

**Minutes**  
**Oyster Creek TMDL Steering Committee**  
**February 9, 2006**

**Stakeholders Present:**

Al Abramczyk—Sugar Lakes Homeowners Association  
Tricia Bradbury—Keep Sugar Land Beautiful  
Mack Chapman (substituting for David Sauer)—Gulf Coast Water Authority  
Lee Dorger—City of Missouri City  
David Jalowy—Fort Bend County Drainage District  
Larry Kent—Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Martha Martin—Imperial Sugar  
Adam Smith (substituting for Howard Christian)—City of Sugar Land  
Joe Taylor—Quail Valley Utility District

**Stakeholders Absent:**

Jay Bragg (replacing Warren Davis)—Brazos River Authority  
Lisa Rogers—Sierra Club

**Others Present:** Millie Holifield—City of Missouri City; Stacie Dennis—City of Sugar Land; Kendria Ray—Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board; John Ellis—Quail Valley Utility District; Jim Coody—Greater Houston Builders Assoc.

**Support Staff:** Ward Ling—TCEQ; Bing Du and Larry Hauck—TIAER.

**Administrative Issues**

The Upper Oyster Creek Dissolved Oxygen and Bacteria TMDL Watershed Steering Committee met Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:45 pm at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way. Larry Hauck, TIAER, opened the meeting and self-introductions were made. The committee approved the minutes from the July 14, 2005 meeting.

**Status of Dissolved Oxygen TMDL**

Dr. Hauck provided the results and findings of 24-hour dissolved oxygen assessment monitoring performed during the Index Period of years 2003, 2004, and 2005. A recent modification in the assessment methodology employed by TCEQ was explained. The implications of this modification were presented on the findings reported in the December 2005 final dissolved oxygen report for Upper Oyster Creek. Dr. Hauck indicated that while portions of Upper Oyster Creek support the designated aquatic life use, the data for most of the assessment units indicated nonsupport of the intermediate aquatic life use. Possible implications of instrumentation inaccuracy on assessment findings were also presented showing that only minor changes would be anticipated from these inaccuracies. Dr. Hauck also provided an overview of the TMDL allocation process and introduced dissolved oxygen computer models as the tool to be applied to conduct the allocation process. Mr. Ling and Dr. Hauck presented the approximate time

schedule and public participation steps in the final approval of the TMDL and the Implementation Plan.

Several committee members had various questions on public participation aspects of the TMDL process and how the Implementation Plan might specify load allocations to sources. Ms. Tricia Bradbury was interested in roles the individual homeowner may play in improving water quality in Oyster Creek. Mr. Joe Taylor mentioned that he would be interested in having considered several model scenarios and that he would elaborate on the specifics of those scenarios at a later date. Ms. Martha Martin suggested that the modeling effort include a sensitivity analysis of key input parameters, since many parameters are not known exactly. Another committee question focused on alternatives to the present course of the dissolved oxygen TMDL from the perspective that possibly the intermediate aquatic life use is being met in the stream's actual biological communities even though the protective dissolved oxygen criteria indicate nonsupport. Dr. Hauck indicated that in some instances a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) is conducted to provide more information on actual biological community conditions, though he did not know how the UAA process interacts with the TMDL process. Dr. Hauck indicated that he would obtain more information on the UAA process and report back to the steering committee.

#### **Status of Bacteria TMDL**

Dr. Hauck presented an overview of the findings of the bacteria source tracking study that was provided in more detail at the July 2005 meeting. He also indicated that while unknowns and wildlife mammal and avian species constituted generally over half of the indicated bacteria sources, the TMDL would continue because of the determination of livestock, human/sewage, and pet sources that could be controlled. He further explained that the allocation tool would be the bacteria load duration curve method, and then provided an example of how this method is developed and applied. Dr. Hauck concluded by presenting the remaining steps to complete the bacteria TMDL.

Steering committee questions and discussions largely revolved around the bacteria Implementation Plan and what form the plan might take regarding specification of efforts to locate and control sources of bacteria in both the urban and rural landscape.

#### **Meeting Wrap-up**

The bacterial source tracking report was made available to meeting participants. The next stakeholder meeting would likely occur in the summer of 2006.