

Arroyo Colorado Outreach and Education Workgroup

October 14, 2008 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Attendees

Sky Lewey, Nueces River Authority
Elizabeth Heise, UTB
Megan Meier, TWRI
Laura de la Garza,

Don Hockaday, UTPA
Jaime Flores, TWRI
Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

Welcome and Introductions

- Introduction of New Watershed Coordinator Laura De La Garza
-Jaime Flores was introduced to the group
- Nomination of a new workgroup leader Laura De La Garza
-Jaime Flores was unanimously selected as the new workgroup leader

Project Discussion:

- Road Signage – Watershed Boundary Megan Meier, TWRI
 - media release after installed (will be installing 10 signs throughout the watershed), hopefully sometime the next few weeks
 - Task Force will also be ordering signs as well, not sure how many yet though
 - McAllen also installing a few signs themselves (at least 2)

- Storm Drain Marking Megan Meier, TWRI
 - Working with SWTF to maximize order amount
 - Should be ordering in the next week
 - SWTF hoping for an event with media release in December when markers come in
 - SWTF will advertise with billboards for event

O&E Project Updates:

- Storm Water Task Force Update Jaime Flores, TWRI
 - Distribution of utility bill inserts in November (Draft of document currently under review)
 - Airing of cartoon PSAs in classrooms and on local channel
 - Encouraging cities to attend CREST-RESACA conference, which will be attended by state representatives; training courses and informational presentations
 - o should include info on bi-monthly update
 - o model will be on display

Texas Stream Team Jason Pinchback, River Systems Institute

- Still searching for more volunteers to sign up to have another training course; need at least 10 individuals to host a training. ACWP need to promote Stream Team in bi-monthly updates and maybe add to script for watershed model
- Work with Jaime to help find trained volunteers who do not have monitoring sites; contact Stream Team for list of trained volunteers in watershed. Maybe try and recruit volunteers when the model is being displayed.

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Model Jaime Flores, TWRI

- AC model is being housed at Estero Llano Grande and Jennifer Owen is managing the reservation schedule of the model
- It was recently demonstrated at the Green Living Festival in McAllen
 - o Featured in “the Monitor”, under the Valley Living Section. Jaime will send the feature to TWRI for posting on the Web site.
 - o Between 1000-2500 attended Green Living Festival

Arroyo Colorado Outreach Activities:

Past and Upcoming Events Laura De La Garza

Upcoming Events

- Mission Butterfly Festival October 16-17
- Spooky Science Fest on October 25
- Project WILD Training October 27-28 (Laura participated in past)
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- Big River Festival on November 1
- Pharr Out Nature Day on November 1
- Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival on November 5-8
- Stormwater Task Force Conference on November 24-25

Upcoming Grants and Potential Projects

Module development with Watershed Model..... Megan Meier, TWRI

- Working with Linda Lucio on development of either modules for watershed model or to be included in the AC curriculum. More information is needed from Linda.
- Javier mentioned TCEQ website for teachers and kids at previous SWTF meeting: www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/education.html
 - o Website might be beneficial for curriculum development

Upcoming Grants..... Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

- Environmental education grant from EPA (maybe run through non-profit like Valley Proud, Friends of Laguna Atascosa, Valley Land Fund)
- Local public radio interested in airing free radio spots; need to work on and finalize scripts...provide to O&E workgroup once finalized

Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Laura has friends who translate (English to Spanish) documents for ~\$10
- Teen magazine geared towards high school kids that we might put information in
 - o students need so many community service credits to graduate and could be volunteer monitors
 - o see if schools have coordinator that have list of volunteer opportunities
- Arroyo wetland article in Texas Riparian Association Newsletter
- Rules on using Arroyo logo? Do we need to copyright it so not just any can use it? Can use SM which means service mark
- Don working on Wikipedia page; Jaime will help him;

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

January 13, 2009