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Summary of the Third Lake Thunderbird TAC Meeting on April 24, 2012

Ed Dihrberg of ODEQ welcomed the committee members and meeting observers.

Andrew Fang of ODEQ presented a walk-through of the draft lake modeling report written by ODEQ contractor Dynamic Solutions, LLC (DSLLC). The key parts of the report include model build-up, model calibration, load reduction scenario simulations, and sediment diagenesis simulations. Please refer to the PowerPoint slides of the meeting for more information. The draft model report showed that by reducing all pollutant loadings into the lake by an across-the-board 75%, lake water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen and turbidity could be met quickly. Sediment diagenesis simulation by the lake model showed that the chlorophyll-a criterion could also be met eventually with the sediment gradually cleaned of accumulated nutrients and organic material.

Mark Derichsweiler discussed the options of developing a straight TMDL and a watershed management plan in lieu of TMDL. The City of Moore representative voiced his concern on the regulatory ramifications of a TMDL. Mark noted that the same regulatory controls would be required in a watershed management plan in lieu of TMDL. Considering how long it would take and how difficult it would be to have an EPA "accepted" watershed management plan in lieu of TMDL, Mark stated that the best approach was to complete a straight TMDL and use the TMDL to update the current regular watershed management plan developed by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for the watershed. No further concerns were raised by the committee.

ODEQ attorney Mista Turner-Burgess updated those present about the lawsuit filed by COMCD against ODEQ for not completing the TMDL for Lake Thunderbird by April 2010. In its petition, COMCD asked the court to order ODEQ to complete the TMDL by November 2012. ODEQ has determined that it could complete the TMDL by November 2012 only if it disbands the TAC and limits the number of times DEQ runs the models to a minimum. An example of such a TMDL based on one model run and the land area of each of the 7 entities located in the watershed was presented. ODEQ also determined that it should be possible to complete the TMDL by July 31, 2013 with multiple model runs to simulate the optimum load reductions needed for different pollutants and the most reasonable allocations among cities based on input from the TAC and other stakeholders. Mista stated that ODEQ is waiting for COMCD to make a choice between these two approaches.

Mark stated that the current contract with the lake modeler DSLLC had a provision for them to come to Oklahoma and hold a public meeting on the model results. DEQ is considering having a TAC technical meeting first with DSLLC in the afternoon before the public meeting. The committee agreed on the arrangement although some members indicated they would only go to the public meeting.

The next regular quarterly meeting was not scheduled during the meeting.