

**Texas A&M AgriLife
Texas Water Resources Institute**

**Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Implementation
FY 07 CWA 319(h)
TCEQ Agreement No. 582-7-77045**

Quarter no. 7 From 09/01/08 Through 11/30/08

I. Abstract

With the resignation of the program coordinator and program assistant during the last quarter, implementation activities of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan hit a small bump in the road. Fortunately, though, TWRI identified and hired a program coordinator during this quarter and the individual is already identifying with the program and introducing himself throughout the watershed. Major accomplishments during this quarter include the installation of ten road signs marking the boundary of the watershed; a Texas Watershed Steward workshop occurred with outstanding attendance; and the 2008-2009 soil testing campaign was kicked off.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

TASK 1: Project Administration

Subtask 1.1: Project Oversight – TWRI will provide technical and fiscal oversight to ensure Tasks and Deliverables are acceptable and completed as scheduled and within budget.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has provided guidance and assistance to Watershed Coordinator in developing meeting agendas, summaries, an agency resolution, and facilitation of various meetings.
- b. The watershed coordinator (program coordinator) last day was 8/31/08. Therefore, TWRI posted the vacant program coordinator position and reviewed potential applicants.
- c. TWRI hired Jaime Flores on October 1, 2008 to fill the program coordinator position.
- d. The program assistant position is currently on hold and will be reopened if deemed necessary.
- e. A schedule of deliverables to track project activities and contract status is included in Appendix A.

71% Complete

Subtask 1.2: Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) – TWRI, with the assistance of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator (ACWC) and Arroyo Colorado Grant Writer/Water Quality Analyst (ACGC), will submit QPRs to TCEQ by the 15th of the month following each state fiscal quarter for incorporation into the Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS). The Reports will include:

- *status of deliverables for each Objective and Task*

- *narrative description of activities for each task outlined in this Scope of Work in Progress Report format*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Submitted Year 2, Quarter 3 Report on December 22, 2008.

71% Complete

Subtask 1.3: Quarterly TTVN or Teleconference – To facilitate good communication between project participants, a quarterly TTVN (Trans-Texas Videoconference Network) or teleconference will be scheduled and hosted by TWRI.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI and Watershed Coordinator and Grant Writer(s) maintain regular communication on a weekly basis.
- b. TWRI conducted a site visit in October to the watershed to introduce new watershed coordinator at the steering committee meeting and familiarize him with the current status of the project.
- c. Watershed coordinator visited TWRI in October to further discuss project deliverables and budget.
- d. TWRI participated in education and outreach workgroup meetings via teleconference.

71% Complete

Subtask 1.4: Arroyo Colorado Website – TWRI will maintain and improve the Arroyo Colorado website.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The Web site continues to receive updates.
- b. Continually add and update upcoming events on homepage.
- c. Revised the “How can you help” section of the website to include online subscription tools to the bi-monthly email updates and the bi-annual newsletter. Also, included areas where site visitors can email watershed coordinator about checking out the watershed model, being a volunteer monitor, conducting outreach and education activities or supporting the partnership thru a monetary means.

65% Complete

Subtask 1.5: Reimbursement Forms – Texas Cooperative Extension will submit reimbursement forms by the last day of the month following each state fiscal quarter

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. An invoice was submitted to TCEQ for \$19,201.30 covering all expenses from September 1, 2008 through November 30, 2008.
- b. Total invoiced expenditures to date: \$169,127.52 or 55% of total project budget.

55% Complete

Subtask 1.6: Final Report – TWRI, with assistance of the ACGC and ACWC, will provide TCEQ and EPA with a comprehensive report on the activities and success of the WPP conducted during the course of this project. An assessment of data collection and analysis efforts conducted under Task 5 of this scope of work will also be included in the final report.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report at this time.

0% Complete

TASK 2: Steering Committee and Work Group Facilitation

Subtask 2.1: Facilitate and Coordinate Meetings – The ACWC will facilitate the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Steering Committee and Work Group meetings by working with the chairman and work group leaders. Specifically, the ACWC will be responsible for:

- *Developing agendas, arranging meeting facilities and sending E-mail notices for Quarterly Steering Committee meetings*
- *Assisting all individual work groups with facility arrangements, developing and distributing agendas, and developing meeting summaries as requested by the Work Group Leaders; Work Group meetings will be held as needed, but, at least, semi-annually*
- *Providing information requested by work group leaders prior to and following work group meetings*
- *Attending all individual work group meetings*
- *Compiling and submitting all individual work group meeting agendas and meeting summaries to the TWRI project manager (these will be attached to QPRs and submitted to the TCEQ contract manager and posted on the webpage)*
- *Coordinating efforts of the individual work groups and the Watershed Steering Committee to facilitate the integration of the different components of the Watershed Protection Plan implemented by each workgroup*
- *Updating all Steering Committee meeting participants on the progress of individual workgroups (and/or arranging for individual workgroup leaders to provide these updates) and of the overall implementation of the Watershed Protection Plan*
- *Facilitating a forum for open discussion among Steering Committee meeting participants and interested parties attending the meetings*
- *Arranging presentations by guest speakers offering useful information to Steering Committee participants*
- *Preparing and disseminating summaries of Watershed Steering Committee meetings to all participants*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly SC meeting held on October 23, 2008. .
- b. Assisted in arranging and facilitating one work group meeting:
 - O&E meeting held October 14, 2008.
- c. Assisted in arranging the agenda for a wastewater infrastructure workgroup meeting to be held during the next quarter.

- d. All meeting summaries for SC and workgroup meetings are included in Appendix B. All summaries will be posted to the Project website.
- e. Attended all workgroup meetings, provided information requested by work group leaders and conducted follow-up activities as noted in the meeting summaries.
- f. Updated Partnership on overall implementation of the ACWPP at SC meeting including provided the SC with updated implementation schedules on agricultural, education and outreach, habitat and wastewater infrastructure activities at the October 23, 2008 meeting. The wastewater infrastructure schedule is still lacking in completion. Will provide schedule to workgroup at December meeting for their input.

71% Complete

Subtask 2.2: Provide Bi-Monthly Updates – The ACWC will provide e-mail updates to TWRI, TCEQ and the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership on progress made in implementation of the ACWPP at least twice monthly.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Bi-monthly updates were distributed to the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership members via the Arroyo Colorado listserv on September 5, 2008; November 3 and 17, 2008. Copies of updates are provided in Appendix C.

