

**Lavaca-Navidad River Authority
Clean Rivers Program
Steering Committee Meeting
August 17, 2023**

The Lavaca Basin Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Annual Meeting was held in the Community Education Center in Texana Park, located approximately seven (7) miles east of Edna, Jackson County, Texas on August 17, 2023.

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
Jerry Adelman, Board of Directors President
Patrick Brzozowski, General Manager
Karen Gregory, Deputy General Manager, Administration
Doug Anders, Deputy General Manager, Operations
Scott Hartl, Assistant Manager, Operations
Michael Price, Public Outreach Coordinator
Jill Crenshaw, Director of Administrative Services
Zachary Wittnebert, Director of Project Maintenance
Kenneth Fojtik, Director of Reservoir Operations
James Terry, Manager of Project Maintenance

Others Attending:

Brad Ryan, City of Edna
Chris W. Janak, USDA-NRCS
Richard Gonzales, Science & Spanish Club Network, Inc.
Robin Flores, Science & Spanish Club Network, Inc.
Schannen Weinmann, Inteplast Group
Mitchell Schull, Inteplast Group
Brian Koch, Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board
Mieko Mahi, Friends of Lavaca River
Jenna Wadman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Chad Kinsfather, LNRA Environmental Services Director

Kinsfather opened the meeting.

Kinsfather briefed the attendees on the Texas Clean Rivers Program. He also discussed current water sampling schedules and monitoring sites.

Kinsfather briefed the group on the special projects currently in the Lavaca Basin which includes the 24-hour dissolved oxygen study, Segment 1602. Information regarding the Lavaca River Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) was also discussed. The goal of the Lavaca WPP is to engage local stakeholders in the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) along Segment 1602 of the Lavaca River aimed at lowering bacteria counts below primary recreation standards. LNRA is sampling four (4) monitoring sites for 24 months.

Kinsfather updated the group on the Lavaca Bacteriological Source Study on Segment 1602. The study utilizes next generation sequencing (NGS) based bacteriological source tracking (BST) to characterize fecal source contributions in the Lavaca River watershed. LNRA is currently collecting 12 water samples from 4 sites for 12 months and collecting 10 fecal samples from 10 species.

Kinsfather informed the group that the first LNRA Adopt a River program began with a Lavaca River Cleanup on April 22, 2023 and was well received and successful which included approximately 20-25 participants.

Brian Koch, State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Koch presented the group with information on planning for healthy soils. He encouraged the wise and productive use of natural resources.

Kinsfather expressed appreciation on behalf of LNRA to all who attended. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:18 p.m.