

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

Quarter no. 10 From 06/01/09 Through 08/31/09

I. Abstract

Sustaining the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership has been the key topic and activity this quarter. A small task group formed from the steering committee is focusing on sustainability and met numerous times this quarter. Further, discussions amongst TWRI, TAMUK, LRGVDC and TCEQ have occurred regarding developing a model to sustain the watershed coordinator position and the efforts to implement the WPP. A sustainability proposal was even submitted during the July steering committee meeting. Additional discussion and details are still being discussed and worked out, but overall, progress is being made to identify and secure funds and partners to continue our efforts. The printed bi-annual newsletter was delivered during this quarter to over 700 recipients and we worked to obtain a general permit from the TxDOT to complete the installation of the roadway signage marking the Arroyo Colorado watershed boundary. Finally, a proposal to assess sites for the regional wetland system, a primary goal of the WPP, was submitted this quarter to GLO.

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, and facilitation of various meetings.
- b. TWRI continues to monitor fund expenditures to determine if project shall end on 2/28/10 or if there are enough funds to carry through an additional 2 to 3 months.
- c. A schedule of deliverables to track project activities and contract status is included in Appendix A.
- d. TWRI and Watershed Coordinator attended the TX Watershed Coordinator Roundtable meeting in Temple, TX on July 8, 2009 to share ideas with other watershed coordinators throughout the state regarding sustaining watershed partnerships.
- e. TWRI and Watershed Coordinator attended Texas Watershed Planning Shortcourse in Bandera on August 17 through 21. Watershed Coordinator attended week long event to learn about watershed planning and WPP implementation throughout the state. TWRI provided a presentation on the implementation of the Arroyo Colorado WPP on the last day to share with participants the lessons learned through our process

and share some of the resources we have developed to track funding opportunities and milestones met.

82% 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 3, Quarter 2 Report on September 15, 2009.

82% 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 met with watershed coordinator and TCEQ personnel in the Arroyo Colorado watershed on July 27, 2009 and via teleconference on August 10, 2009.

82% 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. Two new projects, “Integrated Farm Management Education Program” and “Pesticide Education in the Coastal Zone of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed,” were added to the Web site under the project section.
- b. Posted the final report for the project, “Education of BMPS in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed.”
- c. Meeting summaries from workgroup and steering committee meetings were posted as they were approved.
- d. Bi-annual newsletter was posted on the web site at:
http://www.arroyocolorado.org/docs/Newsletter/ACNewsletter_2009-06.pdf
- e. Continually add and update upcoming events as well as the bimonthly update on homepage.

82% 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 \$23,145.05 covering all expenses from March 1, 2009 through May 31, 2009.
- b. Total invoiced expenditures through May 31, 2009: \$219,775.42 or 70% of total project budget.

70% 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 an ACWP Sustainability meeting held on June 5, 2009.
- b. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for an ACWP Sustainability meeting held on June 11, 2009.
- c. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for an ACWP Sustainability meeting held on June 25, 2009.
- d. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a Habitat Workgroup meeting held on June 25, 2009.
- e. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a wastewater infrastructure workgroup meeting held on July 17, 2009.
- f. Arranged meeting facilities and assisted workgroup leaders in developing agenda for an Ag Issues workgroup meeting held on July 27, 2009.
- g. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly SC meeting held on July 27, 2009.
- h. Meeting summaries for SC and habitat and ag issues workgroup meetings are included in Appendix B. All summaries were posted to the Project website.
- i. Attended all workgroup meetings, provided information requested by work group leaders and conducted follow-up activities as noted in the meeting summaries.
- j. Updated Partnership on overall implementation of the ACWPP at SC meeting on July 27, 2009.

82% 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 June 15 and 30, 2009; July 16, 2009; and August 14 and 31, 2009. Copies of updates are provided in Appendix C.

82% 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. Membership remains at just over 715 individuals (some members were replaced by new employees).
- b. The updated work group member lists still need to be added and updated on Project 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. June 12, 2009, met with Rene Saenz, City of Pharr, Joe Hinojasa, City of Brownsville and Roy Jimenez, City of Weslaco, to discuss WPP implementation of WPP and ACWP Grant Workshop.
- b. June 18, 2009, met with Ernesto Hinojosa, Cameron Co. Engineer to discuss the WPP implementation, Storm Water Task Force and Cameron Co. regional stormwater detention/wetland areas.
- c. June 24, 2009, met with Dr. Jones, TAMUK, to discuss ACWPP implementation and NSF/Solar Bee technology grant proposal.
- d. July 2, 2009, met with John Wood, Cameron Co. Commissioner, ACWPP implementation and Cameron Co. regional stormwater detention/wetland areas.
- e. July 15, 2009, attended IBWC Public Forum meeting. Met Kika De La Garza.
- f. July 23, 2009, attended O&E Storm Water Task Force meeting.
- g. July 23, 2009, attended LRGVDC meeting.
- h. August 5, 2009, attended the RGR Water Authority and RGR Water Planning Group.
- i. August 26, 2009, met with Wayne Halbert, Harlingen Irrigation District, to discuss ACWPP.
- j. August 26, 2009, met with Chris Stewart, Espey Consultants, about ACWPP and Region M master drainage plan.

82% 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. Working with NRA, Rocky Freund, about repairing AC model and helping to facilitate acquiring second AC model. Took model to Paul Bond to have repairs done.
- b. June 12, 2009, ACWP, LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force and TDA coordinating AC grant workshop
- c. June 18, 2009, gave AC presentation to LRGV-TPDES Task Force stipend recipients, 7-local school teachers, 13 teachers total.
- d. June 20, 2009, Attended TX Stream, AC monitoring data presentation at Estero Llano Grande World Birding center.
- e. July 13, 2009, met with TXDOT officials, Robin Gelston, Sharon Slagle, Jessie Leal and Pete Alvarez, to discuss ACWPP implementation and permits for the installation of AC Watershed boundary signs. Provided followup to TXDOT after meeting in the form of a letter requesting a general permit for the existing signs as well as any future signs to be installed along the roadway. TXDOT also requested a similar letter be drafted and submitted by TCEQ on the ACWP's behalf. Provided language to TCEQ

- for the letter. TCEQ will submit the letter of support for the road signs during the next quarter.
- f. July 20, 2009, AC Watershed presentation at the Edinburg World Birding Center. The presentation consisted of a power point that outlines watersheds and their purpose, the water cycle and how pollutants affect the watershed. After the power point presentation, we conduct a demonstration using the Arroyo Colorado Watershed model. The Birding Center was conducting a week long short course to students interested in pursuing environmental careers.
 - g. The Arroyo Colorado Watershed model and display booth was presented at the following events:
 - June: Project Wild/Aquatic Training (168 2nd and 3rd graders, 86 high-school students, 15 teachers and 9 adults (volunteers))
 - July: provided general outreach event to 61 high school students

82% 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. The two projects, “Pesticide Education in the Coastal Zone of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed” and “Integrated Farm Management Education Program,” continue. Quarterly report for the Integrated Farm Management Education Program recently submitted showed approximately 130 agricultural producers were educated this quarter.
- b. July 27, 2009, Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly Ag Issues workgroup meeting.
- c. August 4, 2009, met with Dr. Juan Enciso, TAMUK Agrilife Research, to discuss ACWPP and his agricultural irrigation edge of field sampling study.

