

# Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Workgroup

January 26, 2009

9:00 am-12:00 pm

## MEETING SUMMARY

### ATTENDEES:

Pamela Casebolt

Brad Cowan

Willy Cupit

Laura De La Garza

Juan Enciso

Michael Euler

Jaime Flores

Andy Garza

Arturo Ibarra

Roger Miranda

Alex Nunez

Enrique Perez

Xavier Peries

Ray Prewett

Ronnie Rameriez

Ruben Saldana

Jose Sanchez

Venkatesh Uddameri

Sonny Vela

Aaron Wendt

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

### Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

Review of Components Addressing Agricultural NPS Pollution.....Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB  
*Components Addressing Agricultural NPS Pollution in the Arroyo Colorado*

*The goal of the ACWPP is to reduce the addition of pollutants such as oxygen-demanding substances, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment to the Arroyo Colorado and to improve natural habitat to the degrees necessary to meet the uses designated by the State of Texas and specified in the State's Water Quality Standards.*

*To reduce pollutant loading from agricultural nonpoint sources in the Arroyo Colorado watershed, state and federal governments are working with local stakeholders in the watershed to focus state and federal technical and financial assistance and educational programs on agricultural issues in the AC watershed. The programs encourage and support the voluntary adoption of BMPs to reduce suspended sediment levels resulting from cropland erosion, oxygen demanding organic material (BOD) from runoff of crop residue and N and P fertilizer runoff from irrigated cropland fields.*

*Over the first 5 years of the Plan (by 2010), the goal is to encourage the voluntary implementation of conservation plans on 33% of the irrigated cropland in the watershed (100,000 acres). Our long term goal by 2015 is to encourage the voluntary implementation and maintenance of conservation plans on at least 50% of the irrigated cropland in the watershed (approximately 150,000 acres).*

*\*\*\* Based on the new draft LULC map, we could potentially be closer to our goal depending on the number of acres that are irrigated cropland. If the % of irrigated cropland is less than*



- Project ends 3/1/2009

**Other Programs Available in the Arroyo Colorado:**

TPWD Restitution Funds..... Alex Nunez, TPWD

- TPWD restitution funds are funds collected from fish kills or pollution events. Funds have been used to enhance wetlands, purchase land, stream bank restoration, etc.
- Preference is given to activities that focus on the geographic area where injury occurred.
- Best to develop a master plan for a project and the geographic area of interest. Follow up with the regional KAST biologist.

2008 Farm Bill ..... Sonny Vela, USDA-NRCS

- Farm Bill passed in 2008.
- Promotes organic production
- Adjusted group income decreased and pay limits were reduced from \$450,000 to \$300,000
- EQIP, WHIP, GRP, and WRP program rules were published in the Federal Registry
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) is currently accepting proposal. Deadline for proposals is March 2<sup>nd</sup>. More information is available at:  
<http://frwebgate5.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/TEXTgate.cgi?WAISdocID=38565272582+0+1+0&WAIAction=retrieve>

**Discuss/Prioritize Future Funding Needs and Sources** ..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

- *Agricultural Water Conservation* grant through the Texas Water Development Board is accepting proposals until March 4, 2009. Grants range between \$150,000 - \$200,000
- TSSWCB §319(h) grant for technical assistance, cost share (December 2008 RFP)

**Other Business**..... Pamela Casebolt, TSSWCB

- Next Meeting Date ..... Monday, July 27, 2009
- Field Tour reminder and details
  - Need for a living geo-database for the watershed

Adjourn