

**Petronila Creek Dissolved Solids TMDL
Stakeholder Meeting Summary
June 2, 2005
Robstown, TX**

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT: Ken Kerrihard, Continental Resources, Inc.; Roy Staiger, TX Railroad Commission; John Freeman, USDA – NRCS

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT: Kevin Wagner, TX State Soil and Water Conservation Board; Brandon Hall, Western Gulf, LTD Edward Jungmann, Nueces County SWCD; Rocky Freund, Nueces River Authority; Walter Jeffery, Apache Corporation; Noe Ovalle, City of Agua Dulce; Bobby Castellano, City of Driscoll; William J Ordner, Mayor, City of Petronila; Doug Duncan, TX Ecologists, Inc.; Jerry Faske, Nueces County Bishop Driscoll Drainage District 3; Ramiro Carrion, Nueces County Drainage and Conservation District 2; Leon Bernsen, Landowner; Ken Faughn, Robstown Area Development Commission; Beth Payne, Landowner; Scott Anderson, Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Assoc.; William J. Stevens, Texas Alliance of Energy Producers; Michael Weeks, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

SUPPORT TEAM PRESENT: Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Earlene Lambeth, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Alex Johnson, EA Engineering Science and Technology; Dr. Raed El Farhan, The Louis Berger Group; Dr. Jeff Paine, UT Bureau of Economic Geology

OTHERS PRESENT: Julio Garcia, Jr., Nueces County Drainage District # 2; Bill Carter, TCEQ; Harvey Buehring, Nueces County Extension Service; Terry Clenney, Continental Resources, Inc.; David Reagan, Landowner; Frank Salinas, American Ecology

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Earlene Lambeth of the TCEQ opened the meeting with introductions and a brief presentation on the TCEQ stakeholder goals and public participation. The purpose of the meeting was to update the stakeholders on the progress of the (total dissolved solids) TDS TMDL project, solicit comments and suggestions.

Dr. Raed El Farhan: Raed EL-Farhan with the Louis Berger gave a brief re-cap of the TMDL process, steps, and listing on the 303(d) list.

Dr. Jeff Paine: The meeting was turned over to Jeff Paine from the Bureau of Economic Geology at UT Austin who presented the results of an airborne geophysical survey performed in January 2005 performed on Petronila Creek. The presentation and results can be viewed at the following web site:

<http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/water/quality/tmdl/32-petronilaelecon.pdf>

Previous meeting summaries, presentations and other data results and reports can be found at the following web site:

http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/water/quality/tmdl/petronila_group.html

Comments and Questions:

Question: What was the flow through the creek at the time of the sampling?

Answer: In general the flow is low.

It was the stakeholders understanding that there is no natural flowing rivers/streams between the Nueces and the Rio Grande. Creeks either have municipal or dischargers that feed them (the creeks). No spring fed creeks are in the area. Flow data results were presented at an earlier meeting and can be reviewed at the above web site.

Question: Have you used any other geophysics equipment?

Answer: No

Question: At the downstream end of the lower segment, your low frequency anomalies, how do they compare with the base of ground water? Also, have you done any water well sampling?

Answer: I am glad you asked that, I do not know the answer to that question. It is something we should think about. Most of the water wells in this area are a lot deeper than what we are looking to my knowledge.

Question: You stated earlier that your instrument is not affected by ground water.

Answer: It is not affected by surface water – at least at the thickness we have here.

Question: You also state that you did not think this is bay water because of the calcium/magnesium ratio. Will calcium/magnesium filter out of the water at the same ratio?

Answer: Organisms will absorb some of the calcium and typically calcium will go out faster or be used up quicker. Without speculating, we are looking at past work in this area and what is related. In this case it would be difficult to envision how you could get something that extensive that far up the creek from a bay source.

The TMDL sampling is basically a snapshot. Data is available from sampling for a long period of time. We do not see any evidence in a downstream direction of any fractionation that would change the ratio of the calcium to magnesium.

Dr. Raed El Farhan: Raed EL-Farhan with the Louis Berger updated the stakeholders on the status of the TMDL modeling. Raed summarized how the sources identified in the BEG study will be represented and incorporated in the model.

A copy of his presentation can be found at the following web site:

<http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/water/quality/tmdl/32-petronilamodelTMDL.pdf>

Comments and Questions:

Question: What will the next meeting be about?

Answer: The next meeting will be in July and we will show you the model. A draft TMDL will then be drafted after that and another meeting will be held for comments. The participation in this process of the TMDL project is important – stakeholder comment and buy in is important. This phase of the process is when the public participation is vital, everyone’s participation and involvement is needed. Please review previous documents posted at the web site and feel free to call Kerry Niemann at (512) 239-0483 or email kniemann@tceq.state.tx.us with any questions. Encourage others to participate in this TMDL that is designed to remediate and restore the water quality in Petronila Creek.