82% 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. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly Habitat workgroup meeting to be held on June 25, 2009.
- b. June 3, 2009, met with Darla Jones about City of La Feria wetland project.
- c. Participated in discussions regarding development of a potential regional wetland system where the shrimp farms used to exist. Project would be multi-agency spanning over several years. A small task group was formed to lead this effort and we are staying involved in a supportive role as the project has potential to improve water quality and habitat.

82% 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. Continued collecting data on WWTP water reuse numbers, number of colonia's and residents hooked up to WWTP and tracking upgrades of all WWTP facilities.
- b. Cities Wetland Project update:
 - The La Feria wetlands project has been completed.
 - San Benito WWTP wetland project has been placed on hold until additional funds can be identified.
 - The city of San Juan wetlands project has completed.
- c. The City of Alamo is currently conducting a feasibility study to determine if the City will upgrade their wastewater treatment facility that would include the development of wetlands on their old lagoon type treatment plant.
- d. July 17, 2009, attended TCEQ/Border 2012 Biosolids Conference at the McAllen Convention Center.
- e. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly Waste Water Infrastructure workgroup meeting held on July 17, 2009.

82% Complete

Subtask 3.5: Semi-annual Newsletter Publication.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Newsletter delivered during June 2009. Newsletter is posted on the Website at: http://www.arroyocolorado.org/docs/Newsletter/ACNewsletter_2009-06.pdf
- b. Developed or tracked the following news releases:
 - 6/17/09: *How Clean is the Arroyo, Stream Team discusses Arroyo Colorado Water Quality Data* – TWRI Newsrelease, which lead to KGBT and KVEO Video coverage;
 - 7/23/09: *Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee to discuss end of federal funding* - TWRI, AgNews, My Harlingen News, Media Newswire (on 7/27/09);

82% 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. July 24, 2009, met with City of Weslaco manager, Frank Castellanos, his assistant, Elizabeth Walker and City Engineers to discuss ACWP and expansion of Estero

- Llano Grande World Birding Center. Continued discussion following meeting via email and will participate in more meetings during the next quarter.
- b. August 10, 2009: met with Javier Guerrero, Darla Jones, Joe Hinojosa, Roger Miranda and Arthur Talley to discuss the potential for a valley-wide low-impact development project. Following meeting, met with members of the stormwater task force to further discern their involvement and actual BMPs to be implemented by individual cities.
 - c. August 28, 2009, met with Don Hockaday about BWET grant proposal
 - d. The first annual Arroyo Colorado Grant Workshop continues to be discussed with collaborators including the ACWP, TDA, LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force and City of Pharr. Workshop postponed and scheduled date is to be determined. .
 - e. Worked with TAMUK and UTB on development of a proposal through TCEQ and GLO on a regional wetland system site assessment.
 - f. Updated grant list and is provided in Appendix D.

82% 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 a proposal to the General Land Office thru the TCEQ for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, *Lower Laguna Madre Regional Treatment Wetland System: Selection of a Preferred Site and Permitting*, \$325,036. Project, which involves TWRI, TAMUK and UTB, will assess multiple locations to determine feasible site for regional wetland system.
- b. Total number of proposals to date submitted on behalf of the implementation of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan include 14 full proposals and 4 pre-proposals led by TWRI and 8 proposals led by other entities (TAMUK-4 UTPA-1; LRGVDC-2 and City of McAllen-1). A total of 22 full proposals have been submitted on behalf of the ACWP.
- c. Proposal workplans for the submitted proposals are available upon request.

100% 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**

None to report at this time.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter**Task 1**

- Continue improving Web site including development of database per task 5.
- Maintain regular weekly communication with project personnel.
- The Web site continues to receive updates.
- A new presentation (the presentation that was given to local schools by the watershed coordinator and the stormwater task force liaison) will be posted on the website during the next quarter.
- Facilitate meetings focusing on the sustainability of the Partnership.
- Submit quarter 11 report on December 15, 2009.

Task 2

- Post meeting summaries for the workgroup and Steering committee meetings to Project website.
- Facilitate (draft agenda, gather meeting location, and announce meeting to workgroup members) an E&O workgroup meeting on October 13, 2009.
- Schedule and facilitate a Steering Committee meeting for October 22, 2009. Draft and distribute agenda and meeting summaries.
- Attend work group meeting and coordinate work group efforts.
- Arrange for guest speakers at Steering Committee meeting.
- Production and distribution of bi-monthly updates.
- Continue to engage key stakeholders.

- Finalize work group member lists and update/correct on project Web site.

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.
- Facilitate efforts regarding a large constructed wetland system at the shrimp farms.
- Meet with personnel regarding the development of a treatment wetland at the Port of Harlingen for the new habitat project funded by GLO
- Meet with personnel regarding the WWTP water quality monitoring project conducted by LRGVDC.

Task 4

- Continue efforts to facilitate and host Arroyo Colorado Grant Workshop.
- 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	3/30/2009	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	6/15/2009	6/30/2009	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	9/15/2009	9/15/2009	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		
	Special release: WPP supplement - Imp status		
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	--	No meeting occurred as TWRI PM was out on maternity leave
	Apr-09	4/27/2009	in AC
	Jul-09	7/27/2009	in AC (also visited watershed in August and met on 8/10/09)
	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	

Website Updates	12/30/2008	12/15/2008		
	3/31/2009	3/26/2009		
	6/30/2009	6/25/2009		
	9/29/2009			
	12/29/2009			
	3/30/2010			
	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	3/15/2009		
6/15/2009	6/15/2009	Made changes per TWRI administration change; updated activities & news releases		
9/15/2009	9/15/2009	Added two new Ag Education projects to the Website; Posted final report for completed Ag Education project.		
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	1/26/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site	
	4/27/2009	4/27/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site	
	7/27/2009	7/27/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site	
	10/22/2009			
	1/21/2010			
	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		1/26/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site	
7/27/2009		6/25/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site	
1/21/2010				

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	1/26/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	7/27/2009	7/27/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/21/2010		
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	12/16/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	7/27/2009	7/17/2009	No minutes available at time of QPR submission
	1/21/2010		
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	10/14/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/13/2009	1/13/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	4/14/2009	4/14/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	7/14/2009	--	No meeting occurred
		10/13/2009	
	1/12/2010		
Agendas & Summaries submitted with QPRs			Also posted on Web site
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 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; Dec 2, 18, 2008: Jan 6, 21; Feb 9, 25; Mar 24; April 15; May 6, 27; June 15, 30; July 16; Aug 14, 31;

