

Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee / Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

5D Steak House and Lounge

130 Boardwalk

Kenedy, TX

Friday, March 29, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

-Meeting Notes-

Mr. Charles Lorea (CL) - CRP Steering Committee Presentation-

- **CL** Indicated that the presence of Log Perch in an aquatic environment is significant, as the Log Perch is significantly intolerant of pollution, therefore Log Perch are only present in high quality environments
- **Mr. Richard Reed (RR)** inquired whether the presence of elevated levels of Chloride in the SAR watershed is due to effluent discharge
- **CL** responded that elevated levels of chloride are likely due to elevated nutrient levels in the water
- **CL** indicated that Nekton sampling is being conducted at a high number of locations in the San Antonio River Basin (SARB), and that the number of biological sampling efforts in the SARB are well in excess of other basins in TX
- **Ms. Annalisa Peace (AP)** requested to be provided any information / literature regarding improved techniques for nutrient reduction in wastewater treatment standards
- **CL** indicated that techniques in excess of TX state standards for effluent are available, but generally cost prohibits many utilities from adopting such techniques
- **Ms. Ginger Coleman (GC)** inquired as to the delay in creation of state standards for nutrient data
- **CL** indicated that the relationship between nutrients and land use, combined with the variety of land uses, makes it difficult to analyze nutrient relationships
- **CL** suggested that a future presentation from TCEQ to the CRP Steering Committee regarding nutrient relationships would be of benefit
- **CL** indicated that the new 2018 / 2021 four year agreement would produce a contribution from the TCEQ to the River Authority CRP Budget of \$1,017,921.
- **RR** inquired as to whether the feral hog management program would continue
- **Mr. Steven Schauer (SS)** indicated that there would be no further funding for the feral hog management program, though resources and supplies from the program are available for landowners to borrow. SS indicated that the San Antonio River Authority is exploring alternate solutions to feral hog management.

- **Mr. Joedy Yglesias (JY)** inquired as to the source of funds for River Authority project budget contribution matches
- **CL and SS** indicated that River Authority general fund is the source of project budget matches

Mr. Shaun Donovan (SD) - Presentation on TCEQ Aquatic Life Monitoring Program –

- **SS** inquired that the River Authority is attempting to work with the City of San Antonio to gain approval to research biological data in the “river walk” area of the Museum Reach (river walk)
- **RR** requested clarification on the impairment status of the river walk
- **SD, CL** indicated that the segment *is* considered impaired, though there is no data on the river walk specifically, the river walk segment is currently a part of the assessment unit that includes the Brackenridge Park area, which does have data, and is impaired
- **RR** inquired as to what is the argument against TCEQ approval of Riverwalk monitoring?
- **SD** responded that it could be political, but it is difficult to envision resistance from the TCEQ
- **RR** inquired as to whether Sailfin Molly’s are native to TX
- **SD** responded that while Sailfin Molly’s are not native, they are “naturalized”, which means that the species is not native, but is not aggressively invading and displacing native species
- **SD** indicated that of the three rivers that Guadalupe Bass were introduced in the State of Texas three years ago, the SAR is the only river that has not seen any hybridization of the species
- **MH** inquired as to the estimated timetable for the return of Guadalupe Bass, and for Log Perch to be present in the Upper San Antonio River
- **SD** responded that it is difficult to estimate the return and re – establishment of those species, as there are numerous factors that would influence the process
- **Mr. James Dodson (JD)** requested clarification on regulations regarding the catch and release of Guadalupe Bass
- **SD** responded that regulations of catch and release of Guadalupe bass are no different than those of Black bass
- **JD** inquired whether there had been any discussion of regulations of catch and release of Guadalupe Bass in the Mission Reach segment of the **San Antonio River (SAR)**
- **SD** responded that no discussion had really taken place as of yet
- **CL** inquired how far south in the SAR Guadalupe Bass had been found
- **SD** responded that the River Authority biological monitoring team had found Guadalupe Bass as far south as Goliad
- **MH** inquired as to who was publishing the findings of the River Authority biological Monitoring team
- **SD** indicated that staff are currently strategizing promotion of the data
- **JD** indicated that Texas State University is forming / has formed a Watershed Stakeholder group that focuses on (among other things) the protection of the Guadalupe Bass
- **SD** indicated that River Authority staff would be eager to partner with the stakeholder group in whatever capacity they are able
- **JD** inquired as to whether Zebra Mussels are present in the SAR
- **SD** indicated that Zebra Mussels have not yet been found in the SAR
- **Mr. Barry Walker (BW)** indicated that TCEQ had recently released a press release announcing that no new water bodies had been found in 2018 to have Zebra Mussel infestation.

- **BW** offered to share the TCEQ press release with the Committee

Mr. Steven Schauer – Strategic Plan Presentation

- **BW** agreed to distribute to the Committee the draft of the River Authority Position Statement on Environmental Resiliency in time for the Committee to offer feedback, and said feedback to potentially be incorporated into the statement
- **MH** inquired whether swimming opportunities have been identified in the Lower SAR
- **SS** indicated that a potential opportunity exists near Helton Nature Park, near Floresville, TX
- **MH** indicated that recreational opportunities in the Lower SAR are greatly needed
- **SS** indicated that Goliad Paddling Trail is expected to be expanded soon
- **MH** indicated that residents of the areas surrounding the SAR would be eager assist with the process of expansion of recreational opportunities in the SAR
- **SS** indicated that a future presentation to the Committee, regarding River Authority water modeling efforts would be of benefit

Mr. Steven Schauer – Presentation on the Basin Report Card

- **BW** agreed to provide the Committee with a draft of the Basin Report Card as soon as it becomes available

Mr. Shaun Donovan – Presentation on Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) Efforts in Brackenridge Park

- **RR** inquired as to how many samples have been taken at the Mulberry location
- **SD** indicated that five samples had been taken
- **RR** indicated that the most distressing factor regarding the BST data from Brackenridge Park was the human contributed – bacteria
- **SD** indicated that reliable analysis would depend upon a more mature (more extensive) data set