



## MEETING MINUTES

LOWER NECHES BASIN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2019 10:00 AM  
6790 BIGNER ROAD  
BEAUMONT, TX 77708

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### Attendees:

Jeannie Bowlen	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Hannah Lucia	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Brielle Patronella	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Craig Sterling	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Terry Corbett	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Risa Barber	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Dennis Becker	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Heath Thompson	Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA)
Sarah Eagle	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Scott Griffith	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Randy Rushin	Water Monitoring Solutions
Jeff Shiflet	Water Monitoring Solutions
Terrie Looney	Big Thicket Association
Nikki Fitzgerald	Marine AgriLife Extension Service
Michael Schramm	Texas Water Resources Institute
Ryan Lytle	Texas General Land Office
Terry Stelly	Clean Air and Water Inc
Taylor Shelton	City of Port Neches
Thomas Dean	ExxonMobil
Ellen Buchanan	Big Thicket National Heritage Trust
Bruce Walker	Big Thicket Association
Dale Parish	Lower Sabine-Neches Soil & Water Conservation District

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## **I. Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting started at 10:00 am with opening remarks from LNVA staff and attendees introducing themselves.

## **II. Aquatic Life Monitoring in Segment 0608**

A representative from Water Monitoring Solutions made a presentation about aquatic life monitoring and upcoming work they will be doing in Segment 608 for LNVA on Beech Creek and Cypress Creek.

- A question was asked if there are any long term plans (50-100yr) regarding data availability and assessment. It was discussed that TCEQ and EPA both provide public access to data. It was noted that CRP contracts/funding takes place every 2 years, and that TPWD is responsible for monitoring the states fish populations/species increase/decreases.

## **III. Texas Clean Rivers Program and LNVA's Monitoring Program**

LNVA staff presented an overview of the Clean Rivers Program and LNVA's Monitoring Program and upcoming changes to the FY 20-21 schedule.

- A question was raised as to why specific sites of Beech and Cypress were chosen for Aquatic Life Monitoring. A discussion ensued about the specific impairments for those two creeks listed on the Texas Integrated Report and why they were candidates for extra monitoring.
- Another question was asked if links to the websites covered in the presentation were available on LNVA's website. LNVA staff noted to include a link to the USGS water monitoring station located on the LNVA canal, the Coordinated Monitoring Schedule on Lower Colorado River Authority's website, and a link to the Continuous Ambient Monitoring Station 749 located on Pine Island Bayou.

## **IV. Texas Stream Team Participation**

LNVA staff presented information about the Texas Stream Team and how to participate in the program. A date for a training for new members is being scheduled.

## **V. Texas Freshwater Mussel Conservation**

LNVA staff made a presentation on LNVA's mussel conservation efforts.

- A question was asked if the substrate was left intact after LNVA mussel survey/relocation. It was indicated by LNVA staff that the substrate was not affected.
- A question as to where the mussels were relocated also came up. It was noted that most were relocated to the Neches River and any threatened species found were relocated to the Village Creek segment.

**VI. LNVA Canal Water Quality**

LNVA staff presented an update on LNVA canal water quality and upcoming continuous monitoring capability.

- A question was asked as to what unit True Color would be reported in. It was answered that True Color is presented in PCU which stands for Platinum-Cobalt Units.

**V. Total Maximum Daily Load and Watershed Planning Projects for Neches River Tidal and Wolf Creek**

Texas Water Resource Institute representative gave stakeholders an update on upcoming TMDL and watershed planning projects for the Neches River Tidal and Wolf Creek. He also gave information on upcoming public meeting to be held August 22 at Cattail Marsh.

- The planning projects involve bacteria monitoring and a question was raised by a stakeholder if weather conditions were considered when interpreting historical E. coli or Enterococcus geometric means.

**VI. Texas State Flood Plan**

LNVA staff made an announcement that during the 86th Legislative Session, the Texas Water Development Board was given the task to create Texas' first state flood plan and implementing a new flood financing program. Support for this planning was requested from any interested stakeholders as well as notice given for the next local meeting addressing the topic.

**VII. Closing**

Closing remarks and thanks were made to the stakeholders for their continued support. The meeting closed at 11:40 a.m.