TASK 3			
Conduct at least one presentation per month to different targeted audiences	Ongoing (in QPR)		
	7/15/2007	7/23/2007	

	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	--	no activity to report for this quarter
	6/15/2009	--	no activity to report for this quarter
	9/15/2009	--	no activity to report for this quarter
	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</i> – McAllen Monitor 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; 7/11/08: <i>Preparing for Schoolyard habitat gardens</i> - McAllen Monitor; 7/13/08: <i>Planning Ecotourism Luncheon</i> - McAllen Monitor; 7/16/08: <i>Arroyo Colorado Watershed Meeting Scheduled for July 24</i> - AgNews, Media Newswire on 7/21/08; 2008: <i>Cities to Build Effluent Polishing Wetlands</i> - TRA Newsletter (Vol 6, Issue 1); 7/21/08: <i>Arroyo Colorado Watershed Meeting Set August 21</i> - Texas Farm Bureau Ag Headlines 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: <i>EcoExposure: McAllen Festival Promotes Sustainable Living Options</i> - McAllen Monitor; 10/22/08: <i>Meeting Slated to implement Arroyo Colorado improvement plan</i> - AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 10/22/08; 11/06/08: <i>Soil Testing Saves Farmers Millions</i> - PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest; 11/7/08: <i>Texas Watershed Steward in the Arroyo Colorado</i> - AgNews, Farm Bureau on 11/12/08; 11/7/08: <i>Public Invited to Arroyo Watershed Workshop</i> - 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: <i>STC to hold two-day environmental conference</i> - The Monitor; 11/18/08: <i>Jaime Flores appointed new Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator</i> - AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 11/18/08, Valley Morning Star on 11/30/08. 12/01/08: <i>New Road Signs Denote Arroyo Colorado Watershed</i> - AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest, Cotton Gin & Oil Mill Press; 1/22/09: <i>Arroyo Colorado Watershed Steering Committee Meets January 26</i> - AgNews, Southwest Farm Press on 1/23/09, Media Newswire on 1/26/09; 02/16/09: <i>San Benito Turns Sewer Ponds into Wetlands</i> - McAllen Monitor;
	9/15/2008	9/15/2008	
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	
	3/15/2009	3/15/2009	
	6/15/2009		
		6/15/2009	3/19/09: <i>San Juan to construct Wetland</i> - The Monitor; 3/27/09: <i>Texas A&M Kingsville part of efforts that led to Stormwater management plans for Rio Grande Valley Cities</i> - TAMUK Newsrelease; 4/9/09: <i>Engineering College at A&M Kingsville goes to Harlingen for earth Day celebration April 18 at Centennial Park</i> - TAMUK Newsrelease; 4/16/09: <i>Earth Day Celebration to Educate Public</i> - Valley Morning Star; 4/21/09: <i>No Dumping Storm Drain Markers Highlight Earth Day</i> - AgNews; 4/22/09:

Storm Drain Markers Highlight Earth Day - The Monitor;

	9/15/2009		6/17/09: How Clean is the Arroyo, Stream Team discusses Arroyo Colorado Water Quality Data - TWRI, KGBT and KVEO Video coverage; 7/23/09: Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee to discuss end of federal funding - TWRI, AgNews, My Harlingen News, Media Newswire (on 7/27/09)
	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	6/15/2009	Distributed to over 700 individuals
	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	--	No grant table distributed to SC meeting given TWRI personnel did not travel down for meeting
	6/15/2009	--	No grant table distributed to SC meeting, but upcoming grant opportunities were discussed.
	9/15/2009	9/15/2009	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	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
Data clearinghouse including monitoring update	11/30/2009 7/15/2007 9/15/2007 12/15/2007 3/15/2008 6/15/2008 9/15/2008 12/15/2008 3/15/2009 6/15/2009 9/15/2009 12/15/2009 3/15/2010	7/15/2008 9/15/2008 12/15/2008 3/15/2009 6/15/2009 9/15/2009	7 monitor sites have increase to 12; this deliverable will be modified upon contract extension Posted monitoring sites and static graphs on website to be accessible to the public no changes no changes no changes no changes

Appendix B

Steering Committee and Workgroup Meeting Summaries

Arroyo Colorado Habitat Work Group
June 25, 2009 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees:

Tony Reisinger, Cameron County Extension
Brunilda Fuentes Capozello, USFWS sitting in for
Ernesto Morales
Chris Hathcock, TPWD
Darla Jones, City of La Feria
Loretta Mokry, APAI

Mikki McCarthy, City of San Juan
Jaime Flores, TWRI
Laura De La Garza, Comite Resources
Jim Tabak, Valley Land Fund
Dr. Kim Jones, TAMUK
Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

Welcome and Introductions..... Dr. Jones, TAMUK

Valley Land Fund Update..... Jim Tabak

- They have been asked for funding to support aeration structures;
- There is a property that is currently for sale and is in the process of changing hands (2,900 acres on the North bank of Arroyo City) and have asked VLF to assess property to allow for development yet conserve/preserve the most environmental sensitive areas of the property to ensure that the areas that drain into the AC do not impact the AC. Assist in developing areas for conservation easement for available environmental incentives. APAI suggested a Low Impact Development concept for the property to ensure the wildlife/habitat corridor is preserved and you can better plan water/sewer treatment. Jim Tabak is wanting assistance in biological / ecological assessment and wants to know if there is interest from the habitat workgroup as to the fate of the land. Habitat workgroup expressed interest.
- Palo Alto Battlefield (FM 511) owned by natural parks service. Texas Conservation group came to VLF to assist with the project 1200 acres owned by 4 developers. 800 acres for development 400 acres owned by parks services. They have surplus arsenic from old barrels that needs to be dealt with. Some work has been done, but more work needs to be done if they plan to develop the property. There is a delineated wetland on the property, which means that under section 404 of CWA, they have to have permit to do any dredge/fill activity on the property or perform mitigation activity to work in the area. if it stays in nonprofits hands, then the land
- Military Highway – TxDOT released its plans for a highway from Mission to the beach (re routed plan to be a more direct route to allow for faster speed). Again, this is an interest of the Habitat workgroup to remain involved and assist with bringing this information to the public eye and in

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

ACW Protection Plan Implementation Jaime Flores, TWRI

Project Updates and Discussions:

4-Cities Wetland Update Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Mikki McCarthy (San Juan Project) – initiated construction on March 25, 2009. Have had several issues that they had to remedy (debris on site that was not identified during design phase). They are on the EPA/TCEQ grant timeline so they are being flexible with how they move forward in that they’ve expanded some cells and got rid of a few cells, which just changes the amount of time that the water will be in the cell, but they are still treating the same amount of water.
- Also had issues with permeability with the soil and have had to go back and add clay (line each cell with 6” of clay), which increased their costs. They submitted a budget amendment to TCEQ, but that

was rejected so San Juan had “pertinent allowance” which they used to purchase the clay. So now they are trying to decide if they will have pertinences or not since they had to use those funds for other costs.

