



**Lower Neches Valley Authority
Clean Rivers Program**

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LNVA Saltwater Barrier

6790 Bigner Rd

Beaumont, TX 77708

Date: August 1, 2024

Time: 1:30 pm

Attendees:

Jeannie Mahan- LNVA	Bruce Walker- Big Thicket Association
Bethany Stanton- LNVA	Jason Watson- LNVA
Terry Stelly- Southeast Texas Clean Air and Water	Paul Bertrand- Texas Master Naturalist
Katrina Smith-TCEQ	Dale Parish-Lower Sabine Neches SWCD#446
Jennie Knapp- Big Thicket Association	Qin Qian- Lamar University
Jan Ruppel- Big Thicket Association	Madgellen Cleary-TAMU
Veronica Sealy- TGLO	Brian Fife-LNVA
Terry Corbett-LNVA	Daniel Reed- NALCO water
Terry Gentry- TAMU	

Welcome and Introductions

A sign in sheet was provided for attendees to fill out as well as a copy of the meeting's agenda. Jeannie Mahan, LNVA CRP project manager, welcomed everyone who joined the steering committee meeting.

1. 2024 LNVA Clean Rivers Program Update

Speaker: Jeannie Mahan

LNVA

Jeannie Mahan, LNVA CRP project manager, reviewed LNVA Clean Rivers Program and highlights from 2024. Copies of recent reports (2024 Basin Highlights, 2021 Basin Summary Report, and the 2021 Neches River Study pamphlet) were provided. Big Thicket Association gave an update on the upcoming Neches River Rally in September. Jeannie mentioned a long time Stream Team member and BTA member who is retiring from stream team. The new de-listings and listings on the Draft 2024 Texas Integrated Report were discussed which segued into a project proposal for 2025. Bacteria Source Tracking (BST) on Pine Island Bayou is planned on three sites. Jeannie introduced Dr. Terry Gentry from Texas A&M and the next agenda item to inform everyone about bacteria source tracking.

2. Bacteria Source Tracking Overview

Speaker: Dr. Terry Gentry

Texas A&M University

Dr. Terry Gentry is professor of Soil and Aquatic Microbiology at Texas A&M University. He gave a presentation on what is involved with bacteria source tracking and an update about a recent study in the Galveston area. A number of questions were asked concerning bacteria source tracking such as how various animals are categorized as far as wildlife, livestock, or domesticated. It was asked how stringent the testing is for seasonal variability or significant rainfall events. The use of bacteria source tracking from an industrial perspective was also discussed.

3. An Overview of the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Division

Speaker: Veronica Sealy, General Land Office

Veronica Sealy, Qualified Response Officer for the General Land Office Oil Spill Division, gave a presentation on how the GLO was established and organized, various programs, and their outreach and education. Their number to report oil spills was provided, 1-800-

832-8224. She also announced they are moving to a new office location. A question was raised on how to deal with derelict vessels.

4. Saltwater Barrier Structure Tour: History and Function

Speakers: Terry Corbett and Jason Watson, LNVA

Terry Corbett, LNVA's Assistant Water Supply Manager, gave a presentation on the history of LNVA as well the development of the LNVA Saltwater Barrier. Questions were raised on how LNVA is maintaining flumes and flood gauge sources. The meeting concluded with Jason Watson, LNVA's Environmental Stewardship Manager, inviting attendees to go outside for a tour of the saltwater barrier structure and were educated on how the barrier functions.