

**Meeting Summary of the Arroyo Colorado Habitat Restoration Workgroup of the
Arroyo Colorado Watershed Steering Committee
Texas A&M University Kingsville – Citrus Center
January 19, 2006**

ATTENDING WORKGROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laura De La Garza – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator
Kay Jenkins – TPWD State Parks
Randy Blankinship – TPWD Coastal Fisheries
Olivia Gomez – TPWD Coastal Fisheries
Woody Woodrow – TPWD Coastal Fisheries
Chris Hathcock – TPWD State Parks, World Birding Center
Ernesto Reyes – USFWS Ecological Services
Loretta Mokry – Alan Plummer Associates
Roger Miranda – TCEQ
Earlene Lambeth – TCEQ
Lisa Williams – The Nature Conservancy of Texas
Lino Gonzales – City of Rio Hondo
Mary Lou Campbell – Sierra Club
Blake Traudt – GLO Coastal Management Program

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Kay Jenkins (TPWD) opened the ninth meeting of the Habitat Restoration Workgroup meeting held in Weslaco on January 19, 2006.

AGENDA ITEMS

Workgroup Discussion on Habitat Restoration Plan Development

A workgroup discussion to develop the state of the watershed portion of the Arroyo Colorado Habitat Restoration Plan using GIS tools and historic and recent aerial photographs was postponed indefinitely since the external hard drive containing the rectified images was destroyed when it was plugged in at the meeting.

The workgroup members moved on to different topics in the Habitat Restoration Plan outline. They named existing fish and wildlife resource and habitat conservation plans that could be included in the existing conservation plan section of the Habitat Restoration Plan. Suggestions included *Binational Ecosystem Management Plan*, the *Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition Plan*, the *Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge Expansion Plan*, the *Region M Water Plan*, fisheries management plans and relevant threatened and endangered species recovery plans. It was also suggested that the Nature Conservancy of Texas, the World Birding Center, Inc., and the Environmental Defense Council and the Valley Proud Council could provide information about ongoing conservation actions in the Arroyo Colorado watershed. It was also suggested that the

Conservation Reserve Program managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Services should be included in the section on existing conservation plans.

After a lunch break, Kay Jenkins announced that the final technical report for the feasibility study conducted by Alan Plummer and Associates, Inc. had been completed and ten copies of it would be mailed to her office in Rockport. She also said that it would be placed on the Arroyo Colorado Partnership webpage. Loretta Morkry, project manager with Alan Plummer and Associates, inc. sent tables that summarized the report's general recommendations, recommendations for potential demonstration projects, and project site selection considerations by email to the workgroup for use during the meeting. During the meeting, Ms. Mokry participated by telephone to answer questions regarding the final report and the summary tables of recommendations with workgroup members.

CLOSURE

Kay Jenkins stated that she would type up some of the recommended actions into the implementation plan matrix format developed by Laura De La Garza, Watershed Coordinator, for presentation to the Watershed Steering Committee meeting that night. She also said that she would email workgroup members for contributions to the Arroyo Colorado Habitat Restoration Plan. She would then compile a draft Arroyo Colorado Habitat Restoration Plan and send it to the workgroup members by email for review before finalizing it and providing it to the Watershed Coordinator and the TCEQ