



## MEETING MINUTES

LOWER NECHES BASIN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020, 2:00 PM  
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

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### Attendees:

#### LNVA

- Brielle Patronella
- Craig Sterling
- Bethany Stanton
- Jeannie Bowlen
- Jason Watson
- Risa Barber

Dale Parrish

Taylor Shelton

Michael Schramm

Wendy Ledbetter

Bruce Walker

Nicole Reed

Tim Cawthon

Rebecca DuPont

Sade Chick

Jan Ruppel

I. Welcome & Introductions

Presenter: Jeannie Bowlen

Welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending in the Zoom virtual format. Attendees were directed to sign in using a link to a Google form.

II. LNVA'S Clean Rivers Monitoring Program

Presenter/Organization: Jeannie Bowlen and Craig Sterling

Overview of the Texas Clean Rivers Program that segued into LNVA's Clean Rivers Program. Presentation included LNVA's assessment area, CMS and CAMS749 overviews and links, other monitoring for CRP (24 hr DO and ALMs). It also included a brief overview of 23 CRP sites that LNVA are responsible for monitoring and the locations that TCEQ Region 10 monitors. Data/parameter collections for each sites, entry into LIMS system (and QA), and data submittal to SWQMIS was also discussed.

Questions:

A question was raised about whether data from Texas Stream Team was going into the integrated report. TCEQ staff was able to relay that is data is not used in the integrated report and stream team has their own data system.

III. Update on Aquatic Life Monitoring in Segment 0608

Presenter/Organization: Brielle Patronella- LNVA

Overview about Cypress and Beech Creeks ALM events, location and conditions. Time of year that ALM occurs. DO, Flow, Habitat Assessment/Physical characteristics, Benthics, Nekton (Fish) Sampling overview. Preliminary Results for this year 2020 (June and August), and reasons for the results. Another ALM event is planned for 2021.

Questions:

A question was raised about how rain events effect sampling and ALM events. Significant rain events can postpone sampling. It was noted that heavy rainfall can scour the waterbodies and potentially remove the aquatic life that would normally be there. Sampling after a rain event doesn't provide an accurate measure of Aquatic life for data assessment.

**IV. Academy of Natural Science of Drexel University 2020 Neches River Monitoring Project**

Presenter/Organization: Jason Watson- LNVA Environmental Stewardship Manager  
Partnering with Drexel University for study of Neches, new changes to the Neches River (widening the bottom for industry) make new study necessary from 2003.

Questions:

A question was raised about the availability of slides after meeting. Anyone requesting the slides was contacted after the meeting and the presentation was emailed to them.

**V. Total Maximum Daily Load and Watershed Planning Projects in the Lower Neches Basin**

Presenter/Organization: Michael Schramm- AgriLife

Update on current status of the TMDL and I-Plan watershed for Neches River Tidal and Hillebrandt Bayou. Bacteria issues in Wolf and Sandy Creek. Goal is to have plan to submit by summer.

Questions:

A question was raised about TMDL's and about nonpoint pollution sources within the specific watersheds being affected. It was noted that its best to figure out those sources before the projects starts if possible.

**VI. Current status of public participation programs and scheduled events due to COVID-19**

Presenter/Organization: Jeannie Bowlen-LNVA

Covid has definitely limited participation with public. Outdoor expo participation, no Neches River Rally, Texas Stream Team cannot go forward yet. LNVA will be looking into more social media participation. Brief mention of some stakeholder participation regarding Lake Amanda study and upcoming SFA student research project.

**VII. LNVA Canal Water Quality Update**

Presenter/Organization: Jeannie Bowlen-LNVA

Canal maintenance discussed; schedule shown (hopefully finished in December), no maintenance that will change source water from Neches River is currently scheduled for 2021.

**VIII. Closing Remarks**

There were no closing questions so the meeting was concluded.