

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Workgroup

Harlingen Irrigation District Pump House
Trevino Road
Harlingen, Texas

April 21, 2011 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions.....Andy Garza, TSSWCB

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Status..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Jaime Flores provided an update on the Watershed Protection Implementation efforts. Specific efforts consisted of working with IBWC to reduce the amount of habitat lost within the Arroyo Colorado riparian area, setting up the 501(c)3 organization titled Arroyo Colorado Conservancy to ensure long-term continuation of the Partnership,

Review of Components Addressing Agricultural NPS Pollution.....Andy Garza, TSSWCB

- Andy Garza brought up the 2006 document titled “Components Addressing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution” which can be found at <http://arroyocolorado.org/media/2632/ComponentsAddressingAgNSP.pdf>.

Implementing Educational Components of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Focused on Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution..... Allen Berthold, TWRI

- A presentation was given that highlighted the educational projects that have been completed and are currently being conducted. Costs per project were provided along with the fiscal year that they began in.

Agricultural Implementation Activities..... Allen Berthold, TWRI

- The same presentation as above was given that showed the original objectives from the 2006 document mentioned above, milestones, estimated costs v. actual costs, total investment into Ag from government agencies, and specific projects relating to Cost-Share, Technical Assistance, Education, and Monitoring. Also, the presentation showed the amount of acres by year that have been incorporated into WQMPs by county since 1999.

Landowner Involvement in Technical Assistance Programs..... Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB
Sam Ruiz, Landowner

- Sam Ruiz of Mid-Valley Agriculture has been an outstanding advocate on conservation. Mr. Ruiz addressed the audience on the implementation of Best Management Practices. Sam has been involved with Conservation Programs for close to a decade and commends the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for their efforts in assisting Agriculture Producers. Topics of discussion included Irrigation Land Leveling, Irrigation Pipeline and Drip Irrigation Systems.

Agricultural Success Stories..... Allen Berthold, TWRI

- Several success stories were discussed to include into a newsletter. First, almost all milestones that were set in 2006 have been met with the exception of a FY12 Monitoring project and the long-term goal of 150,000 acres under WQMPs by the year 2015. Secondly, the amount of acres under WQMPs to date is a huge success for producers in the Valley. The amount of dollars that has been brought into the region is also a potential success story as government agencies have invested into preserving the region which has helped in stimulating the local economy. Lastly, results from the 06-10 monitoring project is a potential success pending what the data says.

Other Business.....Andy Garza, TSSWCB

Elect New Agricultural Issues Workgroup Co-Leader

Next Meeting Date.....October 2011

- Ronnie Ramirez was elect as the new Co-Leader for the Agricultural Issues Workgroup and will serve as the local point of contact for Agricultural Issues related to the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan.

Adjourn/Lunch