

Guadalupe River (Above Canyon)
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Bacteria Meeting
June 29, 2006

Attendees:

Aaron	Wendt	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Allison	Woodall	TCEQ – Clean Rivers Program
Debbie	Magin	Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
George	Holekamp	Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District
Miguel	Arreola	Kerr County – Environmental Health Dept.
Patricia	Hulett	Kerr County – Environmental Health Dept.
Karol	Schreiner	Land Owner
T	Sandlin	Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District
Dennis	Kneese	City of Kerrville
Scott	Loveland	City of Kerrville
Bonnie	Arnold	Community Journal Newspaper
Steve	Twidwell	TX Parks & Wildlife
Tim	Hufstedler	Kerrville- Schreiner Park
Lana	Edwards	Upper Guadalupe River Authority
Neville	Triplett	Upper Guadalupe River Authority
Ray	Buck	General Manager - Upper Guadalupe River Authority
Ted	Ground	Upper Guadalupe River Authority

Project Staff:

Dan	Obenour	James Miertschin & Associates
Kerry	Niemann	TX Commission on Environmental Quality
Earlene	Lambeth	TX Commission on Environmental Quality

**Upper Guadalupe River above Canyon Lake Bacteria TMDL
Stakeholder Meeting**

Thursday, June 29, 2006

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Kerrville

MEETING AGENDA

(time allotments are approximate)

Preliminary Steps (EL)

Welcome/Meeting Logistics (2:00 – 2:05)

Introduction of Participants (2:05 – 2:10)

Meeting Purpose and Ground Rules (2:10 – 2:15)

Stakeholder Process (EL)

Presentation (2:15 – 2:25)

Overview of the TMDL Program (KN)

Presentation (2:25 – 2:40)

Data Review (JMA)

Presentation (2:40 – 2:50)

Questions & Answers (2:50 – 3:00)

Modeling – Load Duration Curves (JMA)

Presentation (3:00 – 3:30)

Questions & Answers (3:30 – 3:45)

Next Steps/Questions and Input (3:45 – 4:00)

Adjourn

Introduction:

Earlene Lambeth with the TCEQ opened the first in a series of meetings for a total maximum daily load (TMDL) project. Self-introductions were made and she stated that the purpose for the meeting was to inform the stakeholders of the status of work for the Guadalupe River (above Canyon) and to provide an opportunity for input on the project approach. The TCEQ is facilitating the formation of a 24-member Upper Guadalupe Watershed Advisory Group (WAG).

Earlene thanked the group for their participation and said the TCEQ wants to ensure that state government considers local perspectives in its decisions. This will also help the stakeholders gain insight into the nature of water quality problems in their watershed. Earlene stressed that this was the mechanism through which the state and the TCEQ encourages public participate. The stakeholders will assist in the planning of solutions to the bacteria water quality impairment that might be planned through the Implementation Phase, after the TMDL is completed for the Guadalupe River (above Canyon). She said this would be a joint effort and encouraged partnering with the local government, non-governmental organizations, watershed landowners, agriculture, academia, industry/businesses, and recreations users of the river, etc. If you would like to be considered for the WAG please contact Earlene at 512/251/5340 or elambeth@tceq.state.tx.us.

Earlene provided the group the TCEQ's web page that will be maintained with the projects meeting summaries, project presentation materials, meeting dates and various water quality and TMDL information. The web page is located at: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/65-guadalupeabovecanyon.html>

Question – RB: Are you going to do anything more than this meeting to solicit volunteers for this stakeholder committee? We (UGRA) would like to assist you in that.

Answer – EL: Yes, I will work on it more. Your (UGRA) input, facilitation and assistance would be appreciated.

Question – AW: Ray, do you have some ideas about community outreach?

Answer – RB: I think I would like to visit with people before hand and get an idea of who may be interested. I think we need some recreation – other than government employees I do not see recreational represented here.

Question - RB: How have you done it in other areas?

Answer – EL: We try to identify key people within the community through Sierra Club and various organizations that might already be established and who we can “partner” with. Partnering is a great way to help initiate the committee – building on groups and clubs that are established in the area.

Comment – RB: I think you would have a lot more people here if people realized that there will be an implementation phase to this process. I don't think people know that. Let's put something in the paper.

Question – EL: Do you have any groups or organizations we could contact in the area?

Answer – One that comes to mind is the Master Naturalist and TX Dot. We should look at the land use in the area and make sure they are represented. Also Earlene was asked to contact the Sid Peterson Hospital, Infection Disease staff about the project.

