Upper Neches Basin Clean Rivers Program
Steering Committee Meeting
April 27, 2012
Nacogdoches County Courthouse Annex
201 W. Main Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

Welcome and Introductions
The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. at the Nacogdoches County Courthouse Annex. Brian Sims, Angelina & Neches River Authority (ANRA) Environmental Division Manager moderated the meeting and introductions were made of all in attendance.

Overview of the Clean Rivers Program
Mr. Sims, ANRA, presented a power point presentation with a discussion on ANRA's functions within the Neches Basin. ANRA's jurisdictional service area covers all or a portion of 17 counties in the East Texas area and has three main divisions consisting of General Administration, Field Operations and the Environmental Division.

The Environmental Division oversees and operates the Clean Rivers Program (CRP) within ANRA. This is a state fee funded program for water quality monitoring, assessment and public outreach and is a collaboration of 15 partner agencies and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Mr. Sims presented a short informational video of the Clean Rivers Program and followed with a review of the FY 2012-2013 CRP budget allocations and expenses. He stated that their future goals for the program include working with TCEQ and TSSWCB to identify the need for any special projects, to explore options for additional grant funding, mapping of septic systems around Sam Rayburn Reservoir, expanding the CRP website and to become more involved in volunteer monitoring programs.

ANRA's Water Quality Monitoring Program
Monitoring within the Basin
ANRA monitors 26 sites, City of Tyler 4 sites and TCEQ 42 sites on a quarterly basis. Mr. Sims reviewed ANRA's water quality monitoring within the basin, showed a map with the segment watersheds, sampling sites, parameters tested for and the list of impaired bodies.

Updates from the Coordinated Monitoring Meeting

The Coordinated Monitoring Meeting was held on April 11, 2012. There were no changes to ANRA's monitoring schedule for 2013. The Coordinated Monitoring Schedule can be viewed online at http://cms.lcra.org .

There were changes made to three of the monitoring station IDs and/or descriptions. Station 10633 was relocated due to proximity to the recently installed Nacogdoches Power effluent discharge. Station 10542 had a data submittal correction, and Station 21100 was relocated due to drought conditions.

Incorporation of Panoramic Photography into ANRA's Water Quality Monitoring Program

Jeremiah Poling, ANRA Information Systems Coordinator, presented a power point presentation and discussed the development, use and benefits of ANRA's implementation of panoramic images of their monitoring stations. These panoramic images are posted on ANRA's website at www.anra.org and present a 360° field of view that can be viewed interactively in a web browser.

Mr. Poling explained basic terminology, showed how these photos can be viewed, and discussed various equipment/software that can be used to create these images. What began as the standard taking of upstream/downstream photos when sampling; has evolved into a more comprehensive and creative tool for documenting real time conditions that can be linked back to specific monitoring data at these sites.

Attoyac Bayou Watershed Protection Plan Update

Neil Boitnott, Castilaw Environmental, presented a power point presentation and gave an update on the Attoyac Bayou Watershed Protection Plan (WPP). The Attoyac is classified as an impaired water body on the Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List for elevated levels of E.coli. The Attoyac Bayou WPP is a voluntary plan developed by stakeholders and uses a holistic approach to watershed management which addresses potential sources and causes of concerns/impairments.

Mr. Boitnott discussed the watershed source survey, GIS update, and potential sources of pollution. Four WPP chapters have been distributed for stakeholder review consisting of Chapter 1-Watershed Management, Chapter 2-Regional History, Chapter 3-Watershed Characteristics and Chapter 6-Potential Sources of Pollution. A complete draft of the WPP is anticipated this winter.

Recreational Use Attainability Analysis of the Attoyac River and its Tributaries
Sarah Fuller, SFASU, presented a power point presentation and discussed the Recreational Use Attainability Analysis (RUAA) that will begin this summer and be completed by fall.

Use Attainability Analysis is used to establish the most suitable water quality standard for individual bodies of water taking into consideration its unique features. Ms. Fuller explained recreational quality standards and the revisions to the categories that occurred in 2010. There are now 4 categories for recreational use instead of the previous contact and non-contact. She reviewed RUAA procedure, site selection and documentation. The RUAA will determine if primary contact does in fact take place and to what extent.

Invasive Species in Sam Rayburn Reservoir
Floyd Boyett, USACE, presented a power point presentation and discussed invasive species. The most recent of note and problematic is the Giant Salvinia. He provided a history and details on Sam Rayburn Reservoir, Dam B and the Town Bluff Project.

Giant Salvinia can be devastating to a water body and once it is introduced you will never get completely rid of it. A coordinated effort has begun with several participating agencies to attack invasive species on Dam B and Sam Rayburn. Common ways of controlling invasive species is mechanical, biological and chemical. Research is being done to find effective ways of control but prevention is the key. Thus education programs are essential to inform the public of how they can prevent the spread of invasive species.

Acidification of the Lake Stryker Watershed
Adam Whisenant, TPWD, presented a power point presentation on the acidification of Lake Stryker Watershed. He discussed the pH values and surface water quality monitoring data pertaining to the area. Data shows that sulfate concentrations in Lake Striker are on the rise. The result is fish kills and possible long term impacts to species richness and abundance. Possible causes are being explored but these events are becoming more common in East Texas with recent records of low pH fish kills in the Cypress Creek, Sabine River, Neches River and Trinity River basins. More information from the watershed is needed to better understand these acidic water events. Mr. Whisenant proposed that this would be a good gradate or undergraduate project.

ANRA's Draft FY 2012 Basin Highlights Report
Mr. Sims, ANRA, presented a power point presentation of the Draft FY 2012 Upper Neches Basin Highlights Report. The final version will be released in early June. Mr. Sims reviewed topics within the report and requested any recommendations, questions or comments from the audience. He does expect some revisions before final release especially due to the fact that

portions of the report was written at the first of the year and since that time this area has seen significant rainfall affecting reported data.

Steering Committee Member Recommendations and Concerns

Mr. Sims asked for any questions, comments or concerns on issues within the basin. One expressed concern was tar sands or bitumens (DilBit). Pipelines would transport this product to refineries. These lines were not constructed to transport this type of material which is thicker, more acidic and corrosive. Specifically, he had concern over the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline which would cross the Neches Basin.

All presentations from this program will be made available on ANRA's web site at www.anra.org

Attendees:
Brian Sims, ANRA
Jeremiah Poling, ANRA
Teresa Scroggins, ANRA
Floyd Boyett, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lucas Gregory, Texas Water Resources Institute
Mitch Conine, Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board
Monty D. Shank, Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority
Steven DaSilva
Neil Boitnott, Castilaw Environmental Services
Allison Fischer, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Sarah Fuller, Stephen F. Austin State University
Adam Whisenant, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Julie McEntire, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality-CRP
Jackie Risner, Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board