

M I N U T E S

Brady Stakeholder Meeting
May 3, 2012
Jacoby Feed Store, Melvin TX

Meeting convened at 9:40 am with Chuck Brown of the Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) moderating.

Chairperson Joe Mosier began by discussing planning and grant activities under way by the city, including the possibility of moving the wastewater plant discharge into Brady Lake. If this happens, some water may be released to Brady Creek below the dam. He also commented that the watershed protection plan developed for Brady Creek will help to get more grants and allow the City of Brady to move forward on projects such as replacing more water lines and adding another well into the aquifer.

Brown gave an overview of the long-term Brady Project, which began in 2001 with an emphasis on storm water. The project is now watershed wide. Brown stated that Brady Creek within the city of Brady is not meeting water quality standards set by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for aquatic life use due to low dissolved oxygen (DO) as a result of little to no flow. The goal is to improve water quality Brady Creek so that the creek meets water quality standards.

Brown also presented data and provided the following summary of the monitoring data with collections that began November 2010:

- #20406 (Eden) no water quality concerns
- #20409 (Melvin) lower flow on average than Eden site and concerns for chlorides/TDS are elevated.
- #17347 (Co. Rd 128) almost no base flows since monitoring began, concerns for chlorides/TDS high – Brady lake increasing in salts
- #20410 (Brady Lake) concerns for chlorides/TDS high; Golden algae found and resulted in large fish kill.
- #20411 (Ranch site close to confluence of San Saba): no water quality concerns, flow good

There will be one more month of monitoring and then the focus will be on storm water. The project ends Feb. 2013, so the monitoring phase will wrap up in October-November and the Watershed Protection Plan will then be finalized.

John Ingle with Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD) gave the group an update on golden algae. He stated that municipal lakes are generally too large to treat for golden algae due to the high costs of chemicals.

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. Forrest Armke said that oil production began in the early 1990's and would coincide with the findings.

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 and handout. The materials will be posted on the Project Page of the UCRA website <http://www.ucratx.org/NPSBrady.html>.

Dr. Christy Youker, UCRA, discussed education and outreach efforts, which includes the promotion of a 4th grade Major Rivers curriculum unit (Texas Water Development Board) to be delivered prior to Fall 2012, and discussed plans for a city-wide clean up along the creek.

General Discussion

Concerns in the watershed from past meetings were reviewed. Brush control was noted by UCRA as a high priority based on previous stakeholder feedback. Other concerns identified from previous stakeholder group meetings and recent events included: Soil Conservation Service (SCS) impoundments maintenance, salt water pollution and illegal dumping, feral hog population, Brady Lake salinity, golden algae in Brady Lake, depressed DO levels in Brady Creek, and sedimentation and riparian management throughout the entire watershed. The stakeholder group had no additional comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.