- Timeline is to get majority of the project complete by August.
- Need support in landscaping area and in maintenance issues as well
- Darla Jones (La Feria) 88 acres, 3 constructed wetlands (4.09, 4.02 and 3.04 acres each). Broke ground in February 2009. They have final inspection tomorrow (June 26, 2009). They have plants in the wetlands and are ready
- More plants were recommended than actually went in; But due to budgeting and availability of plants, they increased spacing of the planting during implementation
- Also shares maintenance concerns that San Juan has.
- San Benito is in a holding pattern waiting for funding. This is a quote from Martha McClain “We really do not have anything new to report. The City of San Benito submitted design plans to TCEQ for review and approval in December 2008, and we are awaiting their approval. Arthur Talley, our TCEQ contact, has told us that due to cost overruns with the San Juan and La Feria projects, they are holding off on their approval. He told me that he expected to reactivate our project sometime in the next month or so. So we are just waiting to begin the project. Hope this is of help.”
- Need a maintenance workshop for these new wetland managers (Something for ACWP to cosponsor/host)
- Develop a plaque or certificate in recognition of the cities efforts to develop these wetlands so that we can raise awareness of there efforts to their city councils
- Write a story highlighting the efforts of these cities and the great birding, habitat, ecotourism that they will be providing for our region.

Harlingen Aeration Structures Laura De La Garza, Comitee Resources

- Alan Johnson called Jim Tabak to bring this up again as folks still want this project to happen.
- This will improve aeration on a small scale, but more so, it will expand and raise awareness
- This is not a weir, rather creating a riffle zone
- We almost received an IBWC permit for these structures, but when TPWD went in to do an assessment for the permit, there was an error in the locations and the TWPD-El Paso Office rejected the permit. So, IBWC needs to re-run the model. TPWD main concern was that they wanted to make sure the structure was passable to fish and kayaks. This was addressed and the structure is ok for that.
- So they need about \$7,500 to \$10,000 to re-run the model for IBWC.
- Roger Miranda suggested an alternative structure to pursue, which is still an option.
- Habitat workgroup is in favor of moving forward with pursuing an aeration project in the Harlingen area for enhancement of the Arroyo Colorado? Project would aerate, provide habitat, raise awareness and add aesthetics to the Arroyo.

Rio Grande Region M Water Plan Laura De La Garza, Comitee Resources

- The Habitat Work Group agreed to include the Partnership in the Region M planning. The Partnership can be the environmental voice for Region M planning.
- We need a summary of the goals/milestones that the Partnership has completed since 2007 to the present date to submit to Region M.

Levee Improvement Comments..... Laura De La Garza, Comitee Resources

- The Partnership submitted comments put together by Roger Miranda (TCEQ).
- The Habitat workgroup did not have a chance to review the comments because of the submission deadline and Memorial Day weekend. The workgroup agreed with the comments submitted.
- We also received comments from Laura De La Garza (Comite Resources) and Christine Rakestraw.

Shrimp Farm..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

- The workgroup agreed that it is a good project but questioned it's feasibility; also brought up the fact that it is too far down the AC to do any good in the AC. Jaime reminded the group that all of the AC water ultimately flows to the LLM and that if the project helped clean up the water before entering the LLM, it could still be very beneficial. The workgroup agreed and said it would support the project if it ever got off the ground.
- Edited in follow-up via email from Cecilia Wagner:
we all realize and agree with you that a 2400 acre constructed wetland adjacent to and maybe even part of the Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge would benefit a portion of the Arroyo Colorado and more importantly, the Lower Laguna Madre. We also realize and agree that one of the main purposes of protecting and restoring the Arroyo Colorado is to protect the Lower Laguna Madre.

However, another purpose is to remove the Arroyo Colorado from the 303d list and that is where the statement, too far down the AC to do any good in the AC, came into play. We were basically reviewing the purpose of the implementation of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan and were discussing leveraging the WPP to obtain funding and discussed that while a wetland that far downstream would be a benefit, it does not fit exactly or match a top priority in the plan.

With all that said though, our consensus during the meeting was this is a viable and worthy project and at the same time, a monstrous undertaking that will require multi-entity and multi-funding to get off the ground. We want to see it happen just like you do and we are still talking about and trying to figure out how to get that done. By saying, we "support the project if it ever got off the ground" simply means that we need to search further and find someone to take it on. The Arroyo Colorado watershed Partnership is exactly that - a partnership - consisting of local stakeholders interested in protecting the watershed. We need scientists, agencies and NGOs to support this and be willing to implement it before anything can happen. Jaime has baited the partnership with this information and all we have heard is the LLMF is interested in participating should they be contacted.

I am not well-versed in land acquisition, foreclosure, or in wetland development and to my knowledge, neither is Jaime so we need your assistance to get this going. What do you recommend should be our first step? Who should be the key players (individuals and organizations) that we should involve? Is there a researcher or entity willing to help us lead this? These are the questions I was hoping we could answer at the habitat meeting and while we didn't get there at the last meeting does not mean we are giving up. If anybody has suggestions or guidance, please email Jaime or me.

Available Grants/Potential StudiesCecilia Wagner, TWRI

- Dr. Jones informed the workgroup about the ACWP/TAMUK wetland inventory/mapping grant that they are working on. Martin Alcala, a PhD student, will be using Lidar data to delineate the best sites. Currently focusing on San Benito WWTP site and Alan Johnson property.
- Dr. Jones informed the group about the ACWP/TAMUK plans to submit a NSF grant to study the effects of Solar bee technology in the turning basin of the Port of Harlingen. TAMUK thinks there is some real scientific knowledge that can be gained from this project. They also think that this data can be applied to other similar watersheds in Texas and the U.S. The workgroup supports the grant.
- Coastal Management Program
 - o Just missed the pre-proposal deadline (June 24, 2009)
 - o Full proposal not due until October 14, 2009. Can still submit something.
- Coastal Impact Assistance Program – no word for 2009 funding
- National Wetland Program Development Grant – requires a multi-state program.
- Regional Wetland Development Grant – no word for 2009 funding

Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Arroyo Grant Writing Workshop (Aug 11/12) at City of Pharr

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn..... Dr. Jones, TAMUK

- October 22 or January 21.

