

June 4, 2001

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) hosted the 2001 Clean Rivers Program Guadalupe River Basin Steering Committee on May 24, 2001. 18 of the 50 members were present. The meeting included an overview of the program activities given by Debbie Magin, GBRA Director of Water Quality Services and a demonstration of the field water quality monitoring equipment given by Mike McCall, GBRA Laboratory Analyst and Field Technician. Paul Jensen and Adrienne Boer of PBS&J, the consulting firm assisting with the Guadalupe River Basin CRP, discussed the basin projects that are in progress and also discussed the recently issued Basin Highlights Report.

The proposed 2002-03 work plan was presented to the committee for their feedback. A systematic monitoring site in the Porter's Creek watershed in Hays County has been proposed. The two-year monitoring effort will be aimed at gathering data that can be used to assess the impacts of the increase in the population and wastewater discharges in the watershed. Two additional routine monitoring sites in Kendall County have been included in the monitoring schedule for the next biennium. Also, GBRA will expand their public outreach activities to include increased support of the Texas Watch program, educational materials and public service announcements. The Village of Wimberley has an extensive history of volunteer monitoring which includes the monitoring of Jacob's Well and the Cypress Creek. GBRA will help the Wimberley volunteers incorporate quality assurance practices into their existing program so that their data can be used in future stream assessments. There are three studies proposed for the next contract period, a study to investigate the elevated sulfate concentrations in the Blanco River near the city of Blanco, a study to assess the potential for contamination of the San Marcos River and Plum Creek by oil field activities in Caldwell County, and a study to evaluate the EPA proposed methodologies for establishing nutrient stream criteria.

Before the meeting closed the committee was given the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback and suggestions on CRP activities for the 2002-2003 program. Committee members discussed the need for the development of guidance describing best management practices that communities, agriculture and industries could use when faced with the need to address non-point source water quality issues identified through historical water quality monitoring data, or Total Maximum Daily Load studies. GBRA will contact the TNRCC and send along the committee's suggestion to develop this type of reference document.

The majority of the committee's discussions were centered on the increased demand on groundwater in the basin and the impact that demand will have on the aquifers as well as the surface waters that are fed by springs. The Trinity, Carizo-Wilcox, and Gulf Coast aquifers have been included in planning for future water resources for the major population areas in the basin and surrounding basins, while the City of Victoria is converting from groundwater to surface water. (I have learned from the City of Victoria, they plan on bringing their surface water treatment plant on line during the

week of June 11, 2001.) The Basin Steering Committee felt that the connection between groundwater and surface water and the impact of the increased demand was a significant issue for this basin. GBRA, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)'s Center for Water Research will be co-sponsoring a project that will establish groundwater monitoring wells in these three aquifers, beginning in early fiscal year 2002. Meetings that were held in early 2000 led to the development of this project and are described on page 5 of the GBRA Water Resources Report Spring/Summer 2000 volume 16, included in this packet. The three entities will hold project planning meetings this summer and water levels, water quality and the interconnection between ground and surface water will be discussed for inclusion in the project's scope.

Thanks go out to those committee members that attended this year's meeting. For those not able to attend, I have included copies of the handouts in this packet. As always, you are invited to call and discuss the activities of the Clean Rivers Program any time. You can direct your calls to Debbie Magin, GBRA Director of Water Quality Services at (830) 379-5822, or Scott Loveland, UGRA Senior Water Quality Specialist at (830) 896-7478. You can visit the Clean Rivers Program page on the GBRA website, www.gbra.org, for the latest program information, study reports and water quality data.

