



Clean Rivers Program
Upper Neches River Basin Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 30th, 2024 1:00 PM

Attendees:

Jeremiah Poling	Angelina & Neches River Authority (Speaker)
Andrew Henry	Angelina & Neches River Authority (Speaker)
Kimberly Wagner	Angelina & Neches River Authority (Speaker)
Luna Yang	Texas Water Resources Institute (Speaker)
Marisa Collura	Texas Water Resources Institute
Katrina Smith	TCEQ
Robin Cypher*	TCEQ
Jose Lopez	Texas Conservation Alliance (Speaker)
Sam Hernandez	The Citizen Nacogdoches (Speaker)
Ashley Villarreal	Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful (Speaker)
Curtis Craven	Filmmaker (Speaker)
Carmen Montana-Schalk	Stephen F. Austin State University
Lisa Reid	Citizen
Anonymous	Citizen
Anonymous	Citizen
David Villarreal*	Texas Agriculture
Manuel Martinez*	Texas Agriculture
Alfonso Morua*	City of Dallas
Jesus Trevino*	City of Dallas

**Online Participant*

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Mr. Jeremiah Poling gave a brief introduction to the meeting itself, then listed off the meeting's schedule – speakers and topics. He then gave a brief overview of ANRA as an organization, concerning ANRA's jurisdictional area, departments, and facilities.

2. Overview of the Clean River Program:

Mr. Andrew Henry gave an overview of the Clean Rivers Program, describing what the program itself is, followed by telling the audience what ANRA's CRP budget allocations were, where ANRA monitors for CRP, what parameters ANRA collects, and how many CRP sites are within the Neches Basin and who those sites are monitored by. In addition to this, Mr. Henry briefly covered changes

to the 303(d) List, a list containing impaired water bodies in Texas, where Neches Basin sites had either been added, removed, or reclassified on the list.

3. Updates to ANRA's Water Quality Monitoring Program and the 2024 Basin Highlights Report:

Mr. Henry also spoke about the most recent Basin Highlights Report – a watershed characterization report examining Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Lake Palestine Watersheds. Mr. Henry spoke about why these two watersheds were chosen – similar impairments but vastly different environments. Snapshots of different pages of the report were displayed, ranging from geographic data to water chemistry. Other updates to the program mentioned in the report were also covered.

4. TMDL and Clean Water Act Project Updates:

Ms. Luna Yang gave updates on the CWA projects on the Attoyac Bayou, La Nana Bayou, and Ayish Bayou watersheds – their statuses, goals, and other information. The Attoyac project is ending monitoring in August 2024, the La Nana project currently underway, and the Ayish project is beginning with the new fiscal year in September.

5. Education and Outreach Updates:

Ms. Kimberly Wagner gave updates on ANRA's Recreation, Education, and Outreach program. This entailed the events ANRA attended/presented at, ANRA's Stash your Trash! and Alligator Snapping Turtle awareness campaigns, Texas Stream Team updates, Neches River Rendezvous updates and future plans, and an introduction to ANRA's internship partnership with SFASU's CARRI program.

6. Guest Speakers

There were four guest speakers: Ms. Ashley Villarreal, Mr. Jose Lopez, Mr. Sam Hernandez, and Mr. Curtis Craven. Ms. Villarreal spoke about Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful and the projects they work on such as cleanup day events and earth and arbor day celebrations. Next, Mr. Lopez spoke about the Texas Conservation Alliance – an organization focused on wildlife, that hosts events like waterway cleanups and other things that focus on getting the public involved in nature. Then Mr. Hernandez spoke about The Citizen, an organization focused on groundwater remediation for the building they own. Lastly, Mr. Craven spoke about a documentary he is filming concerning the Neches Basin, and then he showed the audience video clip previews of some portions of the documentary.

Open discussion for Steering Committee Member recommendations and concerns:

Lastly, the floor was opened to discussion. There were no questions, recommendations, or concerns voiced by the public/steering committee, so the meeting was adjourned.