

RED RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS
Summary of the Red River Basin
Advisory Committee Meeting
March 27, 2012

The Red River Basin Advisory Committee Meeting was held on March 27, 2012, in the Conference Room at the Red River Authority of Texas Administrative Offices and Environmental Laboratory in Wichita Falls, Texas at 9:30 a.m. There were approximately 48 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. He 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, 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.

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. John Nielsen-Gammon, State Climatologist at Texas A&M University, presented pertinent drought information. His presentations reviewed data from the past several decades, helping to correlate what we have seen in the past and what we are experiencing now. Dr. Nielsen-Gammon also compared twelve-month rainfall data to data from the past three months showing how although we have been receiving rainfall as of late, with regard to the past twelve to eighteen months, the majority of the state is still experiencing varying degrees of drought. Finally, Dr. Nielsen-Gammon presented data relating to oceanic temperatures, observed rainfall,

and overall summer temperatures. In short, he said it can be estimated that we are in a twenty (20) year drought cycle which will presumably end in 2016. However, after reviewing temperature data, we can assume that means temperatures will continue to rise and future droughts will be warmer.

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.

Mr. Robert Mauk, Inland Fisheries Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), presented information on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), focusing primarily on Golden and Blue-Green algae. Mr. Mauk covered the negative impacts such blooms can have on the aquatic habitats they reside in, as well as some of the strategies TPWD have taken to combat them. He closed with current information regarding the ongoing lake advisories and warnings on Lake Texoma based on Blue-Green algae concentrations.

Mr. Pappas then opened the floor for final questions and comments, followed with a brief message from Mr. Curtis W. Campbell, Red River Authority of Texas General Manager. Afterwards, the meeting adjourned around 12:45 p.m. and lunch was served.