2019 Basin Steering Committee Minutes

1:00   Welcome and Clean Rivers Program Overview

- GBRA, Lee Gudgell

    o Additional money to budget for FY19 to purchase equipment
    o Overview of monitoring sites for GBRA, UGRA, TCEQ and WVWA
    o Draft 2016 Texas Integrated Report
        o 10 Segments with impairments
    o Biological monitoring at Rebecca Creek (segment 1805) and North Fork of the Guadalupe (Segment 1817)
    o New monitoring station near Sisterdale
    o New Biological monitoring at Sandies and Elm Creeks
    o Significant events in the basin
        o Guadalupe River at FM311 in Comal County went dry – August 2018

- UGRA, Tara Bushnoe

    o Water Quality Monitory Summary
        o 11 Quarterly sites and 6 monthly sites
    o Water Quality Summary
        o Sampling events, number of sites and parameters tested
    o Draft 2016 Integrated Report
        o Town Creek and Quinlan Creek DO concerns
    o Bacteria Reduction Plan
    o Water Quality at South Fork - La Junta and Guadalupe River at Hermann Sons
    o Accessing Data on TCEQ website
    o Public Outreach Activities
    o UGRA EduScape

- Wimberley Valley, Michael Jones

    o Purpose of Water Quality monitoring
    o Flow at Jacob's Well Spring
    o Pleasant Valley Spring
    o Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plan
    o 2 additional sites: Cypress Creek @ Camp Young Judea and Cypress Creek @ Woodcreek Drive
    o Drivers for Water Quality
    o Trends in Bacteria – Downtown and Blanco confluence

1:50   City of New Braunfels Wildlife Feeding Ordinance – Mark Enders, Watershed Program Manager
        – City of New Braunfels
    o Water Quality Concerns for Dry Comal Creek and Comal River
    o Bacteria Source Tracking (BST) results

- o Wildlife related Traffic accidents
- o Management of non-native ducks and geese
- o City of New Braunfels Wildlife Feeding Ordinance – Effective March 10, 2019
- o Feeding Ordinance Signage
- o Outreach and Education

2:00   Headwaters at the Comal – Nancy Pappas, Managing Director Headwaters at the Comal
- o New Braunfels Utilities commitment to stewardship of resources
- o Overview of property before and after project
- o Phase I – restoration and storm water mitigation
- o Removal of impervious cover
- o Community resource – tours, programming, nature walks, events
- o Archeological dig
- o Beginning Phase II – education center, event and meeting space, demonstration gardens

2:20   American Eel Studies – Stephen Curtis, Aquatic Biologist – River Studies Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- o Location of American Eel
- o Spawn in saltwater and migrate to freshwater
- o One single population
- o Life History
- o Commercial Harvest on East Coast
- o Species of Greatest Conservation Need – Texas
- o Data Collection along the Texas Coast
- o Public Outreach with Social Media
- o Field sampling for Elver & Glass with Fyke Nets

2:40   Break

3:00   National Fish Conservation Areas – Travis Tidwell, Kills and Spills Biologist – Region I, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

- o Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- o Texas: 190 native freshwater fish, 90 species of greatest conservation need
- o Texas fish diversity
- o Texas freshwater mussels
- o Native Fish conservation areas (NFCAs) – watershed scale
- o Overview of conservation assessment
- o NFCAs in Texas
- o NFCAs current projects

3:20   One Water WISD Primary School – Michael Jones

- o   Presentation was to be giving by Nick Dornak, Director of Watershed Services
- o   Michael Jones field questions about the project

3:30   Wastewater Treatment Process – Mike Urrutia, Deputy Executive Manager of Operations – GBRA

- o   Overview of GBRA vision and mission
- o   GBRA operations
- o   New generation of individuals in the water industry
- o   Flow diagram of the waste water treatment process
  - o   Bar Screen
  - o   Aeration Basin
  - o   Air Blowers
  - o   Organisms in activated sludge
  - o   Clarification
  - o   Chlorination/Dechlorination
  - o   Sand Filters
- o   Plum Creek Monitoring
- o   Biomonitoring of effluent
- o   Benefits of treated wastewater

4:15   TCEQ Permitting Process – Ward Ling, Geronimo and Alligator Creek Watershed Coordinator – Texas A&M AgriLife

- o   WWTP application to TCEQ on Geronimo Creek
- o   Overview of Permit Process
- o   Timeline of Geronimo Creek permit
- o   What a public meeting looks like
- o   How the public can provide comments
- o   How to track an application

4:45   Adjourn