

**Water Quality Advisory Work Group
Meeting Summary
October 10, 2006**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Introductions – Mark Fisher, Section Manager,
Water Quality Assessment & Standards Section**

- Martin Hubert is the new Commissioner

Update on TMDL & TSSWCB – Arthur Talley, TMDL Section

- Joint work session between TCEQ and TSSWCB
 - Partnership agreement strengthened to help improve the environment through TMDL's and watershed plans.
 - Updated MOA between the 2 agencies to help clarify points and agreements for TMDL's, and water shed protection plans.
 - Agreement to consider WQ data by TSSWCB
 - Will consult TSSWCB before delisting
- Task Force named – chaired by Dr. Allan Jones with the Texas Water Resources Institute.
- Task Force will have 120 days to complete assessments and report back to the Commission and Board.
- The Commission and the Board will use the Task Force's recommendations to keep Texas at the forefront in implementing water quality prevention & abatement projects for cleaner water & safer recreation.

Update on Water Quality Standards – Sidne Tiemann and Lynda Clayton, Water Quality Standards Team

- Rule making workgroup meeting will be sometime from the beginning of November - December 1st.
- Looking at comments on Standards – started internal work group
- Boundary changes – smaller unclassified streams to Appendix D
- Studies on larger rivers/segments – Caney, Little Wichita, Lavaca River West Fork Trinity River, Clear Fork Trinity River.
- Evaluating EPA's comments on Bacteria
- Nutrients – 35 least impacted reservoirs submitted to EPA
- Final workgroup – end of November
- Notice of Draft Guidance for Implementing Methylmercury WQ Criteria
 - Comments closed on October 10, 2006
 - EPA proposed new criteria for mercury for fish tissue
 - Tissue based criteria instead of water based
 - Changes to WET Limits – letter to L'Oreal Stepney from EPA
 - Potential analysis to see if facilities should get WET limits up front
 - Internal discussions to see how will this impact people.
 - Calculations show that 80% of permittees would get WET limits up front

Update on Homeland Security – Beth Seaton, Special Assistant, Water Quality Division

- Mailout planned to all facilities about vulnerability assessments and to collect information
- All information collected will be confidential
 - All information collected will put into a database and maintained
- Phone line and email box will be set up, will keep available for ongoing use
- Training staff on Homeland Security
- Facilities can contact EPA for Emergency Response disks. For water and Wastewater. Limited copies available.
- SB 2781 – some changes on Homeland Security.
 - Possible incentives to do Vulnerability Assessment
 - Recommended now, maybe required in the future

317 Design Criteria – Louis C. Herrin, III, P.E., Technical Assistant, Wastewater Permitting Section

- Meeting with Commissioner's for briefing
- Meeting on MBR (Membranes)
- WEF-TEC meeting with representatives to discuss 317 Design Criteria
- Hoping to send to publication in June 2007

Chapter 222 SADDs – Louis C. Herrin, III, P.E.

- SADDs – new applications online.
- 5 applications being processed

MSGP – David Waterstreet, Team Leader, Storm Water & Pretreatment Team

- MSGP Issued on August 14, 2006
- Previous applicants have 90 days to submit NOI, electronic submittal is 120 days
- NOI & NOC are online
- \$100 application fee was added for NEC submittal
- Increased WQ fee from \$100 to \$200 for NOI authorization
- Removed requirements for owner to sign application.
- Revised DMR reporting requirements to be consistent with Federal Rules
- Changes made to some benchmark monitoring requirements – sector specific
- Sector J facilities in John Graves watershed must seek alternative permit coverage
- Added requirements to have rain gage onsite
 - Sampling required within 30 minutes of qualifying storm event
 - Weekly tracking requirements during dry periods and daily tracking for rainy periods until sampling requirement satisfied for each sampling period.
- Added TSS, PH, & BOD benchmark monitoring to some sectors.

- Mini Storage Warehouses are automatically authorized to discharge storm water without submitting an NOI if certain criteria are met.

Update on Phase II MS4 GP – David Waterstreet

- Completed revisions from EPA and received “No Objection” letter
- Preparing for Commissioner’s Briefings and pursuing end of year adoption – maybe January.
- Will be completing Phase I permits by the end of the fiscal year
- New Storm Water Staff member – Hal Bailey

Update on General Permits – Yvonna Pierce, Industrial Permits Team

- TXG11 – is scheduled for adoption on the November 1st Agenda
- TXG13 – Aquaculture was adopted in April
 - Sub Ch. O exemptions are still good, although we are working on a repeal of this permit by rule (PBR). Subchapter O will be repealed in June of 2007 and at that time everyone with coverage under this PBR would need to have coverage under TXG13 to continue operating.
- TXG34 – Conducted deputy briefing and have offered ED briefing
- TXG53 – The TCEQ On-Site program is continuing to work with Harris County on the application of this GP
- TXG83 – Expires in October 2007. Have begun working on renewal
- TXG92 - CAFO permit – amended in April and expires in 2009
- WQG20 – Expires in October 2007. We are working on the renewal and do expect minor changes
- WQG60 – no longer accepting applications

Update on Houston Ship Channel - Charles Marshall, Water Quality Assessment Team

- Revised Waste Load Evaluation approved by EPA
- Copies were mailed out to Stakeholders

Next Meeting and Suggested Topics

- Tuesday, January 9, 2007
- Suggested Topics:
 - Legislative update
 - WQ Standards Rule Development
 - 316(B)
 - Nutrient Criteria Update
 - 303 (d) list
 - Update on TMDL task force
 - Update on 317 Design Criteria
 - Electronic Permitting

**Water Quality Advisory Work Group
Attendee List
October 10, 2006**

Mark Lowry	TCB
Tony Bennett	TCB
Janelle Taylor	TPWD
Walt Sears	NETMWD
David Nuckels	TxDOT
Jennifer Dorsey	CMD
Michelle Smith	Lloyd Gosselink
Pat Radloff	TPWD
Russ Draves	AEP
Raj Bhattarai	City of Austin
Susan Karlins	City of Houston
Gayle B. Haecker	Brazos River Authority
Angela Kirkpatrick	Trinity River Authority
Larry Harrison	Wingert H2O
Mary Etter	LCRA
Miles Hall	SRA
Carol Batteredon	WEAT
David Donohue	Ecology & Environment, Inc.
Richard Eyster	TDA
Lydia Gonzalez Gromatzsky	Beveridge & Diamond P.C.
Patty Greg	USGS
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates
Angela Moorman	Birch, Becker & Moorman
Nancy Vignali	TCEQ
Karen Holligan	TCEQ
Charles Marshall	TCEQ
Lynda Clayton	TCEQ
Yvonna Pierce	TCEQ
Michelle Wilkinson	TCEQ - SBLGA