

**RED RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS**  
**Summary of the Canadian and Red River Basins**  
**Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**March 20, 2012**

The Canadian and Red River Basins Advisory Committee Meeting was held on March 20, 2012 in the Colorado Room of the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo, Texas at 9:30 a.m. There were approximately 19 stakeholders, including staff, in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Allen Pappas, Clean Rivers Program Project Manager with the Authority, opened the meeting with introductions and provided a short review of the meeting agenda. Mr. Pappas emphasized the importance of stakeholder participation in the Clean Rivers Program through their comments and suggestions.

Mr. Pappas presented information regarding program updates the Authority has made to their Clean Rivers Program. These updates included increased monitoring activities throughout both the Canadian and Red River Basins, equipment purchases to promote increased quality assurance and to help advance monitoring efforts, information regarding the Authority's ongoing laboratory studies involving both chlorophyll-*a*/pheophytin and *E. coli* holding time and finally, the Authority's new public outreach effort with local Cub Scouts.

Mr. Scott Burns, Environmental Specialist with the Authority, presented the *Draft 2012 Canadian and Red River Basins Highlights Report*. He explained the process for collecting the data in the report and recommended reviewing the *2009 Basin Summary Report*, located on the Authority's website at [www.rra.dst.tx.us](http://www.rra.dst.tx.us), for more detailed information. Mr. Burns also discussed the current monitoring activities in the basins and highlighted water bodies with concerns. He asked that the members use their comment sheets to note any suggestions or recommendations they may have for the Fiscal Year 2013 Monitoring Schedule.

Mr. Mick Baldys, Hydrologist with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in Ft. Worth, Texas, presented an overview of an ongoing Zebra Mussel survey of North Texas. The primary focus of this project is to aid in the determination of Zebra Mussel characteristics, specifically, the temperature preferences "veligers" tend to concentrate at. This information is critical to an ongoing water shortage within the Trinity River Basin as the result of the infestation at Lake Texoma, which has halted the release of water to prevent the invasive species from crossing river basin boundaries. The entire aspect of the USGS Zebra Mussel Monitoring Program was presented along with future goals and possible outcomes for the project.

Dr. Paul DeLaune, Assistant Professor with Texas AgriLife Research Center in Vernon, Texas, presented information on two water quality projects throughout the Rolling and High Plains dealing primarily with nutrient crediting (both nitrate and phosphorus) when using groundwater irrigation. Dr. DeLaune is in charge of a new soil science program and is pursuing several nutrient agriculture-related projects with the Texas Cattle Feeders Association and various other entities throughout the state.

Dr. Srinu Ale, Assistant Professor with Texas AgriLife Research Center in Vernon, Texas, presented information on water quality trends throughout the Texas High Plains and Southern Rolling Plains regarding nitrate and total dissolved concentrations. Dr. Ale compared data collected during both the 1990's and 2000's indicative of an increasing trend in ground water concentrations for both analytes. Dr. Ale also suggested that a spatial pattern may be present, indicating that point source contamination from urban, agricultural, or a combination of both, may be point source contributors to these water quality concerns.

Mr. Thomas Marek, Senior Research Engineer with Texas AgriLife Research Center in Amarillo, Texas, presented information on reducing groundwater consumption in the Texas High Plains, which is part of the Texas Water Development Boards Region A water planning group. Mr. Marek provided information concerning the volume of water currently utilized by Region A and how future consumption requirements, primarily focusing on the need for increased drinking water resources, would reduce the amount of water available for agriculture. This has a significant impact on Region A, as the region accounts for an overwhelming majority of the state's crops, specifically corn (53%) and wheat (51%). Mr. Marek focused on how the Texas AgriLife breeding program is working diligently to produce hybrids to help reduce the amount of irrigation required to yield substantial crops. The continued effort to reduce the irrigation requirements of said crops is critical to ensuring the ability of farmers to meet production goals with decreased water resources in the future.

Mr. Pappas then opened the floor for final questions and comments. Following discussion, the meeting adjourned around 12:45 p.m. and lunch was served.