

Coordinated Monitoring Meeting – March 20, 2014

Meeting Notes

1. TCEQ SWQM teams in Regions 11, 13, and 14 have made their changes to the Coordinated Monitoring Schedule (CMS) for FY2015. No changes from FY14 schedules.
2. TCEQ no longer has a contract with a laboratory that is within a reasonable travel distance (accessible by holding times) for Region 14 SWQM so sampling for bacteria (enterococcus) has been discontinued until such time as arrangements can be made with another laboratory. Central office SQWM staff is working on finding a laboratory for the regional SWQM team to use.
3. The TCEQ Assessment Team is working on a new monitoring code scheme that can be associated with samples collected for special projects, such as watershed protection plan development or implementation effectiveness monitoring. The new 4-digit code will identify samples that are collected routinely or are biased for flow or season, but have specific monitoring objectives and not appropriate for use in the assessment process. The codes associated with each sample will be identified in the project's quality assurance project plan.
4. The TCEQ Commissioners adopted the revisions to the Texas Water Quality Standards that were developed as part of the TCEQ's required triennial standards review. The adoption of the standards occurred after the 2014 assessment process was started so any new standards were not applied in this year's assessment. The new standards include the nutrient criteria that will be applied to the main pool site on Canyon Reservoir (site no. 12597) (chlorophyll a = 5 micrograms per liter). This main pool site is monitored quarterly by the TCEQ SWQM team in Region 13.
5. No change in the CRP sites monitored by the Upper Guadalupe River Authority in FY15. Travis Linscomb pointed out that the Bacteria Reduction Project will end in August 2014. There are nine sites currently monitored monthly for bacteria under that project. UGRA will evaluate the sites and, depending on the results of the 2014 Integrated Report, will continue to monitor key sites to the extent allowable in their CRP budget, under the CRP QAPP beginning in FY 2015. UGRA will make the changes to the CMS when those evaluations are completed.
6. Bioassessments will be conducted on Plum Creek at CR135 (12640) in FY15. In FY16, bioassessments will be considered on the Guadalupe River at Riverview Road (site no. 15111). In FY13, it was determined that in order to provide bioassessment data that can be used in the stream assessment process, bioassessments should be conducted two times per year, one assessment in the index period and one in the critical period. This frequency will limit the number of monitoring locations to one per year.
7. There were concerns raised about the impact of the drought on the sites where bioassessments are conducted. It was noted that the flows in the small streams that do not have an established 7Q2 (lowest flow in seven consecutive days in a two year period) will use the default of 0.1 cubic feet per second. Matt Heinemann with the Cypress Creek Watershed Partnership asked about the bioassessments conducted at the Cypress Creek at RR12 site. Lee Gudgell pointed out that the assessments have been conducted but have been severely hampered by the drought during 2009-2011.

8. Discussion was had on the elevated bacteria concentrations seen at the Hinman Island site on the Comal River. It was noted that the Dry Comal that comes into the Comal River above the Hinman Island site may be a contributing source of the bacteria. It was recommended that GBRA consider adding a site upstream of the confluence. GBRA suggested monitoring at the USGS station on the Comal River which is upstream of the confluence with the Dry Comal and upstream of the current GBRA site at Hinman Island. GBRA will investigate the feasibility of picking up the new site for bacteria, flow and field parameters in FY16.
9. TCEQ SWQM Region 11 reported that they will continue to monitor quarterly at the San Marcos at IH 35 (site no. 12672) but will discontinue organics in sediment in FY15.
10. The Wimberley Valley Watershed Association will continue to monitor the eight sites quarterly. These sites include four sites on the upper Blanco River in Hays County and four sites on the Cypress Creek in the Wimberley area.