

# TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FOR THE RIO GRANDE BASIN

## MIDDLE RIO GRANDE COORDINATED MONITORING MEETING

April 15, 2024  
2:00 – 3:00 PM CT  
MS Teams Teleconference

### AGENDA

- 2:00 Welcome and Introductions  
Carlos McMullen – Laredo ESD  
Lindsey Elkins – TPWD  
Erika Saenz – TCEQ Region 16  
Katrina Smith – TCEQ Central Office  
Terra Lindgren – TCEQ Central Office  
Martin Castro – RGISC  
Tricia Cortez – RGISC  
Dr. Tom Vaughan – RGISC  
Lisa Torres – USIBWC CRP
- 2:10 Discussion of various water quality topics
- Discussion of TCEQ's Integrated Report/303d list
    - Ms. Torres discussed the 2022 integrated report and compared listings to the draft 2024 Integrated Report.
    - Ms. Torres discussed which parameters remained the same and any new listing or de-listings between the 2022 and 2024 IR.
  - Identification of water quality issues, data gaps, and sources of pollution
    - Ms. Torres discussed the issues with bacteria in the middle segment and showed various maps with the location of those impairments.
  - Ongoing research and projects
    - Ms. Cortez discussed the 5-year plan to fix wastewater issues in Laredo. Plan was finalized in August of 2023.
    - Ms. Cortez suggested that IBWC conduct a bacteria study again. Ms. Torres indicated that it is the intent of IBWC to re-visit the bacteria study in the near future.
    - Dr. Vaughan suggested that the study should be a bi-national project.
    - Ms. Cortez continued to discuss another bi-national project in Azteca neighborhood in partnership with NPS.
    - Dr. Vaughan added that there is substantial levee erosion, and that the city is due to de-commission the WWTP on the south side of the city.
    - Mr. Castro continued to discuss projects in the Laredo area. He discussed a riparian restoration at Las Palmas Park by International Bridge 2. The project will remove invasive species and re-introduce many native plants and trees. The project is currently in the planning phase but will kick off later this year (around fall timeframe).

- 2:30 Monitoring Schedule
- Discussion of statewide Coordinated Monitoring Schedule (CMS)  
<http://cms.lcra.org/> - current and FY 2024 monitoring
    - Stations- any issues – Currently there are no issues with sampling stations.
    - Shipping issues – Shipping issues out the middle portion of the Rio Grande basin remain minimal.
    - Safety/security issues – Mr. Castro indicated having issues with Border Patrol. He stated that they have been approached by agents demanding proof that they are allowed to be sampling in the river. Mr. Castro, however, indicating that this has happened in public roads rather than at the sampling site.
- 2:50 Other announcements and information
- 2024 Basin Summary Report for the Rio Grande Basin
    - Ms. Torres indicated that the 2024 Basin Summary Report is in the works and should be completed this summer. Once completed the report would be posted on the USIBWC CRP website and a link sent out to partners.
- 3:00 Final comments and adjourn.

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### **USIBWC CRP Partner Training and Monitoring Guidance Updates- Required**

- Discuss issues with the CRP partners.
  - Missing parameters
  - Legibility of writing
- Answer questions and review monitoring procedures on USIBWC YSI multiprobe Standard Operating Procedures for maintenance and calibration for the YSI ProDSS
- Discuss replacement parts for the YSI ProDSS to partners, as needed, and go over procedures for replacing them. Take any additional supply needs.

Adjourn refresher training portion.

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