Clean Rivers Program

Guadalupe River Basin Lavaca-Guadalupe Coastal Basin Steering Committee Meeting

May 23, 2001
Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions.....Debbie Magin, GBRA
- Overview of CRP in Guadalupe Basin.....Debbie Magin, GBRA
- Status report on special studies
and monitoring.....Paul Jensen, PBS&J
Mike McCall, GBRA
- Discussion on 303d listed segments.....Paul Jensen, PBS&J
- Workplan development for 2002-03Debbie Magin, GBRA
- Feedback from Steering Committee

Task 1: Project Administration

Budget: \$34,000

Major Activities and Deliverables:

Quarterly progress reports to TNRCC

Quarterly invoices to TNRCC

Contract administration

Oversight of subcontractors

Budgeting and Planning

Working on Task:

GBRA – Debbie Magin

Subcontractors – PBS&J – Paul Jensen

UGRA – Scott Loveland

TNRCC – Allison Woodall, Project Manager

Task 2: Project Planning: Quality Assurance and
Data Management

Budget: \$15,000

Major Activities and Deliverables:

Quality Assurance Plan

Data Management

Coordinated Monitoring Meeting

Training

Working on Task:

GBRA – Debbie Magin

Hopkins Haden, Regional Lab Director

Subcontractors – PBS&J – Paul Jensen

UGRA – Scott Loveland

TNRCC – Allison Woodall

Task 3: Water Quality Monitoring

Budget: \$185,310

Major Activities and Deliverables:

Routine monitoring – 19 monthly sites (GBRA)

5 quarterly sites (GBRA)

5 quarterly sites (UGRA)

Biological assessments – 8 sites 2/yr (GBRA)

10 sites 2/yr (UGRA)

Metals – 8 sites 1/yr (GBRA)

1 sites 1/yr (UGRA)

Bacterial – 22 sites 5/mon May-Aug (UGRA)

Special studies:

Role of Sediments in Aquatic Plant Growth

Special data collection effort at four sites
listed on the 303d list – diurnal dissolved
oxygen

Working on Task:

GBRA – Mike McCall, Field Technician/Lab
Analyst

Hopkins Haden

Chanda Burgoon, Lab Technician

Bryan Lyssy, Lab Technician

Subcontractors – PBS&J – Paul Jensen

Ka-Lueng Lee

Adrienne Boer

UGRA – Scott Loveland

Keith Marquart

TNRCC – Allison Woodall

Task 4: Water Quality Information Clearinghouse

Budget: \$15,000

Major Activities and Deliverables:

Submission of data to TNRCC
Maintain information on website
Map of factors influencing water quality
Inventory of events and issues

Working on Task:

GBRA: Debbie Magin

Subcontractors: UGRA - Scott Loveland
PBS&J - Paul Jensen
Ka-Lueng Lee
Adrienne Boer

TNRCC: Allison Woodall

**Task 5: Identify, Analyze, and Report on Water Quality
Issues and Causes of Pollution**

Budget: \$21,000

Activities and Deliverables:

Basin Highlights Report

Working on Task:

GBRA: Debbie Magin

Subcontractors: UGRA - Scott Loveland
PBS&J - Paul Jensen
Ka-Lueng Lee
Adrienne Boer

TNRCC: Allison Woodall

Task 6: Public Participation and Outreach

Budget: \$8,000

Activities and Deliverables:

Basin Steering Committee meetings and information
Texas Watch

Working on Task:

GBRA: Debbie Magin
Mike McCall
Chanda Burgoon

Subcontractors: UGRA – Scott Loveland
Keith Marquart

TNRCC: Allison Woodall

Task 7: Special Studies

Budget: \$28,000

Activities and Deliverables:

A Study of the Effects of Urban Development on
Water Quality on New Braunfels, San Marcos,
Seguin, Victoria

Determination of Alternative Site-Specific Water
Quality Criteria in Unclassified Streams

Working on Task:

GBRA: Debbie Magin

Subcontractors: PBS&J - Paul Jensen

Ka-Lueng Lee

Adrienne Boer

2002-03 Workplan Development

Continue routine monitoring at existing sites

Add sites:

Joshua Creek (Kendall County)-quarterly, metals (2x)

Guadalupe River, downstream of confluence

with Joshua Creek (Kendall County)-quarterly, metals (1x)

Porters Creek (Hays County)-systematic, monthly for 2 years

Special studies and monitoring efforts:

Study to identify sources of sulfate concentrations in upper Blanco River watershed

Study to assess potential for contamination from oil field activities in Caldwell County

Evaluate EPA proposed nutrient criteria methodology using historical data available

Increase geographical information systems capabilities

Increase public outreach activities

Texas Watch

Development of public service announcements to convey the goals of CRP and inform public on water quality issues

Enhancement of science curriculum development to include information on Clean Rivers Program goals and water quality

Budget: \$282,232

GBRA Sponsors Trinity Aquifer Meetings

As demand for water increases, agencies charged with managing and protecting groundwater supplies are working together to increase public awareness and develop new tools to study and allocate these important resources.