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Workgroup

July 27, 2009

9:00am – 12:00 pm

MEETING SUMMARY**Attendees:**

Venki Uddameri, TAMUK
Sreeram G Singaraju, TAMUK Student
Jaime Flores, TWRI
Andy Garza, TSSWCB
Narayanan Kannan, AgriLife Research
Roger Miranda, TCEQ
Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB
Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB

Lee Munz, TSSWCB
Laura De La Garza, Comite Resources
Alex Nunez, TPWD
Xavier Peries, AgriLife Research
Allen Berthold, TWRI
Richard Eyster, TDA
Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

Welcome and Introductions.....Andy Garza, TSSWCB

Surface Water Standard Revisions Update.....Richard Eyster, TDA

- Pesticide contamination currently not a problem in Texas (a few legacy pollutants exist), but overall not a problem
- Currently, TX has one standard - - full contact recreation (over 50% of waters are impaired for bacteria)
- Evaluating new standards and proposed to be the following categories
 - o Primary contact recreation 206 cfu/100 ml (used to be 126 cfu/100 ml) geometric mean
 - o Secondary contact recreation1: 630 cfu/100 ml
 - o Secondary contact recreation2: 1030 cfu/100 ml
 - o Non contact recreation 2060 cfu/100 ml
- When will these standards likely go in place?
 - o TCEQ staff planning to go to Commissioners in November with public comment period to follow. So, likely to be adopted by TCEQ in spring 2010 with EPA to approve after that. While the standards are enforceable after TCEQ adopts them, EPA has to approve them or take issue with TCEQ on the numbers
- Will we have a high flow exclusion in the new standard? Still under discussion.
- Tidal segment of Arroyo Colorado is impaired for bacteria and has a different indicator (enterococcus) (numbers above are e. coli). As far as we know, the tidal segment will stay impaired.
- Non tidal segment is impaired under the current standard; however, with new standards in place (ie. 206 cfu/100 ml), the Arroyo Colorado could go off the list
- There is a possibility that the Arroyo Colorado non tidal undergo a use attainability analysis and a change to secondary contact recreation
- **Aaron Wendt proposed that the next workgroup meeting have presentations from researchers in Oso Watershed to discuss bacteria runoff from cropland to see if any of that information is transferrable.**

U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals- Aquatic Pesticides.....Richard Eyster, TDA

- Nov 27, 2006, EPA issued that pesticides applied as part of FIFRA were ok and no permits needed
- Courts argued that this is not right
- Court says that a spray nozzle is a “Point Source” and anything that goes beyond is considered excess or waste and would need a NPDES permit
- EPA has a 2 year stay to develop a general permit (on average it takes EPA 6 months to get a general permit)
- TDA currently working with TCEQ to develop an easy electronic permitting process

Feral Hog Control **Richard Eyster, TDA**

- USFWS estimates that 2 to 5 million hogs in Texas; Feels this is underestimation.

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

- Review of Components Addressing Agricultural NPS Pollution Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB
- Reduce suspended sediment levels, organic material and N & P material from runoff
 - o Short term goal of establishing WQMPs on 33% of ag land (100,000 ac)
 - o Long term goal of establishing WQMPs on 50% of irrigation ag land (150,000 ac)
 - o To establish goals – we used technical and financial assistance
 - o We still need approximately 33,000 acres to reach 2010 goal
 - o **Discussed next steps during latter part of meeting**
- Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Status..... Jaime Flores, TWRI
- Habitat Restoration Workgroup
 - o Shrimp Farms Project – establishing wetlands / birding center/ tertiary treatment of Arroyo Colorado on 2400 acres of shrimp farm land that was recently foreclosed upon.
 - o Solar Bee Funding – Dr. Jones (TAMUK) put together a proposal to NSF to fund on unit; Roger Miranda (TCEQ) is looking at developing a pilot study for funding;
 - o Aeration structures: Need \$10K to re-run the model, still uncertain of its status
 - O&E Workgroup
 - o Arroyo Colorado Grant workshop scheduled for Aug 11-12 in Pharr. Purpose is to assist local entities in accessing grant funds; Speakers will be providing information on grant programs that provide funds for goals outlined in the WPP. Stormwater task force is involved in planning so a lot of the funding opportunities for stormwater task force
 - Wastewater Infrastructure
 - o Updated status of cities/counties permitting
 - o Determined some of the WWTFs are seeking permits to discharge into Big Ditch rather than Arroyo Colorado. Discussion ensued about removing pollution from one watershed to another; Arroyo WPP does not encourage this and rather encourages reuse, nutrient removal thru polishing wetlands, etc. and so we can not be faulted for a city's decision to seek a permit to discharge elsewhere; we should rather rejoice in what the cities like San Juan, San Benito and La Feria are doing.

Project Updates/Discussion:

- Best Management Practice ImplementationAndy Garza, TSSWCB
- TSSWCB provided a **handout** of project summary
 - 136 certified WQMPs in current 319 project (FY05 funding); Combined total of 391 WQMPs covering 37,500 acres for 319 funding (FY02 and FY05 funding). Including other programs (503, EQIP, etc.), a total of ~67,000 acres
 - There is a 319 proposal at EPA to continue funding under the FY09 funding. If EPA approves it, it would go forward starting Sept 2009.
 - Highlighted irrigation pipe line and land leveling as BMPs. What about nutrient management? Every WQMP requires nutrient management.
 - TSSWCB updates load reductions achieved as a result of WQMPs established and BMPs installed
 - Wouldn't it be great to be able to do this same estimate of load reductions for all of the programs (NRCS, SWCDs, Extension)

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Assessment.....

Juan Enciso, Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Venki Uddameri, TAMU-Kingsville
Narayanan Kannan, Texas AgriLife Blackland

- Xavier Peries gave an update (presentation) on the edge-of-field monitoring program including: (1) Field overview - what BMPs are in place on the 6 sites; (2) How sampling of each site is conducted; (3) Analysis of data (flow, surface runoff, parameters measured)
 - o Depending on the site and the irrigation event, surface runoff accounted for 4.5 to 66% of the water that was applied by irrigation
 - o Nutrient levels in runoff correlated well with fertilizer application as noted in data
 - Side dressing of N shows least negative impact on NPS pollution when compared to broadcast and fertigation

