

Concho River Basin Stakeholder Meeting

October 22, 2009

MINUTES

A meeting of the Concho River Basin Stakeholders was held at the Education Center on October 22, 2009. Dan McClung, Chairperson opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Dr. Christy Youker, Center Director presented program updates since the last meeting. Youker showed photos of activities and talked about the physical improvements to the facility. Stakeholder member Richard Easingwood inquired as to whether or not the center was reaching the entire basin. It was stated that activities are expanding to include areas outside of San Angelo, especially with activities like SAMFA sponsored Family Days and the pilot project involving Water Valley ISD last spring. Plans to increase these types of activities are underway.

Chuck Brown, UCRA, reported on basin water quality/quantity conditions and addressed COSA's plans to install the Hickory pipeline. Question arose as to the feasibility of desalination. Studies done in the past did not yield any water quality/quantity and city officials feel like the Hickory Plan is a better option. Other discussion ensued regarding NPS complaints. Brown talked about the correlation he is seeing between NPS urban runoff, fish kills and the explosion of aphid populations in the fall, predominately in pecan trees.

Clinton Bailey, COSA talked to the group about the plans for San Angelo Storm Water Management. Bailey addressed TCEQ requirements and what will be happening to the city in regarding to these mandates over the next several years. Bailey stated that COSA will be partnering with UCRA to help achieve their storm water goals. A public hearing is scheduled for December 1 to adopt a stormwater utility fee structure. The rate structure can be found on COSA's website (www.sanangelotexas.us). COSA is working on incentives for businesses and individuals who use technology or have measures in place to abate the storm water they generate. Other matters discussed under this agenda item included the feasibility of rainfall capture, obstacles created by development and community perception. Stakeholders commented that community perception is everything and if COSA can lay the groundwork from the beginning people will be more likely to cooperate and work together.

Fred Teagarden with UCRA told the group that UCRA will be working with COSA to provide a model for water quality and will install monitoring stations to collect samples, monitor flows and compile hydrological data for a period of four years. This should offer an accurate prediction of where grant monies can be used most effectively.

Scott McWilliams, UCRA addressed the Lake Basin Restoration Projects updating stakeholders on OC Fisher spraying. It was stated that Willow Baccharis should be in good shape to spray a second time at no cost and that while salt cedar experienced typical re-growth, it was a good kill. McWilliams told stakeholders about a paper published in the Sept/Oct 2009 issue of the Journal of Soil & Water Conservation. This paper is the first scientifically defensible publication showing that brush control works. Chuck Brown talked to the group about the new Twin Buttes Restoration Project implemented through the Bureau of Reclamation. The project is a cooperative with UCRA, COSA and the TSSWCB.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m. followed by a public forum to present the North Concho River Improvement Project and allow for stakeholder & citizen input.

PUBLIC FORUM

North Concho River Improvement Project
October 22, 2009 @ 11 a.m. at the Education Center

Craig Kinney with Kinney Architects made a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the river trail improvements which will be made after the dredging and bank stabilization occurs. The areas are divided into zones and each zone will receive a treatment specific to that zone. The goal is to make this area pedestrian friendly creating areas that are natural, urban and commercial.

Chuck Brown then presented the dredging portion of the project to the stakeholder group. Brown identified areas of the North Concho River between Beauregard St. and 14th St. as the targeted area. Sediment will be pumped to a disposal area on COSA land north of 19th St. The project is scheduled to commence December 1 and completed by early spring. Approximately 40000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the river improving water quality and aesthetics.

Comments Addressed:

Will the cutting process widen the river?

The bank cutting will not widen the streams. It will be done on a gradual slope.

What about the trees in the river?

Work will be done to preserve and stabilize these.

What kind of dredging will take place?

It will be a hydraulic dredge, which is similar to a big vacuum.

What areas will be dredged?

Dredge Areas 1, 2 3 and alternate 1A will be dredged, most of the other portions of the river were dredged in the 1980's.

Where will the sediment disposal area be?

Around 19th Street in COSA owned property.

When will the dredging occur?

December 2009 – March 2010

What will be done with the sediment removed from dredge:

No studies are required for sediment disposal due to the fact that the chemical analysis shows pollutant levels are well below benchmark values. Sediment area will be leveled out and reseeded. COSA has plans to dedicate the area as natural habitat.

