



NETMWD EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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CYPRESS BASIN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR STAKEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025 @ 9:00 A.M.

Northeast Texas Community College
Community Room
2886 FM 1735 Chapel Hill Road
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

AGENDA

1. Call to order and Welcome
2. UTRWD Lake Ralph Hall Updates Jason Pierce
3. SRBA Basin Highlights Report Randy Rushin
4. TCEQ R5 Fish Tissue Sampling in Caddo Mike Vanbuskirk
5. NETMWD Updates on TPLA & OSSF Robert Speight
6. TPWD Aquatic Invasives Update Tim Bister
7. NETMWD Basin Summary Report Randy Rushin
8. Public Comments of Questions & Answers
9. Adjournment

Note: Please see the attached map for directions to the building on the NTCC campus.


VIRTUAL MEETING OPTION – ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

Register for this meeting at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/g1Zz1YnOSzKu82G0PMkK-g>

NETMWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jimmy E. Cox - Ore City, Vice President: Jack Salmon, Jr. - Avinger, Secretary/Treasurer: Stan Wyatt - Daingerfield
Saundra Wexler - Lone Star, Robyn Shelton - Hughes Springs, Patrick Smith - Pittsburg, George Otstott - Jefferson



Cypress Creek and Sulphur River Basin Steering Committee Meeting

March 27, 2025

The joint Cypress Creek and Sulphur River Basin Stakeholder Meeting was held in the Community Room on the Northeast Texas Community College campus. The meeting began at 9 AM and concluded at 11:45 AM. One virtual and five in-person presentations were given to the Committee. There were ten in-person and twenty-eight virtual attendees.

Lake Ralph Hall Updates:

Jason Pierce: Upper Trinity Regional Water District

Completion of Lake Ralph Hall is expected in late 2026. Spider hubs and reef balls are being used for fish habitat. A fishing jetty extends out to a deep part of the lake, so a boat is not needed to fish in the deeper part of the lake.

K. Suprobo sent a link for reef ball pictures.

L. Overdyke: What is the distinction between Bois d'Arc Lake and Lake Ralph Hall?

J. Pierce: Bois D'Arc is about two times larger and constructed by the North Texas Municipal Water District. Lake Ralph Hall is smaller at around 16,000 surface acres, comparable in size to Lake Grapevine by UTRWD. Both are water supply reservoirs.

Sulphur River Basin Highlights Report:

Randy Rushin Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.

An update on monitoring activities in the Sulphur River Basin was presented. No questions were asked.

Fish Tissue Sampling in Caddo Lake

Mike Vanbuskirk

TCEQ Region 5

TCEQ will be collecting fish tissue samples in Caddo Lake later in the year. Sampling will target all assessment units in the lake along with a portion of the lower part of Big Cypress Creek near the state park. These samples are being collected to address the impairments in the lake. Sampling in May 2024 in Clinton Lake were either not detectable or were below mercury limits for acute and chronic toxicity levels.

L. Overdyke: Coal power plants offline, will this result in a decrease in mercury? We are glad the project is being done. Also mentioned the snake that had highest levels detected. Human tests showed lower levels.

M. Vanbuskirk: mentioned that Texas Tech had taken sediment samples.

T. Bister: asked about target sizes for fish?

M. Vanbuskirk: Due to budget they are targeting the bigger fish.

L. Overdyke: Wanted to know where the results are posted and to share data with Dr. Matt Chumchal at TCU.

R. Rushin: 2024 tissue results are available in the TCEQ SWQMIS database.

R. Rushin: Fully staffed or need volunteers for May?

M. Vanbuskirk: May need additional staff in May.

A. Kilpatrick: I will see if TRA can send staff to assist

Total Phosphorus Load Agreement and On-Site Septic Systems

Robert Speight

Northeast Texas Municipal Water District

An update on the TPLA and OSSF work in the basin was provided. The OSSF comes at no cost to the counties that NETMWD serves (Harrison, Marion, Morrison, and Upshur).

L. Overdyke: Agreement was re-upped for another ten years. Why is Daingerfield not reducing their phosphorus loading as much?

R. Speight: the City is working with a consultant at WWTP and industries to see how they can improve their discharge.

An overview of the Cypress Creek Basin Summary Report including information about water quality trends and impairments was presented.

T. Bister: For the DO data at Caddo, are these 24-hour readings or are they grab samples? What time of day were the grabs collected?

R. Rushin: Most grabs were collected in morning. More recent data have been collected around 9 to 10:00 AM. Most 24-hour diels were collected from 2000 to 2009. In 2009 or 2010, after we kept seeing the same pattern of diel data, the Coordinated Monitoring Committee agreed to stop doing diel monitoring and use those funds to collect at more stations across the basin. Only one of the around twelve Midlake (open water) diels fell below the criteria. If samples were taken later in day, then the DO may be higher. We must sample in the morning to meet holding times for laboratory samples.

L. Overdyke: Flows affect relationships with water quality. During periods of drought, salts tend to accumulate or become concentrated within the water column.

R. Rushin: Yes, that is correct, and it is evident the data collected through the pervasive drought of 1999 – 2014.

R. Rushin: Preference for future meetings – held only virtually or both in-person and virtually?

R. Speight: Please send me your feedback.

Virtual attendee: Virtual – it allows others to attend that can't travel.

D. Villareal: Virtual is best due to limited travel budget.

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES:

Robert Speight	Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
David Weidman	Sulphur River Basin Authority
Tim Bister	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Laura-Ashley Overdyke	Caddo Lake Institute
Mike Vanbuskirk	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Lauren Pulliam	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Colby Berry	US Army Corps of Engineers – Lake O’ the Pines
Randy Rushin	Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.
Wendy Rushin	Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.
Angela Kilpatrick	Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc.

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

Paul Prange	Ark-Tex Council of Governments
David Villareal	Texas Department of Agriculture
Reeves Hayter	Sulphur River Basin Authority Director
Kelly Kukowski	Lower Colorado River Authority
Jenna Wadman	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Samin Aziz	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Katie McElroy	North Texas Municipal Water District
Kristen Suprobo	North Texas Municipal Water District
Sarah Burns	North Texas Municipal Water District
Keith White	North Texas Municipal Water District
Veronica Baty	North Texas Municipal Water District
Jason Pierce	Upper Trinity Regional Water District
Marsha Gipson	US Geological Survey
Chris Farrell	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Dan Bennett	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Adam Whisenant	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
John Findiesen	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Dominik Sobieraj	Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
Bill Bartush	Heather Bennett
Judye Patterson	Elizabeth Simpkins
Trish Jones	Kim Terry
Darren Horton	Nelson Roach
Amy Taylor	Sharilyn Parr

Cypress Creek/ Sulphur Basin Clean Rivers Program

Stakeholder Sign-in Sheet

DATE: March 27, 2025

	NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	EMAIL ADDRESS
1	David Weldon		SRBA	
2	Tim Bister		TPWD	Timothy.Bister@tpwd.texas.gov
3	Lauren Pulliam		TCEQ	lauren.pulliam@tceq.texas.gov
4	Laura-Ashley Overduke		Caddo Lake Institute	Lao@CaddoLakeInstitute.org
5	Mike Umbuskirk		TCEQ	Michael.Umbuskirk@tceq.texas.gov
6	Angela Kilpatrick		WMS	Kilpatrick@sbcglobal.net
7	Wendy Ruskin		WMS	
8	Randy Ruskin		WMS	Randy@water-matters.com
9	Reba Speight		NetMUD	Speight@netmud.org
10	Cody Boney		USCOE	Cody.Boney@uscoe.army.mil
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