

## MINUTES

DRAFT 1 – Printed 11/8/2004 1:18 PM

**Orange County TMDL Project, SAG Meeting #5**  
**Sabine River Authority of Texas**  
**Authority General Office, Orange, Texas**  
**Tuesday, August 31, 2004, 2:00 – 5:00 PM**

**Welcome & Introductions** (Ann Galassi, Sabine River Authority)

**Notebook Handouts** (Miles Hall, SRA)

- Agenda
- April 27, 2004, SAG Meeting #4 Notes (DRAFT)
- Slide Presentations
  - The Orange County TMDL Project
  - TMDL Outreach Committee Draft Plan
- SAG (Stakeholders Advisory Group) and TAG (Technical Advisory Group) Membership lists (as of August 31, 2004)

**Approve Minutes from October 28, 2004, SAG Meeting #3** (Ann Galassi, SRA)

Meeting notes unanimously approved (with correction to a minor typos).

**Project Status Reports** (Ward Ling, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Dr. Kirk Dean, Parsons)

### ***Discussion Items***

Most of the monitoring effort is completed: four three-day intensive surveys (two per bayou) and three rainfall event samplings (two on Cow Bayou and one on Adams Bayou). The only lacking sampling is a rainfall event sampling on Adams Bayou.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is contracting with Texas A&M University, Galveston, to do viral sampling as an indicator of pathogens using a new and much less expensive methodology. There is no Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard for viruses, and traditional testing is \$300-500 per sample). This new method shows type and concentration and costs \$50-60 per sampling.

*Q. Is Cryptosporidium tested in Cow and Adams Bayous along with E. Coli.?*

A. No. It is too expensive. We measure most probable number per 100 ml for *E. Coli*.

*Q. Is Fecal Coliform/ Fecal Strep ration used?*

A. It has been in the past, but there are problems with that method. *Enterococcus* is used in salt water.

*Q. How have control measures been used to human vs. non-human sources of E. Coli?*

A. We've done studies that indicate we're measuring E. Coli from human waste; it is a good indicator in the Orange County TMDL Project study area.

*Q. Can we use the new virus sampling method without modifying the Quality Assurance Project Plan?*

A. No. The sampling results will be used to increase public interest in the project and to show something that can't be shown within the scope of the project.

## Orange County TMDL SAG Meeting #4 Minutes

DRAFT Printed 11/8/2004 1:18 PM

*Q. Will results of new virus sampling method be used in the model?*

A. No. This sampling will provide additional information to consider after the completion of the project.

Note made that wastewater treatment methods don't generally treat viruses.

*Q. Has data made it to the model yet?*

A. No. Many tests from the recent intensive surveys are still in progress in the SRA laboratory. Also, data still needs to go through quality assurance checks prior to going to the model.

*Q. Could Orange County Drainage District (OCDD) cleanup projects on Cow Bayou have affected the intensive surveys?*

A. No. They were cutting trees on the bank; no digging was done in the bayou.

*Q. Do lower levels of sediment oxygen demand (SOD) measured in intensive surveys as compared to historical studies indicate an improvement?*

A. Possibly. There is no documentation of methods used in previous studies, so data may not be comparable.

A draft document with model results should go to TCEQ by this Fall.

*Q. Will it allocate loads between point and non-point sources?*

A. Yes.

*Q. Are oxygen levels higher in the rainy season than without rain?*

A. It depends. If rain stirs up the water (mixes it) you can get higher readings. If rain pushes nutrients down, you can see it drop. This is why rainfall event samplings measure throughout the extent of the affects of the rainfall on the bayous.

*Q. Are segments modeled by accounting for changes in hydrology such as tributaries coming in?*

A. Yes. The model is "spatially resolved."

*Q. In regards to sediment, Sabine Lake is a catch basin for the study area. Does SRA sample at the mouth of the river at Sabine Lake?*

A. We have a site at the confluence of each bayou.

*Q. Was there contamination of sediment due to dredging for navigation?*

A. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) must do an environmental impact study prior to depositing dredge material.

*Q. Do we know what happened to sediment dredged out of Adams Bayou?*

A. No, we have no data for that.

*Q. Why are SOD measurements generally higher in the north?*

A. Due to colloidal effect with salt water.

Oxygen demanding organic materials in the bayous break down (do not have long half lives).

This study does not look at Sabine Lake.

### **Sampling Results** (Jerry Wiegreffe, SRA)

## Orange County TMDL SAG Meeting #4 Minutes

DRAFT Printed 11/8/2004 1:18 PM

### **Discussion Items**

*Q. Could the construction on Strickland Avenue have an affect?*

A. No. Most of sampling was done above Hudson Gully.

*Q. Where were E. Coli values above Stream Standards in the intensive surveys?*

A. At the Terry Gully site.

*Q. Are there any major discharges on Cole Creek?*

A. No.

*Q. Have there been any surprises with the sampling results that stand out?*

A. No, the results have been what we expected.

*Q. Did we expect bacteria to go up with rainfall events?*

A. We thought it was a possibility. We need to look at the model, but typically due to non-point sources.

*Q. Have we considered looking at percent saturation and not just dissolved oxygen?*

A. Yes, we measure percent saturation and the model looks at it.

*Q. Have we considered doing a use attainability analysis (UAA) to determine appropriate aquatic life use?*

A. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is doing a Tidal Streams UAA that includes Cow Bayou.<sup>1</sup>

*Q. What is the sampling period of the tidal streams UAA?*

A. April 2003 to November 2004.

Fresh water has a well-established biotic index. There is no standard for estuaries because they are much more complex. TPWD is going to try to develop a method for looking at tidal streams.

### **Outreach Committee Draft Plan (SAG Member Robert Dupree)**

#### **Discussion Items**

*Q. Should elected officials be added to the list of target audiences?*

A. Yes.

*Q. Can model be used to evaluate different possible management solutions?*

A. Yes, but it does not "spit out an answer".

Focus of the Outreach effort is to make the public aware of why we are where we are; what the standards are; and how they are applied. Need to emphasize the improvements that have been made in water quality nation-wide since the 1972 Clean Water Act. We're going to where the public has said they want to be: fishable/ swimmable waters.

#### **Public Comment/ Discussion (Ann Galassi, SRA)**

No comments.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/texaswater/coastal/uaa/uaa.phtml>, referenced September 7, 2004.

## **Orange County TMDL SAG Meeting #4 Minutes**

DRAFT Printed 11/8/2004 1:18 PM

### **Planning for Next Meeting** (Ann Galassi, SRA)

The next SAG/TAG meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2004, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the SRA Authority General Office. Potential presentations and topics of discussion include January 10, 2005, Public Meeting<sup>2</sup>, sampling results update, and possibly at least preliminary modeling results.

### **Adjourn**

---

<sup>2</sup> Public Meeting date moved from January 11, 2005, to January 10, 2005, due to a scheduling conflict at Lamar State College Orange.