

# Arroyo Colorado Habitat Work Group

January 26, 2009

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## MEETING SUMMARY

### ATTENDEES

Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension  
Jaime Flores, TWRI  
Laura de la Garza, Comite Resources  
Amy Spaulding, Valley Land Fund  
Kendall Keyes, TPWD  
Martha McClain, City of San Benito

Michelle Leftwich, City of Mercedes  
Loretta Mokry, Alan Plummer & Assoc.  
Ernesto Reyes, USFWS  
Roger Miranda, TCEQ  
Cecilia Wagner, TWRI\*  
\*Phone called into meeting

**Welcome and Introductions** ..... Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension

- Opened meeting at 2:05 p.m.

### Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

Protection Plan Implementation Highlights ..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Semi Annual Newsletter mailed out in Mid November
- Ten Watershed road signs installed in November
- Storm drain markers already purchased, LRGV Storm Water Task Force Cities will have a Valley wide installation event around Earth Day
- Dirty Dozen published in Texas COOP Power Magazine-TWRI submitted grant for 300,000 utility bill inserts for Storm Water Task Force Cities
- Santa Rosa first City to receive MS-4 Permit
- LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force & ACP conducting O&E classroom presentations-December, January & February

### Project Update and Discussions

Regional Wetland Study ..... Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension

- Dr. Jones has a student that is using LIDAR data to use it for modeling the proposed wetland sites-Johnson Land San Benito WWTP and more. Dr. Jones could not make meeting. Will wait for update from him and his student. Dr. Jones informed me that they will have an update by spring
- Regional wetland is proving to be difficult due to the fact that most grants have a limit to them and the regional wetland will have a high price tag
- Several smaller wetlands are being planned and built by RGV Cities

4- Cities wetland update ..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Michelle Leftwich gave update on Mercedes. They have amended their permit to expand and upgrade WWTP, would need another amendment for wetland. Mercedes still has questions regarding sampling, closure and liners. Roger answered some questions. Mercedes wetland is still a ways off.

- Martha McClain gave an update for the City of San Benito. They already went through amendment process to construct a 20 acre wetland that will include trails and viewing stations. Will be taking bids starting Feb. 3, hoping to start construction by Feb, 31.
- Laura De la Garza gave update on La Feria wetland. Already went through amendment process and received approval for 3 wetland ponds totaling 11 acres. Will start breaking ground immediately and hope to be done by August of this year.
- City of Alamo is conducting a feasibility study on a wetland system. They have lots of land available (75 acres of the old lagoon system, 1-50 acre parcel and 1-152 acre parcel). They are updating the WWTP plant to include bubble treatment.
- San Juan (still in design process) will be going out for bids again next Wednesday.

Valley Land Fund's Role in ACWPP Implementation.....Amy Spaulding, VLF

- **The Habitat Workgroup needs to draft a MOU for the VLF's permanent participation in the implementation of the ACWPP**
- Jim Tabak accepted the nomination of President of the VLF. Jim sent the SC a letter pledging continued support to the ACWPP.
- VLF with the Payne Auto Group will host benefit concert at El Rancho Charco on March 26, 2009. VLF wants everyone to attend.

**Available Grants/Potential Studies** ..... Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

- Recently submitted grants included 3 outreach and education grants submitted to EPA Environmental Education Grant program.
- Still waiting to hear about the wetland development and habitat restoration grants we submitted to GLO under the CIAP and CMP Programs (e.g. Port of Harlingen, Rio Hondo, wetland feasibility study)

**Other Business**..... Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension

- None

**Next Meeting Date/Adjourn**..... Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension

- July 27, 2009