GBRA, in cooperation with the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) and the Center for Water Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), sponsored several meetings this year focused on the Trinity Aquifer. The series began with a January 14 meeting for elected city and county officials from the Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area. Speakers explained current state laws and policies covering groundwater management and protection and featured presentations by GBRA general manager Bill West; TWDB Director of Special Projects Carolyn Brittin; Steve Musick and Kelly Mills from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission; and EAA general manager Greg Ellis.

On March 17, UTSA President Ricardo Romo and Center for Water Research Director Dr. Weldon Hammond, Jr. announced that the center will serve as a water resource information center from the Texas Hill Country to Northern Mexico. A highlight of this meeting was a presentation by the TWDB of a state-of-the-art computer model simulating the flow and storage of groundwater in the Hill Country portion of the Trinity Aquifer. Officials are excited about its potential to assess different water management strategies and predict water level declines in response to increased growth demands and potential droughts. A follow up meeting at UTSA on May 30 featured opportunities for scientists and others involved in hydrological analysis to engage in a 'hands-on' interaction with the TWDB computer simulation.

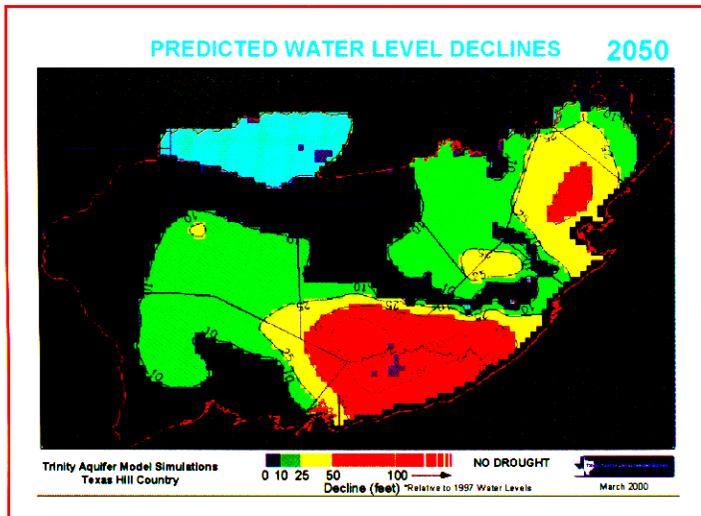


Figure 1

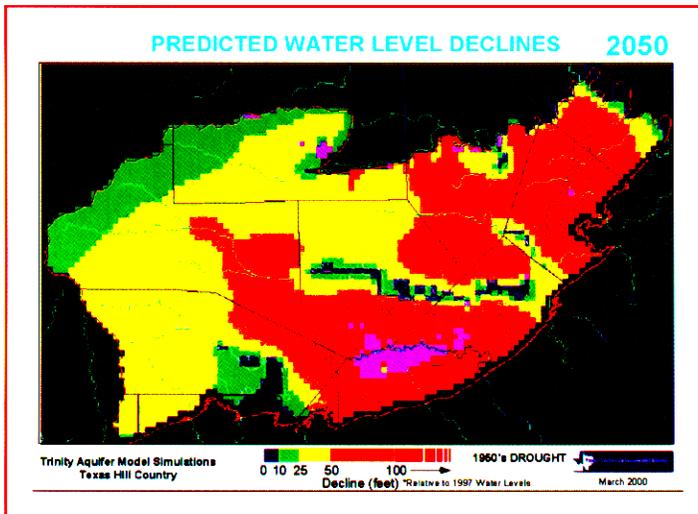


Figure 2

These graphics from the Texas Water Development Board computer simulation presented at the March 17 meeting at UTSA, show how future pumping could affect the Trinity Aquifer. Using estimates of future water demands provided by the Region J, K and L Water Planning Groups, relative to 1997 water levels, Figure 1 simulates the aquifer's resources in 2050 under normal recharge (rainfall) conditions. Figure 2 uses the same demands, but simulates their effect if normal rainfall occurs through 2043, and the last 7 years duplicate the drought of the 1950's. This information provides a valuable tool for water planners to wisely manage current resources while planning for adequate water supplies to meet our future needs.

