

**Lavaca-Navidad River Authority
Clean Rivers Program
2021 Steering Committee Meeting
July 20, 2021**

The annual Lavaca Basin Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Annual Meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the Lavaca Navidad River Authority Office Complex, 4631 FM 3131, located approximately seven (7) miles east of Edna, Jackson County, Texas on July 20, 2021. The meeting was also available through video conference.

Annual meetings provide an opportunity to share information about water quality issues with Basin stakeholders, to obtain guidance on the use of resources from the Clean Rivers Program, and to allow LNRA to gain insight from local stakeholders and expertise from such members as Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), United States Geological Survey (USGS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Texas AgriLife Extension, and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Input from the attendees allows LNRA to prioritize water quality issues and determine the most effective water quality monitoring program. It also provides an educational opportunity for the community.

Attending from Lavaca-Navidad River Authority:

Chad Kinsfather, Environmental Services Director
Brandon Byler, Environmental Services Technician
Ronald Kubecka, Board of Directors President
Jerry Adelman, Board of Directors Vice President
Sandy Johs, Board of Directors
Patrick Brzozowski, General Manager
Karen Gregory, Deputy General Manager, Administration
Doug Anders, Deputy General Manager - Operations
James Terry, Project Maintenance Manager
Greg Sheguit, Project Maintenance Operator
Miles Harrison, System Administrator

Others Attending:

Richard Gonzales, Science & Spanish Club Network, Inc.
Robin Flores, Science & Spanish Club Network, Inc.
Yolanda Aviles, Science & Spanish Club Network, Inc.
Emily Monroe, Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
Dan Martino, Senior Director, Inteplast Group
Austin Knight, Inteplast Group
Brian Koch, Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board
Donnie Tegeler, Boy Scout Leader
Mieko Mahi, Friends of Lavaca River
Brent Pierce, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Others Attending Virtually:

Chris Janak, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Michael Schramm, Texas Water Resources Institute (TRWI)
Jason Leifester, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Jenna Wadman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Mike Rivet, Formosa Plastics

Chad Kinsfather, LNRA Environmental Services Director

Kinsfather opened the meeting.

Kinsfather briefed the attendees on the Clean Rivers Program and made available to the group copies of the Lavaca Basin 2021 LNRA Water Quality Update.

Kinsfather's power point presentation included Lavaca Basin's current water monitoring schedule with location map and frequency. He also briefly discussed Segment 1602, Lavaca River Above Tidal which has elevated levels of bacteria.

Kinsfather's presentation also included an informative discussion on dissolved oxygen, a measure of how much oxygen is dissolved in the water, and the amount of oxygen available to living aquatic organisms.

Kinsfather informed the group of the LNRA Adopt-A-River Program initiative. The program is currently being developed and is focused on engaging people in community-led and organized clean-up events in the Lavaca Basin. Plans may include LNRA to provide supplies and first aid kits for clean-ups and methods of trash disposal. More information will be available as the Adopt-A-River Program is further developed. Several attendees expressed interest in their community getting involved.

Dan Martino, Senior Director, Inteplast Group

Martino gave a very information presentation via Power Point on Sustainability and Manufacturing. Martino briefed the Group on how Inteplast holds itself consistently accountable for the necessary integration and improvement of sustainability in all aspects of the company, from production to operations. Inteplast's goals include zero waste, landfill avoidance at all costs, significant, measurable reductions in water, gas, and electricity consumption, empowering both the company and the citizens through contributing to surrounding communities. Martino informed the Group on some of the programs in place at Inteplast including the in-house recycling program.

Martino expressed interest and willingness to participate in the LNRA Adopt-A-River Program.

Emily Monroe, Extension Program Specialist, TWRI

Monroe presented the Group with an update on the Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan (WPP). The waters of the Lavaca River and Rocky Creek are impaired due to elevated levels of bacteria, especially *E.coli*.

The WPP was developed by TWRI and residents and was accepted in April 2018 by the EPA. The WPP Project, funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, is the beginning of the implementation of the 10-year protection plan. The goal is to educate residents on how they can protect their water resources through voluntary management measures.

Monroe informed the Group on the educational programs to encourage implementation of BMPs as follows:

- August 2020 – Healthy Lawns, Healthy Waters, virtual
- November 2020 – Lavaca River Stakeholder Meeting, virtual
- May 2021– Texas Watershed Stewards in Edna
- FY22 – Lone Star Healthy Streams, TBD

Other programs/activities:

Livestock, feral hog management, OSSFs, pet waste management/education, urban stormwater runoff education, and dumping

Ideas from watershed residents:

Illegal dumping education campaign, groundwater education

Monthly Water Quality Monitoring

Lavaca-Navidad River Authority

Monroe informed the Group that the Matagorda Basin WPP Project is to begin Fall 2021. Proposals have been submitted to TCEQ for continuing routine surface water quality monitoring in Lavaca, Carancahua, and Tres Palacios. The Arenosa and Garcitas Creek WPP is still under review.

Monroe also presented information on the Lavaca River Above Tidal TMDL Addendum. The Lavaca River Above Tidal is on the 303 (d) list for primary contact recreation 1 impairments. Due to the additional listing, TCEQ contracted TWRI to develop a Technical Support Document. The TSD is similar to previous TSD and TMDL documents as follows:

- Review and explore potential sources of *E. coli*
- Develop Load Duration Curves for TMDL
- Under what conditions do bacteria loadings occur
- Develop Load Allocations for the TMDL
- “Budget” for potential indicator bacteria sources

Analysis of sources remains the same as documented in the previous TMDL, I-Plan, and Watershed Protection Plan.

- Unregulated stormwater, including sources such as OSSFs, livestock, and wildlife contributes to high and midrange loadings.
- Relatively little regulated stormwater in the watershed
- WWTF's are generally within compliance and unlikely to contribute to high flow exceedances

TCEQ will add the LDCs and load allocations to the existing Lavaca River Above Tidal TMDL and update the state's Water Quality Management Plan.

The group was given the opportunity for an open discussion.

Kinsfather expressed appreciation on behalf of LNRA to all who attended. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:14 p.m.