- The more runoff, the greater chance for losing N compounds through drop off structures and drain-tiled outlet due to deep percolation
 - High concentration of fertilizer compounds found in ground water should not impact watershed as drain tiled discharges do (i.e. soil acts as a natural filter)
- Venki Uddameri (student presented an overview of drainage ditch sampling including site locations, filtration techniques, flow measurements, analysis of data including parameters measured. Presentation focused on nutrients
 - Currents at the sites vary considerably across the cross section:
 - Flow rates relatively high at 4 mile road and Harding Ranch road sites (does that mean possible influence outside of agriculture?)
 - Flow rates are much lower at other two sites: (1) ABD road: Not able to collect in March due to construction and no flow noticed in Jan-Feb; (2) 3 mile S of Military highway site: No flow noted during Jan – June sampling period.
 - Orthophosphate below detection for most times
 - Nitrogen more complex than Phosphorus;
 - Currently analyzing edge of field samples and drainage ditch samples
 - Getting ready to employ automated samplers
 - Current conclusion is that vegetation is removing P, but not effectively removing N. To get N attenuation, flow may need to be slowed down to make a difference
 - What are the chances of us being able to engineer the ditches so that they flow at a slower rate? They would go to a deep/shallow flow or wider to attenuate more N
- Narayanan Kannan presented information about BMP inventory maps (all BMPs are mapped into one shape file. He has all of the files on their FTP site with a read me file for anyone to use. Categories included groups of BMPs such as (irrigation BMPs, erosion control, etc.)
 - Each BMP is included on the map and includes attribute table which tells you description of actual BMP, Total number of BMPs installed in watershed and area of acreage for that BMP
 - Due to privacy, attribute table will be kept between TSSWCB, NRCS, SWCDs and producers.
 - TWRI will turn in files to TSSWCB and include only jpgs in final report that is public
- Narayanan Kannan presented information and update on SWAT model
 - Previous meeting – Kannan presented flow results and received comments from Roger Miranda and made necessary adjustments.
 - Flow estimates: Nash and Sutcliff Efficiency: Gage 1: 52.5% Calibration and 53.4% validation – suggests model results are acceptable. Daily timestep; Baseflow is looking good, not catching the flashings (Only really has a problem in the top 10% flow regime (peak flow)); Gage 2 60.4% calibration and 40.6% validation (again, the top 10% is having under-estimation problem)
 - Suspended sediment estimates: Gage 1 – mean load at 88.4 tons/d predicted and 68.7 tons/d observed versus the total load (tons at 4,238 predicted and 3,299 observed); Gage 2 – mean load at 173 tons/d predicted and 185. 2 tons/d observed versus 11071 tons predicted and 11,855 tons observed
 - Ammonium N load: Gage 1 – mean load 153 kg/day predicted and 152 kg/day observed versus 7.21 tons predicted and 7.13 tons observed (this is just at the point of calibration and is an in-stream measurement); Gage 2 – 63 kg/day predicted and 158 kg/day observed versus 1.3 tons predicted and 3.3 tons observed.
 - Dissolved Oxygen: Gage 2 – mean concentration 7.5 mg/L predicted and 7.6 mg/L observed; Port of Harlingen (Gage 1) – mean concentration 7.2 mg/L predicted and 6.0 mf/L observed
 - An issue was brought up about the dissolved oxygen modeling. Due to time constraint – Kannan went with a different method.
 - Model is now ready for scenario trials

Integrated Farm Management Education Program Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

- Purpose was to continue education program previously funded by TSSWCB, but to focus on integrated pest management such as reduced pesticide application.
 - Previous 2 quarters saw 160 total producers attending Pesticide applicator training courses or continuing education courses and 270 attending other education programs such as BMP implementation and cost-share information

Pesticide Education in the Coastal Zone of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed.....Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

- Name does not reflect purpose of proposal
- Support education program discussed above
- Providing additional funds for soil sampling and will be up against a time line
- Turf producer and manager education program (actual program to be held next year)
- **Can we target agriculture BMPs to producers that farm within the levees? For the extra money that we will have in this program from the soil testing campaign**

Discuss/Prioritize Current/Future Funding Needs and Sources Jaime Flores, TWRI

- A monitoring proposal was submitted to TSSWCB by Dr. Hernandez or Fernandez (?) a few years ago to monitor Big Ditch. It was rejected, but with more letters of support, it could get funded possibly if this group feels its necessary. Are we able to go outside of the AC or do we have enough to handle here in our own area?
- Additional funding for education and outreach for ag producers? Current projects are slated to end March thru August 2010 – do we need more? Or what about targeting producers based on SWAT model and BMP maps? Or followup assistance for TSSWCB?
 - o Use TSSWCB #05-10 final report to justify additional assistance is needed or if different assistance is needed.
 - o Still see that there is a consensus that producers don't know about the FSA, NRCS, TSSWCB programs that exist to assist producers. So maybe an education program that focuses strictly on that.
- What about a drainage ditch study – engineering the drainage ditch for better attenuation. This would be good to address after the TAMUK drainage ditch study is completed.

Other BusinessAndy Garza, TSSWCB

Nominee for the Arroyo Colorado Executive Committee Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

- Better to have a producer that can speak for more than just themselves as a producer (names mentioned although not confirmed include Steve Bearden, JoJo White, Sam Simmons, Wayne Halbert; Ray Prewitt, Sam Ruiz, Ed Alstroske)

Next Meeting Date TBD

- Mondays do not seem to be a good day. Perhaps, we can schedule it for the Tuesday (Jan 26, 2010) after the Monday meeting of move the SC back to a Thursday, which means the Ag meeting would be on a Thursday (Jan 21, 2010). We'll discuss this at the SC meeting following this meeting and let the group know.

Adjourn

Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting

Texas A&M Kingsville, Citrus Center
Rio Red Classroom
312 N. International Blvd, Weslaco, Texas 78596
July 27, 2009 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees:

Roger Miranda, TCEQ
Arthur Talley, TCEQ
Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

Allen Berthold, TWRI
Paul Duke, UTPA
Mark Lingo, TPWD

Ron Green, STEI
 Laura De La Garza, Comite REsources
 Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant
 Rocky Freund, Nueces River Authority
 Chris Rakestraw, C-SAC, LLMF
 Lee Munz, TSSWCB
 Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB

Ernesto Reyes, USFWS
 Jim Tabak, Valley Land Fund
 Andy Garza, TSSWCB
 Roy Jimenez, City of Weslaco
 Ken Jones, LRGVDC
 Jaime Flores, TWRI
 Richard Eyster, TDA

4:30 Social – Snacks and Refreshments Provided by Professional Services Industries

