

RED RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS
Summary of the Canadian and Red River Basins
Advisory Committee Meeting
March 18, 2014

The Canadian and Red River Basins Advisory Committee Meeting was held on March 18, 2014, in the Newcrest Room of the Courtyard Marriot Hotel in Amarillo, Texas at 9:30 a.m. There were approximately 30 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 began the meeting with a presentation of the *Draft 2014 Basin Summary Report* and *Proposed FY-2015 Coordinated Monitoring Efforts*. He presented information regarding current 303(d) impairments and 305(b) concerns as they relate to water quality throughout the Canadian River Basin, also including the western-most reaches of the Red River Basin (Reaches IV and V). Mr. Pappas also discussed current trends in water quality within several segments, focusing on both dissolved solids (TDS) and nutrient trends within segments appearing on the *Texas 2012 Integrated Report (2012 IR)*. He emphasized unique trends within some water bodies, specifically the Canadian River above Lake Meredith, Lake Meredith, Rita Blanca Lake, Wolf Creek, and the Upper Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River. Mr. Pappas strongly encouraged all stakeholders to review the information prepared by the Authority in the *Draft 2014 Basin Summary Report* for additional information on pertinent water quality issues throughout both basins.

Mr. Mick Baldys, hydrologist with the United States Geological Survey, presented on ground water monitoring within the Canadian River Basin. The project focused specifically on physical properties, major ions, nutrients, trace elements, and pesticide concentration. Approximately thirty (30) wells were monitored during the course of the project. While the project did not find any major areas for concern, there were some wells with unique findings. The most important fact resided in that it has been estimated that Kansas will have depleted approximately 69% of the water within the Ogallala formation over the course of the next 50 years. This in mind, the water levels observed in the northern Texas portion of the Ogallala have begun to become quite variable and will most likely continue on this path.

Dr. Jerry Michels, Professor of Entomology with Texas AgriLife, presented on the biological control of saltcedar using the saltcedar beetle (*Diorhabda* sp.). The project was actually started back in 2004, and took almost eight years before exploding in the summer of 2012. What began as a characteristically routine sampling season ending up being the beginning of several confirmed saltcedar beetle populations throughout portions of the Canadian River Basin, including portions of Sand Creek, Mulberry Creek, and the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red

River. Today, the saltcedar beetle continues to spread throughout portions of western Texas, aiding in the removal of saltcedar along the way.

Ms. Nikki Jackson, Senior Project and Policy Director for the Texas Institute of Applied Environmental Research (TIAER) at Tarleton State University, presented on Recreational Use Attainability Analyses (RUAAs). TIAER is working on RUAAs in both the Canadian and Red River Basins. Ms. Jackson explained the RUAA process and included information on three water bodies RUAAs had already been completed, including Buffalo Creek, Paradise Creek, and Dixon Creek. Additionally, there are a total of five water bodies TIAER will be performing RUAAs on beginning the summer of 2014 which include Mud Creek, Smith Creek, Iron Ore Creek, Choctaw Creek, and Bois d' Arc Creek.

Mr. Pappas then opened the floor for final questions and comments and encouraged stakeholders to review the *Draft-2014 Basin Summary Report*. Following discussion, the meeting adjourned around 12:15 p.m. and lunch was provided.