

M E E T I N G S U M M A R Y

Colorado River Segment 1426
TMDL I-Plan Coordination Committee Meeting
May 22, 2013
Ballinger City Hall, Ballinger TX

Meeting convened at 10:05 am with Chuck Brown of the Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) moderating. A sign-in sheet was passed around, and project fact sheets and agendas were handed out.

Brown provided introductory remarks and gave an overview of the Colorado River Segment 1426 TMDL project, the existing Implementation Plan and explained the current effort to update the I-plan. He also solicited membership for the coordination committee and discussed and made an appeal for membership to include private citizens and not just agency personnel.

Lauren Oertel, the TCEQ Project Manager provided an overview and explanation of the TMDL process stating that the basic purpose of the initial meeting was to solicit membership. She explained UCRA's role and tasks involved in making recommendations for the update of the I-Plan. She also explained the difference between formal and informal working coordination committees, the possible duties of technical work groups, and the fact that members don't need to be experts, but rather interested persons. It was decided that the coordination Committee would function by consensus on an informal basis.

Brown gave a PowerPoint presentation that generated discussion from attendees on sulfates, chlorides, and TDS concerns of the segment. Brown presented findings included in the TMDL study regarding the source distribution of the constituents of concern. Estimated percentage contributions from the various major sources identified in the TMDL include 65% from groundwater, 15% from point sources, and 10% from produced water.

Brown led a discussion on potential strategies that might be recommended by the coordination committee in the I-Plan. Most of the discussion focused on brush control (mainly salt cedar) and oil field activities. There was general agreement on the need for salt cedar control throughout the stream reach and in OH Ivie Reservoir basin. Stream water quality standards were discussed and whether the standard for this stream reach might need to be changed. Oertel responded that it would be difficult to get the standards changed.

The fact that releases from Spence Reservoir are no longer occurring because of the drought and even if there was water in Spence, that releases are no longer required for the Concho Water Snake was mentioned. A Robert Lee WWTP operator commented on noncompliance problems he encountered from TCEQ when the plant was using Spence water. The water was so bad that the treatment system couldn't achieve drinking water standards.

A question about using different technologies to locate problem areas was posed and discussed. Several other topics, that included GW District boundaries and groundwater quality data availability and sharing, were discussed. The difference between natural, nonpoint source and point source contamination contributors was discussed and explained.

Suggestions of various possibilities were made and discussed including penalizing oil operators for contamination caused by wells and siphoning saltier water from the bottom of Spence Reservoir and selling it to oil companies for water flood operations instead of using fresh water.

The location of the next meeting was set for approximately 6 weeks, with a tentative meeting date of June 26th at 10:00 a.m. in Bronte. It was the consensus of the group that the meetings would rotate between Bronte, Robert Lee and Ballinger.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.