71% Complete

Subtask 2.3: Provide Membership Lists – The ACWC will provide TWRI updated lists of the Steering Committee and their contact information for posting on the project website.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The latest membership list has over 715 individuals.
- b. Continue to finalize workgroup membership lists. Still waiting on confirmation from workgroups to post the final lists on the web site.

90% Complete

Subtask 2.4: Engage Stakeholders – The ACWC will encourage participation and involvement of key stakeholders in the implementation of the WPP.

The ACWC conducted the following actions during this reporting period:

- a. September 16, 2008, presented the status of the WPP activities to the Texas Ag Industry meeting.
- b. October 2, 2008, presented the status of the WPP activities to a local Lions Club.
- c. October 9, 2008, met with Darla Jones, city of La Feria Public Works, to discuss implementation of their wetland project.
- d. October 10, 2008, met with Robert Diaz De Leon, city of Alamo Public Works Director to discuss storm water markers.
- e. October 10, 2008, Attended LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force O&E meeting. Was nominated and elected as workgroup chair.
- f. October 14, 2008, Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly O&E workgroup meeting.

- g. October 15, 2008, participated in the Willacy County Ag Field Day where the soil testing campaign was kicked off for 2008-2009.
- h. October 21, 2008, attended LRGV-TPDES planning meeting. Met with Paul Menzies, city of Harlingen Engineer, to discuss ACWPP.
- i. October 23, 2008, Arranged and facilitated SC meeting.
- j. October 29, 2008, attended IBWC citizens forum meeting.
- k. October 30, 2008, attended LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force meeting.
- l. November 7, 2008, attended LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force meeting to start making final plans for CREST-RESSACA conference
- m. November 7, 2008, Attended “Pharr Out Kids Nature Day” in Pharr, TX. Met with several Pharr City Officials on sustainability of event and ACWPP.
- n. November 12, 2008, Was a judge at the Raul Gonzalez Elementary Science Fair located in Weslaco, TX.
- o. November 13, 2008, Attended and participated in Mercedes Future Land Use Activity Meeting.
- p. November 17, 2008, attended LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force meeting to make final plans for CREST-RESSACA conference
- q. November 20, 2008, Arranged, helped facilitate and gave AC presentation at Watershed Stewards Workshop.
- r. November 22, 2008, Attended South Texas College Environmental Sustainability Conference.
- s. November 24-25, 2008, Attended and was a keynote speaker at the CREST-RESSACA conference.

71% Complete

TASK 3: Facilitate Watershed Protection Plan Implementation

Subtask 3.1: Facilitate and Coordinate Implementation of Education and Outreach Measures as Outlined in ACWPP

The ACWC conducted the following actions during this reporting period:

- a. Arranged and facilitated one O&E work group meetings on October 14, 2008.
 - A new presentation was developed and is posted on the AC website
- b. The physical watershed model was demonstrated at the following events:

Date	Event	School (if applicable)	Location (city, county, etc.)	Grade/Age Group (if avail)	# Taught
10/11/2008	Green Living Festival		McAllen	General Public	2500
10/16/2008	Travis Elementary	Travis Elementary	Mercedes	Local area students	120
10/17/2008	Travis Elementary	Travis Elementary	Mercedes	Local area students	135
10/25/2008	Spooky Sceince Fest		Estero Llano Grande	General Public	500
10/20/2008	Project Wild		Estero Llano Grande	Teachers	10
10/17/2008	School group visit		Estero Llano Grande	Local area students	40
10/29/2008	School group visit		Estero Llano Grande	Local area students	100
11/9/2008	Educator Showcase	Perez Elementary	McAllen	Teachers	50

- c. Stormdrain markers were ordered November 2008. A total of 2,760 stormdrain markers were ordered to be distributed to 12 cities.
- d. Ten road signs designating the watershed boundary were installed during the first week of November. Am currently working with TWRI to publicize the event.
- e. Provided updated implementation schedule to AC SC on October 23, 2008. Schedule included in Appendix C.
- f. Worked with Javier Guerrero and the Storm Water Task Force to coordinate and facilitate the CREST-RESSACA Conference on November 24-25, 2008.
 - Over 220 community leaders participated
 - State Representatives Armando Martinez, Eddie Lucio, III, and Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra.

71% Complete

Subtask 3.2: Facilitate and Coordinate Implementation of Agricultural Pollution Control Measures as Outlined in ACWPP

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Agricultural education events occur on a regular basis in the watershed as part of the TSSWCB funded project, Education of Agricultural BMPs. As of the last quarter reported (July through September 2008), 244 residents from Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties were educated. The total number of participants who have benefited from the Arroyo Colorado Education Program is now 5,303.
- b. Two key events where there was a presence of the Arroyo WPP activities was the September 16, 2008, presented the status of the WPP activities to the Texas Ag Industry meeting on September 16 and the Willacy Ag Day on October 15.
- c. Received great publicity with the news release highlight the success of the soil testing campaign. More info included under subtask 3.5.
- d. Provided updated implementation schedule to AC SC on October 23, 2008. Schedule included in Appendix C.

71% Complete

Subtask 3.3: Facilitate and Coordinate Implementation of Recommended Measures Described in the Habitat Component of the ACWPP

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Worked with city of San Benito, City of Harlingen, and private landowner on development of regional wetland system project. Workgroup members assisted in the development of a grant proposal for regional wetlands.
- b. Work with Port of Harlingen, City of Rio Hondo, and Alan Plummer and associates on development of individual wetland systems for grant proposals.

71% Complete

Subtask 3.4: Facilitate and Coordinate Implementation of Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Control Measures as outlined in the ACWPP.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Discussed the need for a workgroup meeting given the workgroup had not formally met in over a year.
- b. Worked with workgroup leaders to develop a draft agenda for the meeting to be held during the next quarter.