Kerry Niemann – TCEQ, TMDL Project Manager:

Kerry was the next presenter and explained that the Guadalupe River (above Canyon) segment is on the State of Texas Clean Water Act 303(d) List and explained that the meeting is being held as part of a water quality project initiated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as required under the 1972 federal Clean Water Act. The state of Texas requires that the water quality in the river be suitable for swimming, wading, fishing, and a healthy aquatic ecosystem. Water quality testing has found that bacteria levels are sometimes higher than the standard established to assure safe contact recreation.

A copy of Kerry's presentation can be viewed on-line at the above referenced Guadalupe River web page.

Mr. Kerry Niemann, the TMDL Project Manager from the TCEQ was the next meeting presenter and focused the discussion on the overall TMDL process. He explained that the goal of a TMDL is to restore water quality in the waterbody or impaired segment. A TMDL determines the amount of a pollutant (or load) that a body of water can receive and still support its designated uses, such as recreation or support of aquatic life. The load is then allocated among all the potential sources of pollution within the watershed and measures to reduce pollutant loads are developed as necessary through the Implementation Plan (IP).

The main elements of the final TMDL document will be: 1) problem definition, 2) endpoint identification, 3) source analysis, 4) linkage between sources and receiving waters, 5) a margin of safety, and 6) a pollutant load allocation (including point, nonpoint and natural sources of bacteria).

After the TMDL is prepared the next step would be to develop an Implementation Plan (IP). An IP is a detailed description of the regulatory and voluntary management measures necessary to achieve the pollutant reduction identified through the TMDL.

Question: Where are we in the TMDL process?

Answer – KN: We are between the second and third square, closer to the third. (2 – Initiate TMDL for Impaired Waters and the 3- TMDL Allocation Report).

Question: Is that same stakeholder group carried out throughout the whole project?

Answer – KN: The group can be amended at any given time that follows the ground rules and procedure. Yes, the stakeholder group will be that nebulous group of people – the movers and shakers.

Question: Do we have a stakeholder group now?

Answer – KN: No, not at this time. Last year we had a meeting here and three people came. We are now ready to really solicit involvement – get more people involved and foster a stakeholder group.

Question: What is the end purpose of having these TMDLs adopted? Other than satisfying EPA – enforcement tool, guidance tool?

Answer – KN: It provides a means to de-list a segment, through implementation it will bring the segment back into compliance and the means to seek and acquire further funding to fix the problem and a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act.

Question: When we are in the implementation phase of the TMDL, are we implementing rules and regulations or best management practices (BMPs)?

Answer – KN: BMPs

Kerry Niemann also presented information on the historical data that has been collected from the Guadalupe River (above Canyon) that resulted in the 303(d) listing. A copy of this presentation is also on the web site cited above.

Dan Obenour with J. Miertschin & Associates (TCEQ contractor) next presented a copy of the bacteria load duration curve modeling methodology being used in the project. A copy of his presentation(s) is also posted on the Guadalupe web site. He went through each sampling station for the Guadalupe area being addressed through the TMDL and each of the sampling results.

Dan's next presentation was on a bacteria source tracking (BST) project that was done for the project. Some of the causes or sources that might be considered were ducks, avian, leaking septic tank(s), humans, pets or wildlife, or wastewater.

Question: What time of year was this done?

Answer – KN: During the summer.

Comment: We have hundreds of people in the river during the summer time.

Question: Next step? Are you through collecting the data or we going to try and identify the indeterminate? Will we go with what has been identified so far?

Answer – KN: We do not plan to collect anymore BST samples until the end of the TMDL phase but I can see a great deal of advantage to collecting BST samples in the implementation to identify to a greater degree of exactly what the source(s) are. Remember, this is just the TMDL now. We are not pointing fingers at any particular source(s) – we are just trying to come up the total maximum daily load (how much bacteria the stream segment can receive in those 2 segments and still meet the water quality standard for contact recreation). We are just trying to come up with “the load” now. We will continue to collect water samples through the Clean Rivers Program and the regional offices.

Kerry encouraged the stakeholders present to share the web site and information about the project to others to assist in getting out the word in wanting to get as many people as possible involved.

Question – EL: Would you (the stakeholders) prefer an evening meeting?

Comment – I don't think it is the time that will dictate who comes; it is more about informing people. It was agreed to post the meeting notice in the paper for the next meeting.

The next step will be to draft the TMDL report based on the results of the load duration curve. We will plan the next meeting when the TMDL draft report is complete.

The meeting adjourned.