

# Arroyo Colorado Outreach and Education Workgroup

Texas AgriLife Extension Conference Room

April 12, 2011 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

## Attendees:

Omar Rios, Harlingen

Luis Guerra, San Juan

Jaime Longoria, HSWCD

Jaime Flores, TWRI

Marcie Oviedo, LRGVDC

Ludy Saenz, LRGVDC

Melisa Gonzales, Alamo

Javier Guerrero, TAMUK

Ernesto Hinojosa, Cameron Co

## Meeting Summary

**Welcome and Introductions**..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

### Project Discussion:

**ACWP Sustainability Grant** ..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

Jaime informed the group that the ACWP had applied for 510c3, non-profit group status as the Arroyo Colorado Conservancy (ACC) last year. He went on to inform the group that the ACC had received official notification from the IRS that it had been granted the 501c3, tax exempt status and would be classified as a public charity. The ACC will function as the financial development work group for the ACWP and help guide the group's sustainability efforts.

**New O&E Materials/Event Planning**..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

Valley wide Trash Bash was held April 2, 2011. Every city in the watershed hosted a Trash Bash event in their city. It was huge success. Valley Proud Environmental Council deserves a big hand for putting these events together.

Valley Proud and the Valley Sportsmen Association hosted an Arroyo Colorado waterway cleanup at the Rio Hondo Boat ramp on 4-9-11. Over 40 volunteers in 5-6 boats collected over 800 lbs of trash.

San Juan will have an Earth Day event on 4/15/2011 at the San Juan wetlands. Once again, PSJA High School has adopted the park and will bus in 300 students as volunteers to help maintain the landscape surrounding the wetland.

ACWP is hosting a Texas Stream Team Training workshop at the Estero Llano Grande World Birding Center on 4-23-11.

Dragon Fly Days at the Estero Llano Grande and Valley Nature Center on May 7-8, 2011

**Road Signage Project Update** ..... Javier Guerrero, TAMUK

Weslaco will be making signs for other Task Force Cities. Cities need to contact Oscar or Efrain with the City of Weslaco to place an order.

Stenciling-Omar informed the group that he has already made contact with a vendor about ordering storm drain markers. He showed the group the various options available. The group decided on one. Omar asked the cities to contact him with the amount needed so he can tally them up and place one order. Cities will also do stenciling on certain storm drains. Cameron county will use signs.

**Task Force Convention** ..... Javier Guerrero, TAMUK

The TPDES Task Force held their annual convention March 30-April 1, 2011 at SPI, TX. There were 21 local governments in attendance and 80 students from Edcouch Elsa and Pt. Isabel. Lower turnout than expected, 60-80 professionals, but still a very informative and well received convention.

**Arroyo Colorado Outreach Activities:**

**Classroom Presentations** ..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

Javier has and Task Force have completed presentations in Cameron Co/Brownsville, Weslaco, Mission and Harlingen. TAMUK has awarded teacher stipends to teachers from Edcouch Elsa, Pt. Isabel and PSJA. Currently two models for presentations can be used.

**O&E Project Updates:**

Task Force will be hosting Housekeeping Workshops this Summer; 1 in Cameron Co, 1 in Brownsville, and 2 in Hidalgo Co; 1 in Weslaco and 1 to be announced at a later date.

Other topics discussed:

Water bill inserts

PSA for city have been completed. TAMUK and Task Force will begin filming/production of documentary in June and should be completed by this fall. Dr. Jude Benavides will narrate the documentary.

**Upcoming Grants and Potential Projects**

**Grants Update** ..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

Jaime talked about CARE grant. City of Alamo is currently working on this funding opportunity and Jaime talked about letters of support. Melisa is to get sample of letters out by Friday to all identified partners/stakeholders.

ACWP was awarded the ACWP Sustainability grant.

The ACWP will submit a grant to GLO in partnership with TPWD to conduct a special study in the AC.

Reminders of habitat workgroup meeting at Estero Llano Grande for Thursday, April 21 from 2-4 pm and Steering Committee Meeting from 5-7pm.

Meeting adjourned as lunch arrived.