5:00 Welcome and Introductions Jaime Flores, TWRI

5:05 Surface Water Quality Standards Revision process and

New permit requirements for pesticide applicators.....Richard Eyster, TDA

- Pesticide contamination currently not a problem in Texas (a few legacy pollutants exist), but overall not a problem
- Currently, TX has two standards - - full contact recreation (126 cfu/100 ml) and non-contact recreation
- Over 50% of waters are impaired for bacteria):
- Evaluating new standards and proposed to be the following categories
 - o Primary contact recreation: 206 cfu/100 ml (used to be 126 cfu/100 ml) geometric mean – reserved for streams that people often swim in
 - o Secondary contact recreation1: 630 cfu/100 ml – for streams near state parks or near recreation areas, but not necessarily swimmied in
 - o Secondary contact recreation2: 1030 cfu/100 ml
 - o Non contact recreation 2060 cfu/100 ml– for streams such as Houston Ship Channel or barge traffic areas
- When will these standards likely go in place?
 - o TCEQ staff planning to go to Commissioners in November with public comment period to follow. So, likely to be adopted by TCEQ in spring 2010 with EPA to approve after that. While the standards are enforceable after TCEQ adopts them, EPA has to approve them or take issue with TCEQ on the numbers
- Will we have a high flow exclusion in the new standard? Still under discussion.
- Tidal segment of Arroyo Colorado is impaired for bacteria and has a different indicator (enterococcus) (numbers above are e. coli). As far as we know, the tidal segment will stay impaired.
- Non tidal segment is impaired under the current standard; however, with new standards in place (ie. 206 cfu/100 ml), the Arroyo Colorado could go off the list
- There is a possibility that the Arroyo Colorado non tidal undergo a use attainability analysis and a change to secondary contact recreation
- Nov 27, 2006, EPA issued a rule that pesticides applied in accordance with FIFRA were ok and exempt from CWAs permitting requirements
- 6th Circuit Court argued that this is not right or reasonable interpretation of the CWA (entire court did not hear the case so TDA, FB and others have filed a request for the entire court (all 9 judges) to hear the case; if this does not happen, then case will go forward as is and TDA and EPA will have to deal with the ruling in Texas
- Court says that a spray nozzle is a “Point Source” and anything that goes beyond the plant or soil (beyond its purpose) is considered excess or waste and would need a NPDES permit
- EPA has a 2 year stay to develop a general permit (on average it takes EPA 6 months to get a general permit)
- TDA currently working with TCEQ to develop an easy electronic permitting process
- USFWS estimates that 2 to 5 million hogs in Texas
- So are the Arroyo Colorado standards going to be changed?

- o The changes proposed are for freshwater so it is possible that the Is the Arroyo Colorado a contact recreation?
- o Does the change allow for a stream that is not contact recreation that flows into a contact recreation?

5:40 Work Group Updates (5 minutes each)

Agricultural Issues.....Andy Garza, TSSWCB

- 136 certified WQMPs in current 319 project (FY05 funding); Combined total of 391 WQMPs covering 37,500 acres for 319 funding (FY02 and FY05 funding). Including other programs (503, EQIP, etc.), a total of ~67,000 acres

Habitat Issues Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension

- Discussed installing a SolarBee in the Arroyo Colorado (Roger Miranda is working on a small grant to do a feasibility study to see if they can do something for water quality improvements - currently budgeting projects for 2010 – looking for a small amount of money to rent approximately 3 units to be deployed in the zone of impairment. First order of business though is to get wq monitoring station at the Rio Hondo bridge to work. Secondly, funding for Solarbees has taken a back seat to other priorities for 2010 funding. Roger needs letters of support from Partnership and Arroyo Colorado habitat workgroup
- Aeration structures was also discussed on Alan Johnson site. Alan Johnson wants to get another ? run for additional permitting. ~\$30K; TPWD had concerns about fish and shrimp – but new design is below surface so no worries
- **City of San Juan, La Feria requested trainings for wetland management (project idea?) Do we have someone willing to come into the watershed – a volunteer? What about stream team? TCEQ is about to give them money to do outreach and education – could they develop a wetland maintenance module?**
- Shrimp Farm Project – Comite Resources taking the lead on developing a task group to address this project
- Dr. Xongjeng Juan(?) from TAMUK is trying to put together a NSF for SolarBee funding

Water Quality Monitoring Rocky Freund, Nueces RA

- CRP and SWQM quarterly monitoring is continuing
- Rocky provided data of Arroyo Colorado Bacteria Indicator Study – as of today, they have collected 6 months of data. They will continue to collect at least 1 year of data (thru December 2009).
- They will also be able to purchase an additional Arroyo Colorado Watershed Model for outreach and education

Wastewater Infrastructure Laura De La Garza, Comite Resources, Inc.

- Inventory of commitments of Pollution Reduction Plan. Jaime is working with Lee and Laura to gather that data.
- They are realizing that reuse is much higher than they originally thought (e.g. City of Harlingen discharges 6 mgd and reuses 2 mgd, but numbers are still being finalized. Right now McAllen, Harlingen and Pharr are all the major players in reuse)
- La Feria Wetlands is complete; San Juan is close; San Benito is trying to move forward
- Military Highway Water Supply Corporation got funding for their Progresso plant
- Alamo looking for funding to upgrade their systems

Education and Outreach Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Grant workshop meeting will be changed from August 11/12 to September
- Recently gave presentation to World Birding Center in Edinburg to kids between the ages of 14 to 18 years old.
- TxDOT Watershed Boundary Signs are probably going to happen. The TxDOT MS4 permit has a requirement for the signs (outreach and education). Sharon Slagle is a Stream Team volunteer and works for TxDOT> The partnership applies for a blanket permit with a letter and a support letter from TCEQ. Roy Jimenez (City of Weslaco) will produce extra signs for cities and TxDOT to install for compliance with

their MS4 Permits (**NOTE – the 10 signs already in place were paid for by 319 money and they can not be used to meet permits**)

6:05 Long-Term Partnership Sustainability Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

- South Texas Environmental Institute proposal – Cameron County wants to join the Stormwater Task Force in addition to the 14 cities so there is a shift from the urban to the rural work that is happening
- The South Texas Environmental Institute has a mission of service and protection of the South Texas environmental – they have students as well as partners from other universities and the College of Ag to support them
- The model of the Task Force is a successful model and could be used to support the watershed coordinator
- How does the LRGVDC Board feel about parenting the ACWP? The Board was approached with this idea in Feb 2008 and agreed to pursuing additional information
- Why did the cities go to TAMUK for MS4 support rather than the LRGVDC? TAMUK had a relationship with the cities already in place and was working with the municipal guys and the TAMUK provides technical assistance, which the cities relied upon.
- Want the same analysis that we gave of watershed coordinators time commitment to Region M and Water Authority of how much of the Watershed Coordinator time would be used for stormwater urban outreach that would be in addition to the plan?
- Communicate with the sustainability task group to create a cost-benefit analysis (remember the lady in the Upper Gila watershed) for cities, counties, sportsmen)
- Jim Tabak likes the idea of being part of the LRGVDC – being a part of the political process. Does not like going with the whim of the latest funding opportunity or grant program. Rather, we need a concrete mission, objective, goal, etc.

