



MEETING MINUTES

LOWER NECHES BASIN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018 11:30 AM
6790 BIGNER ROAD
BEAUMONT, TX 77708

Attendees:

Jeannie Bowlen	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Joe Parish	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Hannah Lucia	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Terry Corbett	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Risa Carpenter	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Heath Thompson	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Chris Barrow	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Jay Saberon	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Wade Broussard	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Sarah Eagle	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Richard Harrel	Clean Air & Water (CAW)
Terry Stelly	Texas Parks & Wildlife Coastal Fisheries (TPWD-CF)
Matthew Pyne	Lamar University
Qin Qian	Lamar University
Ellen Buchanan	Big Thicket Association
Dale Parish	Big Thicket Association/Texas Stream Team Citizen/CAW
Johnny Darcey	General Land Office (GLO)
Daniel Reed	ChemTreat
Chris Smith	Winfield United
Clint Pustejovsky	Texas Snakes

I. Welcome & Introductions

Mrs. Jeannie Bowlen, with Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with a brief overview of discussion topics on the agenda.

II. Invasive Plants

Mr. Chris Smith, with Winfield Chemical, provided information regarding Invasive Plants found in East Texas, some problems they can cause and methods for removal.

III. Overview of the Clean Rivers Program

Mrs. Hannah Lucia provided a brief history of the Clean Rivers Program (CRP), noting its purpose. The presentation highlighted LNVA's water quality monitoring activities in the Lower Neches River Basin. LNVA monitors 23 stations for conventionals, bacteria, and field parameters. Maps of segments and sampling sites were presented.

Mr. Dale Parish had a question concerning Texas Stream Team (TST) monitoring. He noted it may be beneficial to have Citizen Scientist monitor LNVA stations on a monthly basis.

Hannah Lucia stated that LNVA CRP staff anticipates obtaining Certified TST Instructor Training in the near future and would then like to hold a Citizen Scientist Training event at LNVA Salt Water Barrier Lab in early 2019.

IV. Hurricane Harvey and Its Effect on LNVA's CRP Program

Mr. Joe Parish, presented information regarding LNVA's Clean River's Program impact and some lessons learned from Harvey.

V. Future Direction of the LNVA CRP Program

Mrs. Jeannie Bowlen, with Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) provided information about LNVA's CRP Future Direction. She detailed LNVA's Post Harvey Changes, CRP Program Goals, and the Draft 2016 Texas Integrated Report.

VI. Navigating the LNVA website (TCEQ Data, TCEQ links, CWQMN, Canal Data)

Mrs. Jeannie Bowlen, Mrs. Risa Carpenter and Mr. Heath Thompson with LNVA presented information and slides for navigating the LNVA website. They covered LNVA's website homepage, CRP link, TCEQ link to the Surface Water Quality Web Reporting Tool, Basin Segment information, Basin Highlights Reports, Daily Canal Water Quality Information and archive data, and The SETX R.A.I.N. (Southeast Texas Regional Alerting & Information Network).

Mr. Terry Stelly had a question concerning public access to Industry Discharge Monitoring Reports. LNVA staff, Johnny Darcey with the GLO and Sarah Eagle all noted that industry is required to report permit exceedances.

Mr. Terry Stelly asked if Drainage District 6 (DD6) was involved with the SETX R.A.I.N. program. Mrs. Carpenter and Mr. Thompson noted that they were not currently involved. Current gauges displayed are from USGS and NWS/NOAA data.

Mrs. Ellen Buchanan noted it would be beneficial to have more gages and information displayed for the South Beaumont area.

VII. Identifying Venomous Snakes in the Neches Basin

Mr. Clint Pustejovsky presented field safety information concerning Venomous Snakes in the SETX.

Mr. Dale Parish requested advice on equipment/grabbers.

Mr. Jay Saberon requested information about public opportunities to gather/survey venomous snakes.

VIII. Open Discussion for Steering Committee Member Recommendations and Concerns

No further discussion occurred. The meeting was closed at 2:30 p.m.