

2014 CYPRESS CREEK BASIN  
CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

The annual steering committee meeting was held at 10am on April 15, 2014 at the Executive Offices of the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District (NETMWD) in Hughes Springs Texas.

16 stakeholders were in attendance

NETMWD Team Leader for Water Quality, Robert Speight (RS) introduced himself to the group and gave a little background on his experiences in Water Quality and in the Basin.

All stakeholders introduced themselves.

RS gave a presentation on the Implementation Plan for the LOP TMDL for Dissolved Oxygen. RS covered the 5 year update process and the revisions that came about during this exercise. Revisions included changing the Group Permit for WWTP's to a Total Phosphorus Load Agreement (TPLA) whereby each permitted WWTP would reduce its TP output by 56% and monitor its TP loading each month and submit those results to NETMWD. Other revisions dealt with Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) Management Plans, Changes in Poultry numbers in facilities and the Marine Sanitation Device program.

RS further discussed the plans for NETMWD to do bacteriological sampling around Marinas on LOP this summer in conjunction with the MSD program.

Randy Rushin presented the Basin Summary Report (BSR) for the Cypress Basin.

Tim Bister, fisheries biologist for TPWD gave an update on Zebra Mussels and other invasive aquatic species of concern in the basin

Lee Eisenberg with the Center for Invasive Species Eradication (CISE) at Texas A&M made a presentation on Bio Control for Giant Salvinia. He runs the greenhouse facility at Caddo Lake that is rearing Giant Salvinia weevils in an effort to gain control of this fast growing invasive plant.

RS and Tim Bister gave an update on the recent paddlefish release event in Big Cypress Creek. A partnership of many agencies and NGOs tagged 47 paddlefish, erected monitoring equipment and released the fish at two locations in the creek. Partial funding was provided through a grant provided by the USCOE's Sustainable Rivers Program. The event drew National attention and was picked up and reported on by over 156 news outlets.

RS gave an update on the On Site Sewage Facility program. RS stated that the District administers the OSSF program in 4 counties; Upshur, Cass, Marion and Morris. The area totals over 2400 square miles with a good portion of it in the Cypress Basin. Setting a date for the next Stakeholder meeting was discussed but it was the consensus of the group that a mid spring 2015 meeting was desirable but did not want to set a date at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am