

Arroyo Colorado Outreach and Education Workgroup

April 14, 2009

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Heidi Moltz, Texas Stream Team

Jaime Flores, TWRI

Javier Guerrero, Stormwater Taskforce

Megan Meier, TWRI

Laura de la Garza, Comite Resources

Amy Spalding, VLF

Roy Jimenez, City of Weslaco

Don Hockaday, UT Pan-Am

Welcome and Introductions Jaime Flores, TWRI

Project Discussion:

New O&E Materials Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Caps (sell them?)
- Buttons (like from Pachanga)
- Pamphlets (“Little Waterway with Big Job”)
- Bumper Stickers/Decals
- Literature for parks/refuges
- Hold workshop and invite cities
- Ask for sponsorships to pay for materials (could use as match for grants)
- Mini-versions of watershed model
- Suggested local government money as match
- RDF grant with city of McAllen; EPA added outreach component of conducting workshops for cities about State Revolving Fund (local governments like loans) and how it could be used for regional detention facilities
- John Deere dealer in Weslaco interested in having information to distribute to customers/farmers at local stores

Arroyo Colorado Outreach Activities:

Stock Show Booth Jaime Flores, TWRI

IMAS World Water Day Jaime Flores, TWRI

Earth Day Activities Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Task Force met this morning to get word out (working with Kathy, Jason and local schools)
- Activities on Sat. April 18 and on Earth Day, April 22
- Schools are busing students over for activities
- Hands-on activities, face painting, demonstrations, installation of markers
- Weslaco having own event with exhibits, music, food
- Most cities in task force having events

Additional Road Signage-Storm Water Task Force Abel Garza, TAMUK

- Cities making additional signage in shop and providing Task Force money to purchase signs as well (could use as match)

Texas Stream Team UpdateHeidi Moltz, Stream Team

- 6 actively monitored sites from McAllen to Laguna Madre
- Compiling and analyzing data from volunteers and professionals; present results on June 20th at Estero Llano Grande State Park
- Hosting teacher workshop at Hidalgo High School and certifying them as water quality monitors to be able to teach their students
- Texas Stream Team “meeting of the monitors” on July 17-19
- Might use model at some of these events

O&E Project Updates:

4 Cities Wetland Update Jaime Flores, TWRI

- San Juan has broken ground
- San Benito has started building and La Feria
- Mercedes still working on permit amendments
- Possibly City of Alamo

Storm Water Task Force Scholarships.....Abel Garza, TAMUK

- Offering 4 year scholarships (4 in Hidalgo and 4 in Cameron County) to ISDs participating with Task Force
- Working with liaison within ISDs
- Way for Task Force to give back
- Have to apply to Env't. or Civil Engineering at TAMUK

Upcoming Grants and Potential Projects

GLO ProposalMegan Meier, TWRI

- TWRI sent GLO 3 project ideas (similar to the proposals submitted to EPA Environmental Education Program) and they chose the PSAs for funding
- Proposed to develop 2 PSAs (in English and Spanish)

BWET Grant Update..... Don Hockaday, UTPA

- Have not received any information on whether funded or not; if funded, would pay for second watershed model

Other Business..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Article for newsletter could be what schoolteachers are doing after presentations are made by Jaime and Javier
- May 14th is Dragonfly Days at Estero Llano Grande
- Drop boxes on leveled agricultural fields; farmers need cost-sharing for this practice
- Steering Committee meeting on 27th

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

- July 14, 2009