Regional Water Plans Near Completion

For more information about Senate Bill 1 or the regional water planning process, visit the Region L website, at www.watershedexperience.com to view maps, a list of planning group members, meeting dates and locations, photos, technical analysis and summaries of water supply options and detailed explanations of the evaluation criteria.

Ever since Senate Bill 1 was signed into law in 1997, sixteen statewide groups have been developing water plans to meet the needs of their respective regions through 2050. This process dramatically changes traditional top-down water planning by using a 'grass roots' approach.

Each Regional Planning Group includes members from many different interest groups. In addition to their regular meetings, they have sponsored dozens of public forums, focus groups and surveys to provide opportunity for public input.

GBRA general manager Bill West represents the ten counties of the Guadalupe River Basin on the Region L-South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group. Also included are the counties within the Nueces and San Antonio river basins.

A wide variety of water supply options were evaluated by the Region L members during their three-year planning process. The final draft plan is scheduled for review at public hearings in September. Copies of the draft plan are available for public review at County Libraries, County Clerks' offices and on line at the Region L website. January 2001 is the deadline for all sixteen plans to be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board, which will then begin the challenging task of combining them into a State Water Plan to be submitted to the legislature in January 2002.

McCall Promoted to Regional Laboratory Director

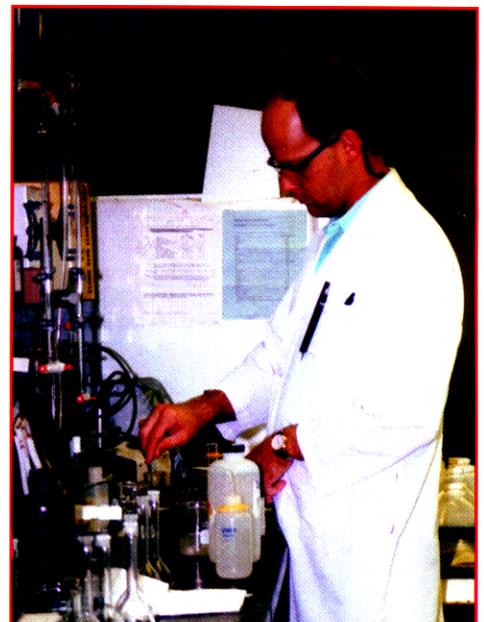
Mike McCall was recently promoted to Regional Laboratory Director. He joined GBRA in 1991 as a laboratory analyst and field technician for the regional laboratory team and holds a B.S. in Range Science from Texas A & M University.

In his new position, McCall will serve as training coordinator of laboratory personnel in the areas of biology, water quality and hydrology, will perform laboratory analysis on water, wastewater and environmental samples, and will manage budgets and proposals for upcoming projects and events for the laboratory.

He will also conduct water quality investigations with the Clean Rivers Program and the Instream Flow and Incremental Methodology (I.F.I.M.) study to help determine instream uses exclusive of bay and estuary fresh-water inflows.

McCall is a trained field technician for water quality monitoring programs, including the Clean Rivers Program and is a certified trainer for the Texas Watch Program. He promotes Texas Watch by working with volunteers who monitor water quality in Texas rivers and streams in the Guadalupe River Basin. "I've trained students in elementary school, adults in their 70's and every level in between. Everyone wants to learn more about their water and the Texas Watch Program is a wonderful teaching tool for people of any age," said McCall.

In his spare time, he serves as a board member for the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center, the Buck Fever Organization, and is an active member of the Guadalupe-Comal Wildlife Management Association and the Texas Water Utilities Association.



Mike McCall