

## **MINUTES**

Brady Stakeholder Meeting  
February 28, 2013  
Brady Civic Center, Brady TX

Meeting convened at 10:15 am with Chuck Brown of the Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) moderating.

**Chairperson Joe Mosier** called the meeting to order with brief, general introductory remarks and introduced Chuck Brown.

**Brown** gave a brief overview of the Brady Watershed Protection Plan project, how it came about and where it is going. Brown mentioned the distressed dissolved oxygen (DO) impairment in the river segment that runs through the City of Brady. Brown explained that EPA's primary focus for this WPP is in developing a way to achieve the de-listing of this impairment. It was mentioned that other stakeholder concerns were also being addressed. Following these introductory remarks and discussion, Brown stated that ambient monitoring and stormwater monitoring for the project has concluded. A map of monitoring site locations and a water quality data table were presented. Mr. Brown stated that in general, the water quality in the upper basin is good except for chlorides, and excellent in the lower basin. Due to a lack of rainfall events, only two of the planned three Urban Brady storm water monitoring events were completed, one very small event and one large event (probably on the order of a 35-50 year event). One significant phosphorus exceedance was measured but attributed to localized paving activity that uses phosphoric acid in the process.

Brown mentioned previous structural BMPs that were emplaced in Brady Creek and briefly discussed what BMPs are. It was mentioned that in all likelihood, because of the lack of available land areas at potential BMP sites, that vortex separators are the most likely candidate for storm water treatment in Brady. Typical pollutant removal efficiencies are 80% for solids, oil, and grease, and 50% for nutrients.

The Melvin salt complaint was mentioned, but because it was an agenda item, discussion was deferred until the agenda item presentation. Stakeholder mentioned that farming activity can cause salinity problems through the use of NPK fertilizers.

Golden Algae was brought up by the stakeholder group and some general information was presented. City of Brady employee stated that a fish kill occurred on Brady Lake in February of 2012, and that over 12,000 lbs of dead fish were loaded and hauled off from the lake. He further stated, that there were probably at least that many that were killed, but not hauled off.

Stakeholder question regarding possible reduction in downstream flows and potential land value diminishment was deferred to roundtable discussion at end of agenda items.

**Dr. Larry Hauk, Texas Institute of Applied Environmental Research (TIAER)**, gave an overview and update on the various computer models to be used in the project and provided a Power Point presentation. The Power Point presentation will be posted on the Project Page of the UCRA website <http://www.ucratx.org/NPSBrady.html>.

Hauk described the benefits of using models and why models are preferred by EPA in projects such as this, i.e. they are predictive. Most of the discussion centered on the SWAT, SWMM and the QUAL2K models.

SWMM is a storm water model that has the capability of estimating water quality parameters and hydrologic parameters. Efforts on this project are somewhat limited by the small (only 2) number of storm water events that were monitored. However, the model can be calibrated to the smaller event as it will be closer to the typical event and will give acceptable numbers.

QUAL2K has to do with how and what enhances DO in a system and what diminishes DO in a system. Hauk stated that probably the only way to address the DO problem in Brady Creek was to increase flows. Brady Lake dam is the reason for no flows except for storm water flows in Brady.

The SWAT model was used in the upper basin above Brady Lake. Different conditions have been run on the model including brush control and removal of SCS Dams. Outputs of the SWAT model supply inputs to the model being used for flows into the lake.

Stakeholders raised the question again of diminished flows downstream and of Brady and lowering of land values. Discussion was deferred to the roundtable discussion at the end of the agenda items.

**Scott McWilliams, UCRA**, provided an update of the oil field issue 6 miles south of Melvin in the area where bulls died from drinking surface water in a stock tank. This area is in subwatershed for a tributary to Brady Lake and may likely contribute to the high chlorides that have been measured in the recent years. There are also continued reports of saltwater dumping on Co. Rd 126 from a big truck. This is an area of shallow groundwater with noticeable seepage. The Railroad Commission is involved and is now doing a thorough study. Extremely high ammonia levels in both the stock tank and the produced water from the oilfield is an indicator that the problem could be oil production related.

McWilliams reported that the Texas Railroad Commission has responded at UCRA's urging and is in the process of conducting a study of the nearby oilfield activities. Water quality sampling, soil sampling, casing pressure testing and possibly other tests will be conducted by them. McWilliams presented a copy of the letter sent to UCRA regarding the site. McWilliams stated that the time frame for completing the study could be lengthy, given his experience with the Railroad Commission.

## **General Discussion**

The general discussion centered around the concern for diminished flow downstream of Brady. Mr. Brown briefly detailed the City of Brady's plan to pump treated effluent from their waste water treatment plant (WWTP) to Brady Lake to offset evaporation losses. Joe Mosier stated that the City of Brady has a grant/loan application submitted which is currently under review by TWDB and includes construction of a new WWTP and the pipeline to pump effluent to the lake. Mosier also stated that pumping some of the water through Richards Park is included in the application. Downstream stakeholders object to any lowering of downstream flows. In answer to a question about where 24hr DO measurements have to be taken, Mr. Brown briefly explained the TCEQ's surface water assessment process. The critical period of May 15 to Sept 15 for DO was discussed.

McWilliams stated that additional model runs would be made over the next couple weeks and available options will be refined. Another stakeholder meeting will take place in about a month. At that time various BMPs will be presented to the stakeholder group and they will have to arrive at a consensus regarding what remedial measures are going to be included in the WPP. Downstream stakeholders vowed to have increased representation at the next meeting. Mosier stated that UCRA could get a copy of the City of Brady's TWDB grant/loan application from their engineer.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.**