71% Complete

Subtask 3.5: Semi-annual Newsletter Publication.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Developed or tracked the following news releases:
 - 10/3/08: *Texas AgriLife Program Saves Growers Millions while Protecting Water* – published in AgNews. Also published in PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 10/3/08 and 11/2/08; Media NewsWire on 10/6/08; Extension on 10/7/08; Crop Life and HighPlains Midwest Journal on 10/10/08; Hutchison County Highlights on 10/08; Valley Morning Star on 10/11/08; Southwest FarmPress on 10/28/08; Fresh Plaza on 11/8/08; and North Texas e-News on 12/06/08.
 - 10/12/08: *EcoExposure: McAllen Festival Promotes Sustainable Living Options* – published in McAllen Monitor.
 - 10/22/08: *Meeting Slated to implement Arroyo Colorado improvement plan* – published in AgNews. Also published in PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 10/22/08.
 - 11/06/08: *Soil Testing Saves Farmers Millions* – published in PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest.
 - 11/7/08: *Texas Watershed Steward in the Arroyo Colorado* – published in AgNews. Also published in Farm Bureau on 11/12/08.
 - 11/7/08: *Public Invited to Arroyo Watershed Workshop* - PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest. Also published in Ag Headlines on 11/12/08; and High Plains Journal on 11/17/08.
 - 11/13/08: *STC to hold two-day environmental conference* - The Monitor;
 - 11/18/08: *Jaime Flores appointed new Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator* – AgNews. Also published in PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 11/18/08; and Valley Morning Star on 11/30/08.
- b. Completed work on the Fall newsletter. Newsletter was distributed to over 700 individuals in November. It is also posted on the Arroyo Web site.

71% Complete

TASK 4: Resource Identification and Grant Writing

Subtask 4.1: *Track Grants and Assist Partners in Grant Applications – In coordination with TWRI, the Arroyo Colorado Grant Coordinator/Water Quality Analyst (ACGC), with assistance from the ACWC, will: 1) actively seek and pursue funding opportunities for watershed protection and restoration projects, 2) track appropriate grants that fund activities outlined in the WPP and assist Arroyo Partners in the grant application process and 3) link appropriate partners and projects.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Worked with TSSWCB on the development of a TSSWCB 319 proposal for providing technical assistance to the AC watershed through the local Soil and Water Conservation District. Submission of proposal was the responsibility of the TSSWCB Harlingen regional office.
- b. Worked with Allan Plummer and Associates, TAMUK, UTB, the Port of Harlingen and the City of Rio Hondo to edit project pre-proposals based on comments from General Land Office (GLO) for the Coastal Management Program.
- c. Began working with partnership for development of ideas for projects to submit to the EPA Environmental education program.
- d. Maintained and updated information on potential funding opportunities for distribution to work group and steering committee members. Status of current funding opportunities included in Appendix D.

71% Complete

Subtask 4.2: Lead proposal development to request/acquire funding for Implementation of Measures as Outlined in ACWPP. A minimum of 10 grant proposals will be developed during the project period by the ACGC, in cooperation with the ACWC, TWRI, and project partners. Upon completion, the grant proposals will be submitted by either project partners or TWRI/TCE, whichever is most appropriate. Potential proposals may include, but not limited to funding requests to:

- *Implement recommendations of the Outreach and Education Work Group.*
- *Produce an educational video.*
- *Increase wastewater and surface water infrastructure development within cities and public utility systems for colonias.*
- *Design and construct individual and/or regional enhanced biological treatment projects.*
- *Conduct feasibility studies and final engineering designs for development of individual and regional constructed wetland demonstration projects throughout the watershed.*
- *Establish individual and regional constructed wetland projects.*
- *Conduct feasibility studies for modifying the drainage channels to maintain moist soils to sustain wetland plants for treatment of nonpoint source pollution.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Submitted 2 project proposals to the General Land Office for Cycle 14 CMP funding:
 - *Enhancing water quality and dredged material for the Port of Harlingen (Phase 1).* \$134,179. A collaborative effort between TWRI (lead), Port of Harlingen, UTB and the ACW Partnership.
 - *A wetland education and outreach center in Rio Hondo, Texas (Phase 1).* \$71,203. A collaborative effort between TWRI (lead), City of Rio Hondo, TAMUK, UTB and the ACW Partnership.
- b. Total number of proposals to date submitted on behalf of the implementation of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan include 9 full proposals and 4 pre-proposals led by TWRI and 6 proposals led by other entities (TAMUK-3 UTPA-1; LRGVDC-1 and City of McAllen-1).

- c. Proposal workplans for the submitted proposals are available upon request.

90% Complete

TASK 5: Data Gathering and Analysis to Assess Effects of Water Quality Protection Plan

The ACGC will assemble and maintain a data clearinghouse for all data collected in the Arroyo and from that data, evaluate changes in BOD, TSS, fecal bacteria, and nutrient loading to Segments 2201 and 2202 of the Arroyo Colorado. Data collection will include:

- *Pollutant removal effectiveness of enhanced treatment projects through effectiveness monitoring conducted by participating cities.*
- *Wastewater permit holders self reporting data to better characterize loading of nutrients from WWTPs to the Arroyo Colorado*
- *Data collected through the Arroyo Colorado Agricultural Nonpoint Source Assessment Project'*
- *Texas Clean Rivers Program.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Nothing to report at this time.

35% Complete

III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments

With the resignation of the program assistant and program coordinator during the previous quarter, progress during this quarter did suffer. TWRI did find a replacement for the program coordinator position and after discussion with TCEQ, it was determined that it would be best to just replace the program coordinator position and focus remaining funds and time on sustaining the partnership and accomplishing the final deliverables of this workplan. Also, this decision allows for a one-year no cost extension for the project. A request for the extension will be submitted to TCEQ during the next quarter.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

Task 1

- Continue improving Web site including development of database per task 5.
- Assist new watershed coordinator with learning about the project and implementing the deliverables of this contract.
- Assist new watershed coordinator with steering committee and workgroup meetings as well as communication and outreach activities.
- Assist grant writers in development of proposals, budgets and coordinating efforts.
- Maintain regular weekly communication with project personnel.
- Submit quarter 8 report on March 15, 2009.

Task 2

- Post meeting summaries for the E&O, habitat and ag issues workgroup and the SC to the Project website.

- Facilitate (draft agenda, gather meeting location, and announce meeting to workgroup members) a Wastewater Infrastructure workgroup meeting on December 16, 2008.
- Schedule and facilitate a Steering Committee meeting for January 26, 2008. Draft and distribute agenda and meeting summaries.
- Schedule and facilitate an E&O, habitat and ag issues workgroup meeting for January. Draft and distribute agendas and meeting summaries.
- Attend all work group meetings.
- Coordinate work group efforts.
- Arrange for guest speakers at Steering Committee meeting.
- Production and distribution of bi-monthly updates.
- Continue to engage key stakeholders.

