information

- 2023 Basin Highlights Report for the Rio Grande Basin
 - Ms. Torres discussed this year's Basin Highlights report. The report is being drafted and will be available for partners and interested groups after this May.

3:00

Final comments and adjourn

USIBWC CRP Partner Training and Monitoring Guidance Updates- Required

- Discuss issues with the CRP partners.
 - Missing parameters
 - Ms. Torres went over field sheets and indicated to partners the importance of filling out every parameter that is indicated in the form.
 - Legibility of writing
 - Ms. Torres explained that writing must be legible so that the correct value is inputted into the system.
 - Ms. Torres also asked the partners to write down units of measurement if they differed from the ones listed in the field sheet.

- Answer questions and review monitoring procedures on USBWC YSI multiprobe Standard Operating Procedures for maintenance and calibration for the YSI ProDSS
 - Partners did not have questions on SOP or calibration procedures
- Discuss replacement parts for the YSI ProDSS to partners, as needed, and go over procedures for replacing them. Take any additional supply needs.
 - Partners were okay with standards and had functional YSIs. No issues were reported.

Adjourn refresher training portion
