Sabine River Authority of Texas
2024 TCRP Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Upper Basin Meeting Quitman, TX on 4/16/2024 - 18 stakeholders in attendance

- Sign-in and Lunch

- Luke Sanders Senior Biologist, SRA-TX

1. Introduction

2. Texas Clean Rivers Program (TCRP) overview

- Partnership formed between Sabine River Authority of Texas (SRA-TX) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in 1991 with the goal of maintaining and improving water quality across the state of Texas.

- TCRP serves to centralize, standardize, and qualify water quality data and make it available to the public.

3. Draft Sabine River Basin Summary Report

Segment Summaries:

Tidal Segment 0501
- Impairment for bacteria and PCBs in edible tissue
- Little Cypress Bayou remains on the 2020 IR 303(d) list for (Recreational Use), depressed DO, bacteria and toxicity
- RUAA completed, no recommendations at this time

Tidal Segment 0511 – Cow Bayou Tidal
- Cow Bayou tidally influenced: Impairment for bacteria and low pH, concern for DO.
- Cow Bayou above tidal influence: impaired for DO
- Coon Bayou: impaired for DO and bacteria
- Cole Creek: impaired for DO
- Terry Gully: impaired for DO and bacteria

Segment 0508 - Adams Bayou Tidal
- Adams Bayou in tidal influence: concern for DO
- Adams Bayou above tidal influence: impaired for DO
- Included in the Orange County TMDL Project (2002) for depressed DO and bacteria

- Gum Gully and Hudson Gully: impairment for DO and bacteria

Segment 0502 – Sabine River above Tidal
- No impairments to the main classified water body of the Sabine River
- Nichols Creek has a concern for bacteria
- Caney Creek has a concern for bacteria

Segment 0503 – Sabine River above Caney Creek
- No impairments or concerns

Segment 0513 – Big Cow Creek
- Impairment for bacteria
- Concern for lead
- Regression analysis indicated e. coli is decreasing over time

Segment 0504 – Toledo Bend Reservoir
- No impairments or concerns with water quality
- Impairment for Mercury in edible tissue for all CRP reservoir sites.
- A fish consumption advisory, first issued in 1998 by TDSH for largemouth bass and freshwater drum for mercury, remains in place
- Clear Lake also has a fish consumption advisory for mercury that has been in place since 2006

Segment 0505 – Sabine River above Toledo Bend
- The Sabine River from Hatley Creek upstream to Grace Creek remains on the 303(d) list for bacteria
- Grace Creek remains on the 303(d) list for bacteria.
- Grace Creek has been removed from the 303(d) list for DO following the results from a 24-hour DO study that was completed in 2015
- A completed RUAA supports the revision of Grace Creek from primary contact recreation to secondary contact recreation.
- Wards Creek remains on the 303(d) list for DO and has a concern for impaired habitat
- Hills Lake remains on the 303(d) list due to a fish consumption advisory for mercury in largemouth bass and freshwater drum
- Rabbit Creek has a concern for bacteria

Segment 0506 – Sabine River Below Lake Tawakoni
- Harris Creek Remains on the 303(d) list for DO and has a concern for bacteria
- Wiggins Creek has a concern for ammonia and DO

Segment 0514 – Big Sandy Creek
- Big Sandy Creek remains on the 303(d) list for bacteria and pH

Segment 0515 – Lake Fork Creek

- No impairments or concerns

Segment 0512 – Lake Fork Reservoir

- No impairments of concerns on reservoir
- Running Creek and Elm Creek both remains on the 303(d) list for bacteria
- A completed RUAA supports the revision from primary contact recreation to secondary contact recreation for both creeks
- Running Creek has a concern for ammonia, nitrate and DO
- Elm Creek has a concern for ammonia and DO

Segment 0507 – Lake Tawakoni Reservoir

- No impairments of concerns in the reservoir
- South Fork of the Sabine River remains on the 303(d) list for bacteria.
- Cowleech Fork of the Sabine River has a concern for nitrate, DO and Chl-a
- Long Branch has a concern for nitrate
- Caddo Creek has a concern for DO

Conclusions

- The majority of water quality data continues to meet TSWQS and screening criteria. The most frequently exceeded TSWQS parameter within the basin was bacteria, *Enterococcus* or *E. coli.* During periods of significant rainfall and increased stream turbidity, elevated levels of bacteria continued to be measured. Elevated levels of bacteria are attributed primarily to wildlife and non-point sources, but additional sources may include industrial and municipal point source discharges, on-site treatment systems, sanitary sewer overflow discharges, and package plant or other permitted small flow discharges.

4. Community Assistance Program
   - Information available on SRA-TX website: https://www.sratx.org/basin-development/economic-development/

- Bill Kirby, Natural Resource Director, SRA-TX

  5. Natural Resource Program Overview and Update

  - Public Outreach and Education
  - Cooperation with other Agencies
  - Sabine River Mussel Surveys
  -Toledo Bend Eel Passage and Survey Work

- Jamie East, Water Resources Director, SRA-TX

  6. Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan (WCDCP)

  - WCDCP is updated on a 5-year cycle
  - The Draft 2024 WCDCP is posted to the SRA website and comments can be submitted to Jamie East jeast@sratx.org or 409-746-2192
  - Final Draft WCDCP will be submitted to TCEQ on May 1 ,2024

- 7. Questions: None

- Coordinated Monitoring Meeting – Continue routine sampling with no changes for the next fiscal year

Lower Basin Meeting Orange, TX on 4/17/2024 - 13 stakeholders in attendance

- Kaleb McDade, Biologist, SRA-TX

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site treatment systems, sanitary sewer overflow discharges, and package plant or other permitted small flow discharges.

- Jerry Wiegreffe, ESD Assistant Division Manager

  4. Orange County total maximum daily load update.

- Jamie East, Water Resources Director, SRA-TX

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- Questions:

  6. Dale Parish asked a question concerning resources which may allow more elementary, middle, and high school field trips focusing on stream health and ecology. SRA-TX collected Dale's information to help with this in the future.

- Coordinated Monitoring Meeting – Continue routine sampling with no changes for the next fiscal year