

Coordinated Monitoring Meeting – March 21, 2013

Meeting Notes

1. GBRA will discontinue metals in water and organics in water at Sandies Creek (station no. 13657). The USGS is hoping to collaborate with GBRA to do a site-specific study on the creek related to the oil and gas activities in the Eagle Ford Shale.
2. TCEQ Region 13 will remove metals in water, metals in sediment and organics in sediment from the site located at FM1117 on the Guadalupe River below Seguin (station no. 17134). Sufficient data has been collected that shows no concern for these pollutants associated with urban runoff.
3. GBRA will remove metals in water, organics in sediment, and the biological/habitat assessment at the Haberle Road site on Geronimo Creek (station no. 12576). Sufficient data has been collected to show that the stream is not impaired for metals or showing impacts to the biological communities.
4. Metals in water will continue to be collected annually at Peach Creek (station no. 14937) by GBRA. At the Guadalupe River at IH 10 (station no. 12595), metals in water will continue to be collected two times per year by the TCEQ Region 13 SWQM team.
5. Discussion was had on the need to have additional fish tissue collections performed on Canyon Reservoir (Segment 1805) in order to determine the status of the mercury in fish tissue advisory issued by the Texas State Department of Health Services in 2006 and to determine if the advisory should apply to any additional species. Currently the advisory is for the consumption of striped bass and long-nosed gar.
6. Two bioassessments will be conducted in FY 14 at the Guadalupe River at Split Rock Road (station no. 15113). One of the assessments will be in the index period and one in the critical period. In FY15, these two assessments will switch to the Guadalupe River at Riverview Road (station no. 15111).
7. It was noted that the assessment unit, 1806_07 is meeting the contact recreation standard for bacteria for the first time since 2002. The bacterial geomean is 87 organisms per 100 milliliters. Tara Bushnoe reported that the improvement in water quality is due partially to the work being conducted in the Bacterial Reduction Plan, the work of the City of Kerrville on a forced main repair and the tie-in of homes on failing septic systems onto the city's wastewater collection system.
8. UGRA will keep monitoring Camp Meeting Creek (station no. 12546) quarterly even though it no longer has a concern for depressed dissolved oxygen. There is no need for 24 hour dissolved oxygen monitoring that was listed on the Watershed Action Plan table.
9. Adoption of the sampling criteria during drought conditions has reduced the number of sampling events conducted by UGRA on Quinlan Creek (station no. 12541) and Town Creek (station no. 12549), two small urban streams, listed on the 303(d) list for bacteria.
10. It was noted that the mining of uranium has not begun in Goliad County but that EPA has reversed their decision on the in-situ permit which may lead to the start-up of mining operations in the county. The decision to resume the radiological monitoring will be discussed at next year's coordinated monitoring meeting.

11. It was reported that the monitoring that was being conducted by the Hays County Environmental Department has lost its funding and will be discontinued in FY 2014. The Region 11 office will be contacted to see if they want to resume collecting samples at the Blanco River at 5 mile Dam (station no. 12635) that Hays County had taken over in FY 2013. Wimberley Valley Watershed Association will be contacted to ask if they want to collect samples at the Blanco River at CR 173 (Station no. 12660) and Blanco River at CR 1492 (station no. 12663) that were previously monitored by Hays County.
12. GBRA will perform biological assessments and 24 hour DO on the Plum Creek at SH135 (station no. 12640) site near Luling two times per year in FY 2014.
13. Organics in water and sediment will be discontinued on the Dry Comal Creek in New Braunfels (station no. 12570).
14. Organics in water and sediment will be discontinued on Cypress Creek at the confluence with the Blanco River (station no. 12673).
15. Discussion was had on the impairment for dissolved solids (TDS) associated with the San Marcos River at IH 35 (station 12672). GBRA has been collecting TDS and conductivity at this site in order to provide actual TDS concentration. TCEQ Region 11 took over the quarterly monitoring of this site in 2013, but decided not to add TDS to their suite of parameters. TCEQ Region 11 will be contacted to see if they will add TDS to the suite of constituents if they drop organics in sediment. (After the meeting the following information was provided by Allison Fischer. She spoke with SWQM assessors, looked through the assessment guidance, and they double checked the guidance against the SAS code which they use. The guidance seems slightly unclear, but they looked at the SAS code and found that the SAS code works off a hierarchy of parameters. If multiple methods or parameters are submitted for the same criteria, the code chooses which parameter code to use. For TDS, the hierarchy code selects conductivity as the most desired parameter. Even if lab-measured TDS is submitted, if conductivity is also submitted for the same event, conductivity will be used in the assessment. This is done because the standard is based on the adjusted conductivity value, and isn't based on the lab TDS value. Therefore, the only way to have lab-determined TDS used in the assessment would be to submit the TDS data and NO conductivity data for that sampling event.
Currently, we don't have the capability to utilize site-specific factors to convert conductivity to TDS. Therefore, particularly if funds are a concern, Allison recommends leaving station 12672 with the regional office and discontinuing GBRA's sampling of the site.)
16. It was noted that the 2012 Integrated Report found Segment 1817 North Fork Guadalupe River to meet the dissolved oxygen criteria at the screening level. A concern for dissolved oxygen was noted in previous assessments for this segment.