Task 3

- Demonstrate the physical Arroyo watershed model.
- Work with TWRI to develop appropriate news releases.
- Finalize the development of an O&E evaluation instrument.
- Develop an evaluation instrument for distribution to the Arroyo Colorado SC.
- Participate in the LRGV TPDES Storm Water Task Force Meetings.
- Continue participation in the USIBWC Citizen Forum, Region M planning, Rio Grande Regional Water Authority, and the Lower Rio Grande Water Committee meetings.
- Continue facilitation of work for the development of a regional wetland system.
- Followup with the outreach and education subcommittee of the stormwater taskforce to further plan the stormdrain marking campaign.

Task 4

- Begin developing proposals for submission to EPA's Environmental Education funding program.
- Identify additional funding opportunities to pursue.

Task 5

- Post static graphs on Web site.
- Begin adding other databases including, but not limited to Texas Stream Team data and possibly, TPWD data.

Appendix A
Schedule of Deliverables and Status

Deliverable	Due Date	Date Submitted	Comments
TASK 1			
Quarterly Progress Reports	7/15/2007	7/16/2007	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	9/15/2007	9/14/2007	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	12/15/2007	12/13/2007	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	3/15/2008	3/13/2008	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	6/15/2008	6/17/2008	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	9/15/2008	9/16/2008	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	3/15/2009		
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
3/15/2010			
Special release (supplement) to WPP - status of Imp.			Not in contract
Draft Final Report	2/28/2010		
Final Report	3/31/2010		
Quarterly Meetings	Jul-07	7/9/2007	in CS
	Oct-07	9/25/2007	in CS
	Jan-08	1/24/2008	in AC
	Apr-08	3/4 & 4/24	in AC
	Jul-08	8/21/2008	Meeting delayed due to Hurricane Dolly (site visit to AC in June '08)
	Oct-08	10/23/2008	
	Jan-09		
	Apr-09		
	Jul-09		
	Oct-09		
Jan-10			
Reimbursement Forms	7/30/2007	7/16/2007	reimbursed 9/25/07

	9/30/2007	9/28/2007	
	12/30/2007	1/14/2008	Cory: unpaid as of 3/31/08, see Mary
	3/31/2008	3/24/2008	Jen: given to Mary, mistake in match sheet noted
	6/30/2008	6/26/2008	took to 7/15 meeting; given to Mary 7/15; discussed all invoices at 7/15 meeting
	9/30/2008	10/3/2008	
	12/30/2008	12/15/2008	
	3/31/2009		
	6/30/2009		
	9/29/2009		
	12/29/2009		
	3/30/2010		
Website Updates	7/15/2007	--	Files were transferred from Sea Grant to TWRI
	9/15/2007	9/1/2007	Web site went online at http://www.arroyocolorado.org
	12/15/2007	12/15/2007	Added projects in the watershed and related information
	3/15/2008	3/15/2008	Added 'About the Watershed' section
	6/15/2008	6/15/2008	Checked; new presentation and news item added
	9/15/2008	9/15/2008	Added ecotourism luncheon presentation; txH2O story
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	
	3/15/2009		
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/31/2010		
TASK 2			
Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings	7/24/2007	7/24/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	10/25/2007	10/25/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/24/2008	1/24/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	4/24/2008	4/24/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	7/24/2008	8/21/2008	(July mtg delayed due to Hurricane Dolly) Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	10/23/2008	10/23/2008	
	1/26/2009		
	4/27/2009		
	7/27/2009		
	10/26/2009		

	1/25/2010		
Bi-Annual Habitat Restoration Workgroup Meeting	7/24/2007	7/24/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/24/2008	1/24/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
		6/12/2008	Participated in wetland tour to Vista site in Victoria, TX (no mtg notes)
	7/24/2008	8/14/2008	(July mtg delayed due to Hurricane Dolly) Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/26/2009		
	7/27/2009		
	1/25/2010		
Bi-Annual Ag Workgroup Meeting	7/24/2007	7/24/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/24/2008	1/24/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	7/24/2008	8/20/2008	(July mtg delayed due to Hurricane Dolly) Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/26/2009		
	7/27/2009		
	1/25/2010		
Bi-Annual Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup Meeting	9/20/2007	9/20/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	12/17/2007	12/17/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
		4/9/2008	Combined with water quality monitoring meeting
	7/24/2008	6/12/2008	Participated in wetland tour to Vista site in Victoria, TX (no mtg notes)
	1/26/2009		
	7/27/2009		
	1/25/2010		
Bi-Annual Outreach & Education Workgroup Meeting	7/16/2007	7/16/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	9/11/2007	9/11/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site; Add. meeting 10-16-07
	1/15/2008	1/15/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	4/15/2008	4/15/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	7/15/2008	7/15/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	10/14/2008	1/13/2009	
	1/13/2009		
	4/14/2009		
	7/14/2009		
	10/13/2009		
	1/12/2010		
Agendas & Summaries submitted with			Also posted on Web site

QPRs			
Update workgroup & steering committee membership list	Aug-07	9/15/2007	Provided SC opportunities to review information for posting
	Aug-08	8/21/2008	Handed out workgroup/SC list at mtngs for review. Revised listing will be posted Sept 08
Post workgroup & steering committee membership list on Website	Oct-07	10/8/2007	SC list has email contact info; workgroup lists - no contact info;
Bi-monthly email updates	bimonthly until 3/31/10		Posted on the Website (TCEQ note: not always bimonthly but saved on I drive and as paper files - 2007: June 5, 25; July 19, 31; Aug 15, 31; Sept 18; Oct 1, 12, 24; Nov 16, 30; Dec 14. 2008: Jan 2, 22; Feb 7, 27; March 12, 31; April 17; May 1,31; June 17; July 1, 18, 31; Aug 18, Sept 5; Oct 20; Nov 3, 17;
TASK 3			
Conduct at least one presentation per month to different targeted audiences	Ongoing (in QPR)		
	7/15/2007	7/23/2007	
	9/15/2007	9/17/2007	see QPR
	12/15/2007	12/13/2007	see QPR
	3/15/2008	3/12/2008	see QPR
	6/15/2008	6/17/2008	see QPR
	9/15/2008	9/16/2008	see QPR
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	see QPR
	3/15/2009		
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
Meet face-to-face with at least 4 community leaders per month to deliver basic facts on the Arroyo Colorado and discuss progress in implementing the ACWPP.	Ongoing (in QPR)		
	7/15/2007	7/23/2007	
	9/15/2007	9/17/2007	see QPR
	12/15/2007	12/13/2007	see QPR
	3/15/2008	3/12/2008	see QPR
	6/15/2008	6/17/2008	see QPR
	9/15/2008	9/16/2008	see QPR
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	see QPR
3/15/2009			

