

ACW Steering Committee Meeting
April 21, 2011

Welcome and introductions

Attendees:

Ronnie Ramirez

Josh Oyer

Allen Berthold

Sam Sugarek

Jaime Flores

Kati Carberry

Work group updates

- Ag issues
 - Allen updated the Steering Committee attendees on agricultural activities and highlighted the implementation timeline that was established in a 2006 document that was created by the Agricultural Issues Workgroup. The number of acres in Water Quality Management Plans per county, number of dollars invested into Ag, and deliverables from past and ongoing projects were also discussed. The meeting was held at 10:00 on 4-21-11
- Habitat issues
 - Jaime updated the Steering Committee about what the habitat workgroup discussed during their meeting. This consisted of the current activities that were ongoing with the International Boundary and Water Commission and some of the methods that were being used, the various habitat related projects and their status, the various School's involvement with earth day events, and upcoming potential projects. The meeting was held at 2:00 on 4-21-11
- Education and outreach
 - Jaime updated the Steering Committee on the Education and Outreach activities which included participating in a Valley wide trash bash, Arroyo waterway cleanup, Earth Day events, and a Texas Stream Team Training. The Road Sign project was discussed as well as the storm drain stenciling. Jaime also discussed the classroom presentations and gave ongoing project updates. The meeting was held on 4-12-11.
- Wastewater infrastructure
 - TAMUK is still conducting monthly sampling as part of the ARRA, WWTP monitoring project. This will continue until the end of August. Results from the sampling events have started coming in and are being compiled by TAMUK

Long-term partnership sustainability

- Jaime informed the group that the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership 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 Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership and help guide the group's sustainability efforts.

Grants update

- The General Land Office currently has a Request For Proposals open through their Coastal Management Program. Also, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will begin soliciting proposal on June 1 for their 319(h) grants.

Other business

- Josh Oyer gave a presentation about the Texas Stream Team and their efforts.
- Nueces River Authority is conducting a Recreational Use Attainability Analysis (RUAA) for the Arroyo Colorado. They are trying to determine if the Arroyo is used recreationally; ie, swimming, fishing, wading, etc. If they determine that it is not being used for these purposes, the TCEQ will lower the standards for bacteria in Segment 2202, Arroyo Colorado above tidal. This will have a tremendous impact on the Arroyo. If the standard is lowered, this will allow the Arroyo to continue to degrade and still meet the new standards that would be put in place instead of trying to reach the current standard. They have been conducting a literature search at the Harlingen, La Feria, Mercedes and Weslaco Public Libraries. They will be conducting a second sampling event on the weekend of April 23rd. They will have another RUAA presentation during the next ACSC meeting to be held on July 21, 2011 at the Estero Llano Grande World birding center