

Minutes of Meeting
Mid Cibolo Creek (Segment 1913) Dissolved Oxygen TMDL
Initial Stakeholder Group Public Meeting

July 27, 2006

7:00 pm – 8:45 pm

City of Cibolo Council Chambers
Cibolo, Texas

Potential Stakeholders Present: Robert Adams (CH2M Hill); Rowena Clark Layton (public); David Dennis (Cibolo Creek Municipal Authority – CCMA); Gary Fairley (Cibolo Valley Environmental Residents Assoc.); Mike Gonzales (San Antonio River Authority (SARA); Steve Layton (public); Stephen Lusk (SARA); Todd Parton (City of Cibolo); Cathy and Mark Peshorn (agricultural property owner); Jennifer Peters (Weston Solution for Randolph AFB); James Smith (CCMA); Joel Tanner (President of Greater Lost Meadows Neighborhood Assoc.); Jim Wolverton (Guadalupe Co.)

Others Present: Chris Budnik (CCMA); Melissa Bryant (SARA); Augie Dela Cruz (monitoring company); Ken Diehl (San Antonio Water System); David Humphrey (CCMA); Ed Ling (public); Karen Sablan (SARA); Erich Strey (CCMA Board Member); Aaron Wendt (TSSWCB)

Support Team Present: Andrew Sullivan (TCEQ); Larry Hauck (TIAER)

Materials Distributed:

The following materials were provided at the meeting: 1) Meeting agenda; 2) Handouts of presentations (1. restoring water quality in Texas surface waters and 2. water quality impairments of concern in Mid Cibolo Creek); 3) reports titled *Impairment Verification Monitoring – Dissolved Oxygen – Segment 1913 Mid Cibolo Creek* and *Impairment Verification Monitoring – Biological and Habitat Components – Segment 1913 Middle Cibolo Creek*.

Welcome & Introduction

The initial meeting of the Mid Cibolo Creek Dissolved Oxygen TMDL stakeholder group was held on Thursday, July 27, 2006 from 7:00 PM until 8:45 PM. The meeting took place in the Council Chambers of the City of Cibolo. Larry Hauck (TIAER) introduced the meeting, Andrew Sullivan (TCEQ) made initial comments, and self-introductions were made by each present.

Meeting Presentations

Mr. Sullivan provided a presentation on restoring water quality in Texas surface waters. The materials presented included an overview of the Texas Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program, water quality assessment and listing process, approaches to restore impaired waters, key elements of the TMDL program, and approval process for TMDLs

and Implementation Plans. The presentation provided an overview of the general structure and mechanisms within the TMDL Program.

Following Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Hauck provided a presentation on the specifics of the dissolved oxygen impairment in Mid Cibolo Creek and the TMDL project status and future work elements. The presentation included the dissolved oxygen criteria for the limited aquatic life use designation of Mid Cibolo Creek, the assessment of dissolved oxygen data collected in 2002 – 2004 that confirmed the original impairment listing, and project status. The more immediate project objectives are to collect one more intensive monitoring data set to support computer modeling and initiation of the TMDL allocation process using dissolved oxygen computer modeling.

Questions & Answers

Several questions were asked of Messrs. Sullivan and Hauck. The main questions and a summary of the responses are provided below.

How is stormwater regulated differently from point sources?

Stormwater discharges are regulated by means of the implementation of structures to control pollution to water bodies. These structures may include such things as filter strips and detention basins. There can also be educational programs, which may affect the actions of individuals in the watershed. Cleaning up after your dog and fertilizer application for lawns are examples.

What does limited aquatic life use mean?

A limited aquatic life use represents an aquatic ecosystem, which is less robust than others observed throughout the State. There are four aquatic life use subcategories (Limited, Intermediate, High and Exceptional) that define the status of aquatic communities in streams, rivers and reservoirs throughout the State. In many cases the specific subcategory of aquatic life use is defined by the flow conditions in the stream. Because portions of Mid Cibolo Creek have either intermittent flow or very low flow characteristics much of the time, a limited aquatic life use has been designated for the creek.

What is the appropriate dissolved oxygen for Mid Cibolo Creek?

Mid Cibolo Creek has a limited aquatic life use, which is associated with a minimum dissolved oxygen of 2.0 mg/L and an average dissolved oxygen of 3.0 mg/L. At these levels, limited aquatic communities should be able to survive.

How detailed is the source identification to which the loads are allocated? Should the several tributaries and the CCMA discharge be considered?

The load allocation will be performed based on low flow periods, since the dissolved oxygen exceedances appear most common under low flow conditions. Under this scenario contributions from tributaries and runoff will be less important than the municipal discharge.

How will drought affect the TMDL?

Under extreme low flows certain water quality criteria do not apply. Dissolved oxygen criteria are among those effected by extreme low flow conditions. The models used to allocate the loads will have the ability to simulate different flow conditions in order to develop the most reasonable TMDL based on the prevailing conditions in the watershed.

How were the sampling points chosen?

Site selection was primarily driven by access to the stream in the form of road crossings. Access to locations on private land is especially challenging when landowners prohibit access. Each site was characterized several hundred meters up and downstream of the actual sampling point.

What is being monitored?

The complete suite of constituents was mentioned the included nutrient forms (dissolved and organic), total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, chlorophyll-a (a pigment in algae), and various other parameters and tests needed to characterize the system to aid in the computer modeling.

How will the stakeholder process proceed?

There will likely be 1-2 meetings per year. Frequency is up to the group; however, the TCEQ would be reluctant to conduct a meeting if there was very little information to present. A formal stakeholder group will be formed consisting of individuals willing to participate. It is anticipated that this group would be balanced, representing all of the interests in the watershed. Each meeting will be conducted in accordance with established ground rules.

How can we get additional information about the data collection and chemistry?

Prior to the next meeting we will attempt to come up with some background material, which explains the chemistry and the constituents monitored as part of the project.

Concluding Comments & Adjournment

At the conclusion of the meeting each attendee was encouraged to make any necessary changes to the sign-in sheets in order to indicate desires to serve as a member of the stakeholder committee.

San Antonio River Authority staff mentioned that in order to prevent further water quality problems in Mid Cibolo Creek it would be good to address the growth in the area through education programs about on-site sewage facilities (e.g., septic systems) and fertilizer application rates.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.