	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		
Contingent upon approval by TXDOT, install roadway signage by the end of the two year contract	3/31/2009		sign contractor confirmed April 2008 and design and locations being decided as of 4/24/08; Ordered and installed 10 signs in November 2008. Shared design with City of McAllen and stormwater taskforce who is interested in installing signs at additional sites around the valley (4 in McAllen).
Have storm drains stenciled in at least six cities and communities within the Arroyo Colorado watershed.	3/31/2009		metal plates decided as of 4/24/08. Worked with stormwater task force to place bulk order. Will receive markers and install in early 2009
Implementation status of education and outreach measures, agricultural pollution control measures, habitat restoration measures, and wastewater infrastructure pollution control measures.	QPRs		
	7/15/2007		
	9/15/2007		
	12/15/2007		
	3/15/2008		
	6/15/2008	7/15/2008	TWRI is combining this with task 3 for a partnership update
	9/15/2008	8/21/2008	Provided SC with implementation schedule updates; included in QPR
	12/15/2008	10/23/2008	Provided SC with implementation schedule updates; included in QPR
	3/15/2009		
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
3/15/2010			
Media press releases (1 per quarter required)	7/15/2007		
	9/15/2007		
	12/15/2007		
	3/15/2008		
	6/15/2008	6/15/2008	4/14/08: <i>International museum displaying model demonstrating Arroyo Colorado Watershed</i> ; 4/20/08: <i>Children celebrate Earth Day at IMAS – McAllen Monitor</i>
	9/15/2008	9/15/2008	7/11/08: Richard Moore produced and aired video on ABC affiliate KRGV-TV-5 highlighting AC and the effort to improve it (http://www.richardmooreoutdoors.org). DeLa Garza assisted; 7/15/08: <i>Preparing for Schoolyard habitat gardens - McAllen Monitor</i> ; 7/13/08: <i>Planning Ecotourism Luncheon - McAllen Monitor</i> ; 7/16/08: <i>Arroyo Colorado Watershed Meeting Scheduled for July 24 - AgNews</i> ; 2008: <i>Cities to Build Effluent Polishing Wetlands- TRA Newsletter (Vol 6, Issue 1)</i> ;

	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	10/3/08: Texas AgriLife Program Saves Growers Millions while Protecting Water - AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 10/3/08 and 11/2/08, Media NewsWire on 10/6/08, Extension on 10/7/08, Crop Life and HighPlains Midwest Journal on 10/10/08, Hutchison County Highlights on 10/08, Valley Morning Star on 10/11/08, Southwest FarmPress on 10/28/08, Fresh Plaza on 11/8/08, North Texas e-News on 12/06/08; 10/12/08: EcoExposure: McAllen Festival Promotes Sustainable Living Options - McAllen Monitor; 10/22/08: Meeting Slated to implement Arroyo Colorado improvement plan - AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 10/22/08; 11/06/08: Soil Testing Saves Farmers Millions - PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest; 11/7/08: Texas Watershed Steward in the Arroyo Colorado - AgNews, Farm Bureau on 11/12/08; 11/7/08: Public Invited to Arroyo Watershed Workshop - PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest, AgNews on 11/7/08, Ag Headlines on 11/12/08, High Plains Journal on 11/17/08; 11/13/08: STC to hold two-day environmental conference - The Monitor; 11/18/08: Jaime Flores appointed new Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator - AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 11/18/08, Valley Morning Star on 11/30/08.
	3/15/2009		
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		
Evaluation instrument (survey) for targeted audiences at select events	8/31/2009		making due date changes upon contract extension and this survey is aimed for completion by 8/31/09
Evaluation instrument (survey) for SC and Partnership	8/31/2009		making due date changes upon contract extension and this survey is aimed for completion by 8/31/09
Summary of evaluation instrument (survey) results	QPRs		
Semi-Annual Newsletter			previous newsletters on the website, include: 6/2005, 1/2006, 8/2006
	Oct-07	10/20/2007	Distributed to over 600 ind (596 direct + 54 hand distribution)
	Apr-08	4/1/2008	Distributed to over 700 individuals
	Oct-08	11/15/2008	Distributed to over 700 individuals
	Apr-09		
	Oct-09		<i>contingent upon funding availability</i>
	Mar-10		<i>contingent upon funding availability</i>
TASK 4			
10 Grant Proposals	QPRs		
Summary table of grant application status	7/15/2007	--	
	9/15/2007	9/15/2007	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting

	12/15/2007	12/15/2007	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	3/15/2008	3/15/2008	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	6/15/2008	6/15/2008	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	9/15/2008	9/15/2008	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	3/15/2009		
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		
TASK 5			
Data summary report	11/30/2008	11/30/2008 Updated 7/15/08	Cory: Need to review and discuss with TWRI; Jen: Mark updated and current static graphs on the website are available for NRA, others to come
	11/30/2009		
Data clearinghouse including monitoring update	7/15/2007		
	9/15/2007		
	12/15/2007		
	3/15/2008		
	6/15/2008	7/15/2008	7 monitor sites have increase to 12; this deliverable will be modified upon contract extension
	9/15/2008	9/15/2008	Posted monitoring sites and static graphs on website to be accessible to the public
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	no changes
	3/15/2009		
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		

Appendix B**Steering Committee and Workgroup (O&E) Meeting Summaries****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)
- 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

Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting

Texas A&M Kingsville, Citrus Center
Rio Red Classroom
312 N. International Blvd, Weslaco, Texas 78596
October 23, 2008 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

ATTENDEES:
Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB

Narayanan Kannan, AgriLife Research

Joe Hinojosa, City of Brownsville and Stormwater Task Force
Jaime Flores, TWRI
Megan Meier, TWRI

Cecilia Wagner, TWRI
Jim Tabak, Valley Land Fund
Laura de la Garza
Ernesto Reyes, USFWS

4:30 Social – Snacks and Refreshments

5:00 Welcome and Introductions Jaime Flores, TWRI

5:10 Work Group Updates:

