

# Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting

Texas A&M Kingsville, Citrus Center  
Rio Red Classroom  
312 N. International Blvd, Weslaco, Texas 78596

July 22, 2010                      4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

## ATTENDEES

Jaime Flores-TWRI  
Allen Berthold-TWRI  
Ronnie Ramirez-TSSWCB  
Rocky Freund-NRA  
Sam Sugarek, NRA  
Beth Almaraz, NRA  
Darrel Gun, HWWS

Kyle O'Haver, TPWD  
Dr. Kim Jones, TAMUK  
Martin Alcala Jr., TAMUK  
Tony Reisinger, TX Sea Grant  
Lucas Gregory, TWRI  
Ernesto Reyes-USFWS

## MEETING SUMMARY

**4:30 Social – Snacks and Refreshments Provided by**

**5:00 Welcome and Introductions.....**Jude Benavides, UTB (Steering Committee Chair)

**5:05 Work Group Updates** (10 minutes each)

**Agricultural Issues.....**Andy Garza, TSSWCB

- Project Status Update
  - WQMP-TSSWCB Final report is being written and will be available to the public
  - TSSWCB: AC Agricultural Nonpoint Source Assessment – 1 year of sampling is complete and will be starting the next year soon.
    - SWAT – Will be working on completing the scenarios in the next 6 months.
  - EPA: Integrated Farm Management – ongoing soil testing campaign that ends February 1, 2010. It has been slow and we will be promoting it but we need help!
- How to get more people at the Ag Issues Workgroup Meeting
  - CEUs to get more Stakeholders present
  - Streamline the meeting – Summaries and pertinent information first then business last so that people don't have to stay for the whole meeting.
  - Better advertising. Example - FSA office – send them a flier/letter and they will send to all on their list.

**Habitat Issues .....** Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension

- Four Cities Wetland Project
  - La Feria is finished and has had walk through and grand opening (with 500 people and there was a freeze). They were able to identify 29 different species of birds. It was a great success.
  - San Juan grand opening on April 22.
  - San Benito to be complete by the end of October.
  
- Los Fresnos
  - Resaca that has dried up right beside high school. They also have drainage problems, and thus need to make this drain correctly. There was an old drain pipe that needs to be cleared up. This would be a good candidate for 319!!
  - Problem - There are two private property owners that would have to give up property (20 acres). **Look to involve home owners on the South side because it would help property values.**
  
- TCEQ 319 – Lower Rio Grande Valley Low-Impact Development Implementation and Education – City of Brownsville, San Juan, Donna, Pharr, CCDD#1, Valley Nature Center, TAMUK, TWRI.
  
- CC Wetland Delineation Project – analysis of GIS data to determine where you needed to do restoration and how to predetermine this with GIS data.
  
- Solar Powered Water Circulators
  - Dr. Kim Jones and Jaime are working with a private company and TCEQ to get the ball rolling on this.
  - They are putting together a 2 pager that will be distributed to SC to read.
  - Slow motion circulation is better than oxygen injection.
  - Future goal is to write an NSF grant to look at this.
  - Taking what the vendor is saying and putting some science behind it (TAMUK).

**Water Quality Monitoring ..... Rocky Freund, Nueces RA**

- NRA - Study to evaluate what was the best indicator for the AC.
  - They did 12 months of *E. coli*, *Enterococcus*, and fecal coliforms.
  - The AC is always on the list based on the fecal coliform.
  - Is the *E. coli* getting lower because of the BMPS or just because the conductivity is higher and thus *Enterococcus* would be a better indicator? *See graphs*. All grab samples are meeting the criteria, but it is still busting the geometric mean.
  - There will be a summary report coming out.
  
- NRA will do a Recreational Use-Attainability Study to look at the usage of the Arroyo Colorado Upper Tidal Section. They will go on high usage days such as Cinco de Mayo or other days and they will see how the waterway is being used to see which secondary usage classification it should be put under for TCEQs new usage structure for accepted bacterial levels.

**Education and Outreach .....Jaime Flores, TWRI**

- TxDot Road Signage. With the help of the Storm Water Task Force Cities and TxDOT, we hope to have another 40 signs up by the end of March. TxDOT has already posted “No Dumping” signs at the bridges over the Arroyo Colorado at FM 493 and FM 907.
- AG PSA completed
- Estero Llano Grande – Spooky Science Fest coming up in

**Waste Water Infrastructure .....Jaime Flores, TWRI**

- Dr. Lee Clapp – ARRA WWTP sampling project coming along

**6:00 Long-Term Partnership Sustainability ..... Allen Berthold, TWRI**

- We will be doing an amendment to the current Plan of Work to continue funding with TCEQ thru August 31, 2010.
- We have submitted proposals to both TCEQ and TSSWCB to have another 3 years to focus our efforts on making this partnership sustainable.

**6:45 Grants Update..... Allen Berthold, TWRI**

**6:50 Other Business .....Jaime Flores, TWRI**

**7:00 Adjourn.....Jude Benavides, UTB (Steering Committee Chair)**