

**Approved Minutes  
Oyster Creek TMDL Steering Committee  
July 14, 2005**

**Stakeholders Present:**

Al Abramczyk—Sugar Lakes Homeowners Association  
Tricia Bradbury—Keep Sugar Land Beautiful  
Jay Bragg (replacing Warren Davis)—Brazos River Authority  
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  
Lisa Rogers—Sierra Club  
Adam Smith (substituting for Howard Christian)—City of Sugar Land  
Joe Taylor—Quail Valley Utility District

**Stakeholders Absent:**

Martha Martin—Imperial Sugar

**Others Present:** Millie Holifield—City of Missouri City; Justin Bower & Nick Jirasek—City of Sugar Land; Aaron Wendt—Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board; John Ellis—Quail Valley Utility District

**Support Staff:** Linda Broach, Dania Drogolewicz, Faith Hambleton & Jason Leifester—TCEQ; Mansour Samadpour, Institute for Environmental Health, Inc.; Kirk Dean—Parsons Water & Infrastructure, Inc; Larry Hauck—TIAER.

**Administrative Issues**

The Upper Oyster Creek Dissolved Oxygen and Bacteria TMDL Watershed Steering Committee met Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:45 pm at City of Sugar Land Eldridge Park Conference Room. Larry Hauck, TIAER, opened the meeting and self-introductions were made. The committee approved the minutes from the December 9, 2004 meeting. Mr. Jay Bragg was added to the committee as the representative for the Brazos River Authority, replacing Mr. Warren Davis, who has taken another position.

**Status of Bacterial Source Tracking**

Larry Hauck, TIAER, provided a brief overview of the TMDL process followed by a review of relevant bacteria criterion to protect contact recreation use and a summary of bacteria data collected during years 2002 and 2003 that confirmed nonsupport of the contact recreation use in much of the watershed. Mansour Samadpour, president of IEH, was introduced, and it was indicated that he was to present on the laboratory aspects of bacterial source tracking in response to unanswered questions from the December meeting.

Dr. Samadpour provided an overview of bacterial source tracking, the ribotyping approach used in his laboratory, performance results of his laboratory in a national test, and case studies from his epidemiological work.

Following this presentation, Kirk Dean, Parsons, presented the findings from the Upper Oyster Creek bacterial source tracking study. The findings showed some variability between the six core stations, but, in general, wildlife was identified in 40 % of the isolates, human/sewage in 15 %, livestock in 20 %, pets in 10 %, and 15 % of the isolates could not be identified. Dr. Dean indicated that there was not statistical significant variability of sources between base flow and rainfall-runoff sampling events and seasonality was not apparent in the data. Patterns did exist wherein human/sewage was generally higher near urban areas and the livestock component increased in the more rural areas.

Dr. Hauck presented the next steps in the bacteria TMDL process. He indicated that work would continue toward development of a TMDL with a focus on the controllable sources such as human/sewage, livestock, and pets. It was further indicated that at many stations the majority of the indicated sources were from the combined categories of wildlife and unknowns and that those two categories were likely, of themselves, to be sufficient to cause *E. coli* concentrations resulting in nonsupport. Nonetheless, Dr. Hauck stressed TCEQ's desire to proceed with the TMDL and to reduce controllable sources. Remaining steps outlined were for TIAER to assist TCEQ in technical aspects of the TMDL document, then the TMDL will undergo public comment and approval by TCEQ and EPA. Upon final approval of the TMDL, an Implementation Plan will be developed that may include additional assessment activities, and the Implementation Plan will be put into action.

Some stakeholders voiced opinions on the bacteria studies and TMDL process. Al Abramczyk, Sugar Lakes Homeowners Association, requested elaboration on the public comment process. Tricia Bradbury, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, observed the benefit of reducing the human/sewage component to the bacteria in the creek. Lee Dorger, City of Missouri City, expressed concern that lots of resources could be spent and still not bring Oyster Creek into support of the contact recreation use.

### **Findings of Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring**

Dr. Hauck presented the status of the 24-hour dissolved oxygen data collected studies. Because of time constraints, he briefly indicated that because of feedback from the December 9, 2004 stakeholder meeting, TCEQ had agreed to a third year of dissolved oxygen monitoring which was presently ongoing. Joe Taylor, Quail Valley Utility District, indicated his desire that should this process result in dissolved oxygen computer modeling, that the modeling consider one scenario that did not include either pumping by the GCWA or municipal wastewater treatment plant discharges.

### **Meeting Wrap-up**

The bacterial source tracking report will be made available to meeting participants as will a hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Samadpour. The next stakeholder meeting would likely occur in the fall of 2005.