Agricultural Issues..... Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB

- Cameron County has 94 WQMPs covering 1468 acres
- Hidalgo County has 30 WQMPs covering 2195 acres
- Total of 6363 acres certified
- Soil samples will be pulled from fields under WQMP as part of 319 project
- Also collecting data to be used in SWAT model
- Provided overview of what goes into a certified plan, including registering at FSA
- *Need to include in bi-monthly update that applications for EQIP funds are due in December*
- *Need to put copy of field day presentations on website*
- 7th RGV Irrigation conference will be on 10/29 in Mercedes

Waste Water Infrastructure (Three Cities Wetlands Project) Laura de la Garza

- San Juan has complete engineering designs and permits and request for proposal for wetland construction are out for bid. Construction is anticipated to begin Spring
- La Feria is still in design phase
- San Benito is also in design phase
- *Will have Wastewater workgroup meeting before end of year*
- City of Harlingen has put aside money for 100% re-use of their treated effluent, approximately 6 MGD
- City of Alamo has the last lagoon system in area and now evaluating the feasibility of constructed wetlands for secondary treatment of municipal wastewater

Education and Outreach Jaime Flores, TWRI

Utility Inserts

- SWTF is currently reviewing a utility bill insert for the watershed cities
- Should be going out in November.
- McAllen is doing their own because they are getting a good rate. They are estimating 39,000 for themselves.
- Javier has a number of 50,000 for the rest of the Cities involved.

PSA/Classroom presentation

- TAMUK has a PSA that are currently being aired on channels 12 and 17 depending on the city.
- Funny cartoons about storm drains and storm water runoff geared for young kids.
- Also showing them in the classroom-they go with household hazardous waste classroom BMP and Toby Goby.

Storm Drain Marking

- TWRI is facilitating a bulk order for all of the cities in the watershed (2760 storm drain markers in 12 cities)
- SWTF is shooting for a Valley wide installation day sometime in December. The goal is to have 25% done in one year.
- There will also be some signage/billboards that will advertise this event.
- They will be ordered as soon as all of the cities submit confirmation letters to TWRI

Watershed Road Signs

- TWRI has ordered 10 road signs to be installed along major roadways entering the watershed. Should be installed by next week.
- TWRI is planning a media event to coincide with the installation of the roadsigns.

CREST-RESSACA Conference

- The Strom Water Task Force conference is coming up on Nov. 24-25, 2008.
- Encouraging all of the participating cities to send their Public works directors, WWTP and WTP personnel to attend the conference.
- Three state reps are going to attend-Armando Martinez, Eddie Lucio III and Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra. They are also trying to get Kino Flores.
- This is a great opportunity to voice your concerns and needs to the state reps.
- Registration deadline is November 5, 2008.
- The ACWP model will be there and the ACWP will likely be on the program agenda
-

5:50 Feedback on Partnership's Efforts to Date..... Megan Meier, TWRI

- Presentation on milestone charts for ag, wastewater/habitat and E&O

6:10 Long-Term Partnership Sustainability Jaime Flores, TWRI

- A summary from the last meeting:
 - It was voted on to form a 501c3
 - It was suggested that the new watershed coordinator (Jaime) be tasked with developing the materials/paperwork necessary to file for a 501c3 (the steering committee will be allowed to review the information prior to official submission of an application). The task group will provide assistance in this effort.
 - Jaime will also work with the SC to identify board members to support the application of the 501c3.
 - The SC should provide guidance on the nomination or appointees of the board.
 - Ray suggested members from city and county to serve on board since they will likely be supporting the effort
 - It was suggested that the task group focusing on this effort should meet soon to begin developing materials. It was suggested that the task group meetings include the potential board members (bring them in on the front end of the planning process rather than at the end)
- Moving forward:
 - A task group consisting of Laura, Jim Tabak, Ken Jones and Cecilia Wagner had been meeting previously to develop the information on forming a 501c3.
 - Given Jaime has recently joined the partnership, it is recommended that he lead the task group.
 - Are there suggestions of board members?
 - Should we put the suggestion list out via email to the SC?
- Follow up suggestions to today's discussion?
 - Task group members: *Jaime, Laura, Jim, Ken Jones, Jude, Cecilia or Megan, and other interested board members*)
 - How will we finalize the board members?
 - Group suggested Jaime conduct one-on-one meetings with SC members after group email to determine commitment and engagement in being board member
 - When will task group meet? (*need to meet at least monthly if not more often to begin process*)
 - Jaime lead meetings of task group including organizing meetings and activities? (*Jaime lead group with first providing email forum for setting first meeting and a schedule of items to do*)
 - Suggested that board members need to be fundraisers or could raise money through:
 - Membership fees
 - Sponsorships
 - Fundraising event, like fishing tournament

6:20 Arroyo SWAT Modeling UpdateNarayanan Kannan, AgriLife Research

- Have identified BMPs to control poor water quality
- Provided overview of SWAT model
- Data collection is complete as they now have inventory of BMPs
- Cultivated land is dominant land use in watershed
- Within the model there are 17 subwatersheds and 475 HRUs

- Currently in calibration and validation phase
- Developing design scenarios to run in model to determine which scenario results in maximum water quality improvement

6:40 Grants Update Megan Meier, TWRI

- Submitted 2 grants for CMP funding through GLO for wetland development of 35 acre site at Port of Harlingen and 10 acre site at Rio Hondo
- TSSWCB 319 RFP was released –grants due Nov 21. Seeking funding for technician to provide follow-up support for producers who have implemented a water quality management plan or BMPs.
- Waiting for release of EPA environmental education grant and will work on polishing up grants submitted last year based on comments we received

6:50 Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

- The Pharr out nature day is geared exclusively toward kids this year. They are very proud of the fact that this the only large event that is for kids. They called to reserve the arroyo model. It was a big hit last year.
- SPI World Birding Center would like an AC physical watershed model of their own for permanent display

7:00 Adjourn Jaime Flores, TWRI

Appendix C**Bi-Monthly Updates September through November 2008**
September 5, 2008; November 3 and 17, 2008

September 5, 2008

Dear Arroyo Partners,

First of all, I want thank and acknowledge McAllen Public Works for sponsoring the food and social at this past Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee meeting held on August 21. It was my last meeting in the position of watershed coordinator, however by no means my last Partnership meeting. I was nominated and approved as a new Steering Committee member along with Patrick Daize, Area Operation Manager of the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission. Patrick will be replacing Rick Reyes.

Along with workgroup updates, a major topic of discussion was again, the question of forming a 501c3 for the Partnership and what that would look like. It was decided to begin drafting the necessary documents and supporting information (including names of individuals to serve on the board of directors) to pursue the formation of a 501c3. The current Steering Committee members will be asked to make recommendations for board members and these individuals will be asked to participate in the planning process. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and Texas Water Resources Institute need to be recognized for their support of our efforts to become a self-sustaining organization.

Other entities that deserve recognition are Texas State Soil Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Valley Land Fund. The TSSWCB is currently funding four Arroyo Colorado projects including cost share for agricultural producers implementing best management practices within the Arroyo Colorado Watershed. And the Valley Land Fund has pledged to take a lead in implementing several of the actions items listed in the habitat component of the plan.

All workgroup meeting summaries as well as the summary from the Steering Committee meeting will be posted on the Arroyo Colorado Web site soon.

Mark your calendars for two upcoming Valley events. On September 25, the McAllen Recycling Center – Public Works and the McAllen Parks and Recreation Department are sponsoring a demonstration of the application of compost/mulch for erosion control. It will be held at 9:00 a.m. at Jackson City/School Park at 2nd Street and Harvey in McAllen. See attached for more information.

Another worthwhile event is the LRGV-AIA Building Communities Conference. It will be held at the McAllen Convention Center on September 26-27, 2008. Go to www.lrgvaia.org for more information.

The search for a new watershed coordinators continues. If you are interested or know of someone who would like to serve the Arroyo Colorado Watershed, the job is posted at <http://greatjobs.tamu.edu> and refer to the title, “Program Coordinator”, NOV # 03680 to apply.

In closing, it has been a true honor serving as watershed coordinator for the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership. I cherish the experience and value the opportunity to meet such a diverse group of Valley residents and community leaders. It has been a true pleasure working in this position and I will miss many aspects of the job. . The Valley has definitely grown on me and I am happy to retain residence here. I look forward to continued work with the Partnership in the clean-up of the Arroyo Colorado.

Our efforts in the watershed will continue and please do not hesitate to contact the new watershed coordinator once they get on board. In the meantime, you may send any correspondence related to the Arroyo Colorado to the email address, ldelagarza@ag.tamu.edu as this account will remain open and the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) will continue to answer your questions, concerns or requests sent to this address. Cecilia Wagner with TWRI is also available in the interim and can be reached at cecilia@tamu.edu.

If you would like to keep in touch with me, please note my personal email address, delalaura@gmail.com.

Hope to see you at our next round of meetings,

Laura

November 3, 2008

Hello Arroyo fans:

I would like to introduce myself. My Name is Jaime Flores and I recently accepted the position of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator. Replacing Laura De La Garza is going to be difficult but luckily she is still around and has been helping me through this transitional period. I was born in Weslaco, Texas, grew up in Mercedes and currently reside in La Feria. I earned a Bachelors degree in Geology from Baylor University. I am a Professional Geologist and also hold a monitor/water well drillers license in the State of Texas. With fifteen years experience in the environmental industry, I am very familiar with the soils and groundwater of the Rio Grande Valley. And as a Valley native, the Arroyo Colorado is near and dear to my heart. I have spent countless hours boating, fishing and admiring the Arroyo and it is truly an honor to be working with such dedicated group of individuals.

Have you seen the new road signs? We have at least 10 road signs installed that mark the boundaries of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed. They are located on major roadways and mark the entrance of the watershed for travelers. It is our hope that these signs remind residents as well as those visiting our watershed that it is our responsibility to protect our local watershed. In addition to the ten signs installed by the partnership, several local cities are also putting funds towards the purchase of additional signs to either mark the watershed boundary or an Arroyo Colorado crossing.

In the last bi-monthly update, we told you about the FREE one-day educational workshop to be offered this month. The Texas Watershed Steward Program will be held on Nov 20, 2008 from 8 AM to 4 PM at Rio Farms (25601 N. FM 88) in Monte Alto. Please note that this is a change in location from the previous announcement. The workshop will provide CEUs for certified planners, crop advisors, professional engineers, educator certification, pesticide applicators and certified floodplain managers. See the attached flyer or visit <http://tw.s.tamu.edu/workshops.html> for more information.

Having been on the job for almost a month now, I am amazed by numerous local activities (most of them free) that promote environmental stewardship, education and fun. Specifically, here are a few upcoming events that you may be interested in:

- Pharr Out Kids Nature Day on Main Street will be held on November 8. This year's event is geared towards kids. Children will be encouraged to visit all of the exhibitors and the prize for participating is a chance to fish in a 10,000 gallon stock tank filled with catfish. Prizes will be given for the largest, smallest, etc. See attached flyer for more information,*

- 15th Annual Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival on November 5-9. (<http://www.rgybirdfest.com/>)
- Annual CREST-RESSACA Conference focusing on Lower Rio Grande Valley Storm Water Runoff Pollution Prevention Planning will be Nov 24-25 at the La Copa Inn Resort in South Padre Island, TX. Register or obtain additional information at <http://crest.tamuk.edu/>.

For those of you have already helped me get my feet on the ground, thank you. My vision for the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership is, I hope, the same as yours; a clean Arroyo. I know that there are a number of challenges ahead of us and I look forward to working with all of you to clean up our watershed.

Looking ahead,

Jaime Flores

November 17, 2008

Hello Arroyo Partners:

I hope all is well. The Valley got some rain and has a slight chill in the air after two cold fronts blew through last week. It might be a good time to break out the fishing rods, run out to the Arroyo, brave the weather and see if the “Drum Run” has started. Be sure to change your line, no fish stories only fish.

I am happy to say that I have seen several of the new Arroyo Colorado Watershed signs in person. These signs took a coordinated effort and maybe a little more time than we originally thought but they are here and look great. A couple of the cities that did not have signs installed have contacted the ACWP about getting some made for them. I have a feeling that these signs will create a “stir” and lead to the installation of even more signs. We can only hope.

The storm drain markers have been ordered and should be getting delivered to all the participating cities by the end of this year! Again, this project has taken some time but has been worth the wait.

Last Saturday, I attended the Kids Pharr Out Nature Day in Pharr, TX. It was a great success with the Pharr Placita full of kids of all ages all day. The Arroyo Colorado model was on display next to the Estero Llano Grande exhibit. If I had to guess, I would say there were easily about 500 people that attended the event. I want to congratulate Santiago Salinas and the city of Pharr on providing children with such a fun and educational event.

Don't forget: The Texas Watershed Steward Program is right around the corner, being held on Nov 20, 2008 at Rio Farms (25601 N. FM 88) in Monte Alto. The Watershed Steward Program start time has been moved back thirty minutes with the sign in and registration starting at 8:30 am and the workshop starting promptly at 9:00 am. The workshop will provide CEUs for certified planners, crop advisors, professional engineers, educator certification, pesticide applicators and certified floodplain managers. See the attached flyer (please note time change above is different from what is on the flyer) or visit <http://tw.s.tamu.edu/workshops.html> for more information. I hope to see you there!

Here are a few other upcoming events that you may be interested in:

- Environmental and Sustainability Conference-Nov. 15th and 22nd at the Cooper Center at the Pecan Campus, South Texas College. Register or obtain additional information at [<mmahmoud@southtexascollege.edu>](mailto:mmahmoud@southtexascollege.edu)

- Annual CREST-RESSACA Conference focusing on Lower Rio Grande Valley Storm Water Runoff Pollution Prevention Planning will be Nov 24-25 at the La Copa Inn Resort in South Padre Island, TX. Register or obtain additional information at <http://crest.tamuk.edu/>.

I would like for everybody to take note that the Steering Committee and workgroup meetings have changed from Thursdays to Mondays. Here is the new schedule for 2009:

Steering Committee Meetings (4th Monday of the quarter month):

Jan 26

April 27

July 27

Oct 26

Education and Outreach Workgroup Meetings (not changed - 2nd Tuesday of the quarter month):

Jan 13

April 14

July 14

Oct 13

Ag Issues Workgroup Meetings (same day as steering committee - 4th Monday, but only twice a year):

Jan 26

July 27

Habitat Workgroup Meetings (same day as steering committee - 4th Monday, but only twice a year):

Jan 26

July 27

And speaking of steering committee and workgroup meetings, all recent workgroup meeting notes are posted on the Arroyo Colorado Web site and the steering committee meeting minutes from October 23 will be up shortly. Also, your bi-annual Arroyo Colorado newsletter should be arriving in your mailbox very soon.

Well that is all for now. Let me know when and where those "reds" are running. I hope to see and meet many of you at the Watershed Steward Program and at the CREST-RESSACA Conference.

Looking ahead,

Jaime Flores

Appendix D

Status of Funding Opportunities for the Arroyo Colorado

Grant Title	Final Deadline	Purpose	Funding Agency	Amount	Status	
					Application Status	Grant Status
Endangered Species Grant Program	9/22/2008	Species and habitat conservation on non-federal land; includes habitat restoration, public education and outreach, land acquisition, and research/surveys	USFWS	Varies; typically between \$1,000 and \$24,000,000	Not applicable	
Environmental Technology Development and Demonstration	9/2008	Develop and/or demonstrate technology to detect and quantify the impacts of human activity on coastal water quality, species, and habitats; develop and/or demonstrate technology to protect coastal water quality and/or restore coastal habitats.	Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Env. Tech.	Varies; typically between \$15,000 and \$220,000	2008 RFP not released	
Community-Based Restoration Project Grants	9/2008	Habitat restoration that benefits marine resources; educational and social benefits to the community	NOAA	\$50,000-\$200,000	Will apply September 2009 after funding received to perform Phase 1 of wetland projects	
OneStar Foundation-AmeriCorps Grant	9/23/2008	Engage citizens/students to serve/volunteer to meet community needs	OneStar Foundation	\$12,600/member service year		
Association of National Estuary Programs	10/20/2008	On-the-ground activities within watersheds of the National Estuary Program that restore marine, estuarine, and riparian habitats and foster local stewardship	NOAA	\$15,000-\$30,000		
NAWCA Small Grants	10/30/2008	Restoring or establishing wetlands, on-the-ground projects, land acquisition, and enhancement projects on private lands	USFWS	Unspecified		
ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Migratory Bird Program	11/1/2008	Habitat restoration; bird habitat management	NFWF	\$25,000 minimum		
More Fish Partnership Fund	11/2008	Habitat restoration; education and outreach; project design and development; water quality improvement		\$10,000-\$30,000 for small grants; up to \$100,000 for leadership grants	RFP not released yet	
State Wildlife Grant Program	11/17/08	Implement strategies and actions in State Wildlife Action/Conservation Plan	USFWS	\$300,000 to \$1 million		
319(h) funds	11/21/08	Agriculture NPS activities such as implementation or development of WPPs, demonstrations, technical assistance, public outreach/education, and monitoring	TSSWCB	Typically between \$100,000 to \$400,000	Working with TSSWCB to develop proposal on technician assistance.	
Broad Agency Announcement for Conferences, Workshops and/or Meetings	12/9/08	Planning, arranging, administering and/or conducting of conferences, workshops, and/or meetings that focus on/address the following research program areas: (1) human health; (2) ecosystems; water and security; (3) economics, sustainability; (4) air and global climate change; and (5) technology.	EPA	\$25K for small scale; \$75K for large scale (must be more than \$15K, but less		

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				than \$75K		
Regional Water and Wastewater Facility Planning	12/18/2008	Evaluation and determination of feasible alternatives to meet water supply and/or wastewater facility needs; estimate costs; identify institutional arrangements	TWDB	Typically between \$100,000 to \$250,000		
Environmental Education Grant	12/18/2008	Education and outreach	EPA	Up to \$50,000; \$15,000 average	Working to edit proposals submitted last year based on EPAs comments/suggestions and develop new proposal for utility bill inserts	
State Wildlife Grant Program	1/15/09	To further Texas Wildlife Action Plan	TPWD	\$15,000 to \$500,000		
Flood Protection Planning	1/22/09	Development of flood protection plans	TWDB	Up to \$500,000		
Small Community Grants	1/31/09	To meet the recreation needs of small Texas communities with a population of 20,000 and under. Funds must be employed for the development or beautification of parkland.	TPWD	\$75,000		
The Nature Conservancy Community-based matching grants	3/2009	Marine and coastal habitat restoration projects that benefit fish and shellfish. Need to work with local TNC chapter.	NOAA	\$25,000-\$85,000		
National Association of Counties Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative	3/2009	Funds innovative, high quality county-led or supported projects to improve stream, river, estuarine and other important marine habitats. A priority area is the removal of fish passage barriers in coastal streams and rivers.	NOAA	\$50,000-\$100,000		