6:45 Grants and New Projects Update..... Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

- TCEQ 319 grant cycle coming up in September. Money for implementing the WPP and for addressing the coastal nonpoint source priority issues; TCEQ has not meeting the conditions set out in their coastal nonpoint source priority issues; Such as **site inspection of onsite systems (Arroyo City) and development in the Coastal Zone (Funding for Watershed Coordinator)**
- **Funding or seek effort for wetland maintenance training**
- **Funding for Colonia hook up for bacteria treatment of inflow coming from San Benito area that goes in to Arroyo Colorado just south of Port of Harlingen**

6:50 Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

- TCEQ had a mandate from the EPA to clean up the impaired waterbodies. Is that still a mandate? Yes, it is. TCEQ is funding this effort as well as numerous other programs (RDF, 3 city Wetlands, etc.) TSSWCB is also funding multiple programs to implement the WPP
- Has anyone written up a list of accomplishments? Especially in one location (reader friendly format)? No. But the bimonthly updates catalogues the accomplishments; Plus, there is the plan to release an accomplishment report to date – **Tells us we need to update the brochure to list accomplishments (reached 10k kids, rec’vd media coverage)**

7:00 Adjourn Jaime Flores, TWRI

- **Should we have the next meeting on Monday? People liked Thursday. Talk to Jude**

Appendix C**Bi-Monthly Updates June 2009 through August 2009**

June 15 and 30; July 16; and August 14 and 31

June 15, 2009

Hello Arroyo Partners:

I recently found out that the Bing Hung/Southern Star shrimp farm had been shut down and foreclosed upon by the bank that held the loan. Dr. Robert Collier and Paul Bergh have been trying to contact local and state conservation groups about the shrimp farm with the idea to try and acquire the property through a large partnered effort for development of a treatment wetland/birding center. A concerted effort by the ACWP, TCEQ, USFWS, TPWD, Ducks Unlimited, Valley Land Fund, LLMF, TXCCA and others could turn this idea into a reality. Only time will tell, but it does appear to be an excellent opportunity. Dr. Collier mentioned a smaller project 5 miles upstream from Hung's shrimp farm where TAMUK did a demonstration project that consisted of constructing 5 treatment ponds and diverting water from the Arroyo into the ponds for treatment. The project proved to be very successful, but unfortunately, funding ended and so did the demonstration. I will keep you posted as things develop and if you have information or would like to be more closely involved, please contact me.

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming meetings:

- The ACWP sustainability committee will meet June 25 at the Extension Center's Conference Room from 8:30 am to 10:00 am.
- The Habitat workgroup will meet on June 25 from 10 am -12 pm at the Extension Center's Conference room.
- The Ag workgroup meeting will be held July 27 from 9:30 am to 12 pm at the Citrus Center.
- The Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for July 27 From 4:30 pm to 7 pm at the Citrus Center.

Also, here are a couple of events you might be interested in:

--Texas Stream Team is sponsoring a review of water quality data in the Arroyo Colorado at Estero Llano Grande State Park on June 20. This presentation will include analysis of volunteer and professionally collected water quality data in the Arroyo Colorado and a tour of the State Park. For more information, contact Josh Oyer at jo27@txstate.edu or 512.245.7591.

--The 2009 Texas Stream Team Statewide Meeting of the Monitors will be held July 17-19 in New Braunfels, TX at T Bar M Resort and Conference Center. The theme of this year's event is "protecting and improving water quality." For more information, a detailed agenda, and/or to register, visit the meeting website at <http://txstreamteam.rivers.txstate.edu/MOM.html> or call toll free 877.506.1401.

--TWRI will host three "Getting in Step" workshops this fall for free. Getting In Step is a guide for conducting watershed outreach campaigns developed by Tetra Tech and funded by EPA. Trainings will be on Sept 22 in Houston; Sept 23 in Austin; or Sept 24 in Dallas. Visit <http://watereducation.tamu.edu/schedule.php> for more information.

--The Arroyo Colorado Grant Opportunity Workshop date has been changed to August 11th-12th. The change in date was made to ensure we would have as many speakers as possible. It has also grown into a two day workshop. The workshop will be from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on both days at the City of Pharr International Convention Center. The focus of the workshop is to seek funding opportunities that would help us implement the watershed protection plan. The Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership, Rural Economic Development Group of the Texas Department of Agriculture, the LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force, TAMUK and the City of Pharr are hosting the event. The workshop is available to all Arroyo Colorado stakeholders, local governments and schools that are interested in helping clean up the Arroyo Colorado. Lunch will be provided, several outreach booths from invited agencies will be on location, and the seminar is free. I want to encourage everyone to attend this workshop.

Recently, I made it down the Arroyo for a little fishing. We fished just north of the Y and around Green Island. The natural beauty of the area never ceases to amaze me. It helps when you catch a 28 inch redfish on the first cast.

*Looking ahead,
Jaime Flores*

June 30, 2009

Hello Arroyo Partners:

Did you see the Arroyo Colorado on the news recently? KGBT covered the recent Texas Stream Team event at Estero Llano Grande reviewing water quality data. The video and news release are posted on the project website and can be accessed at <http://arroyocolorado.org/news/howcleanisthearroyo.php>.

Speaking of news items, have you received your latest issue of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Newsletter? If you don't receive this free newsletter and would like to, sign up for it at <http://arroyocolorado.org/Subscribe.php>.

I have received quite a few comments regarding the possible shrimp farm project that was discussed in the previous bimonthly update. The LLMF is on board if anything should develop and the Arroyo Colorado Habitat Workgroup expressed their support and would appreciate any feedback that you can provide regarding this project. This is obviously a very complicated project, but worth it. I will keep you posted as things develop and if you have information or would like to be more closely involved, please contact me.

During June, three meetings have been held to discuss the sustainability of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership. We appreciate the time and effort put forth by this small, but active committee. We are working with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council to form a cohesive group to address water quality and related environmental issues in the valley. The meetings have been very productive and we will present our recommendations at the next steering committee meeting as well as send out a more detailed summary soon.

The Habitat workgroup also met this month and received updates on the La Feria and San Juan wetland projects. La Feria is almost finished with construction and was conducting a final walk through last Friday. Despite encountering some unexpected setbacks, (buried trash, needed more clay), San Juan was able to proceed and began construction March 25 and estimates that the wetland will be completed by the end of August. Both cities expressed the need for a wetland maintenance workshop or training to educate the City employees that will be responsible for the wetlands. If this is a training need held by others, please let me know and we'll try to host something locally.

At the request of Alan Johnson, a watershed stakeholder, the habitat workgroup also revised the Harlingen Aeration Project. In support of the project, the workgroup is looking into applying for the necessary permits to proceed with the project.

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming workgroup and steering committee meetings:

- The Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup meeting tentatively scheduled for July 17 in conjunction with the TCEQ Biosolids Management workshop.*
- The Agriculture Issues Workgroup meeting: July 27 from 9 am to 12 pm at the Citrus Center.*
- The Steering Committee meeting: July 27 from 4:30 pm to 7 pm at the Citrus Center.*

Also, here are a couple of events you might be interested in:

--TCEQ is hosting a workshop titled, "The Future of Biosolids Management in the Lower Rio Grande Valley," on Friday, July 17 in McAllen. For more information, contact Claudia Lozano at clozano@tceq.state.tx.us

--The 2009 Texas Stream Team Statewide Meeting of the Monitors will be held July 17-19 in New Braunfels, TX. For more information, a detailed agenda, and/or to register, visit the meeting website at <http://txstreamteam.rivers.txstate.edu/MOM.html> or call toll free 877.506.1401.

--The Arroyo Colorado Grant Opportunity Workshop date has been changed to August 11-12. The change in date was made to ensure we would have as many speakers as possible. It has also grown into a two day workshop. The workshop will be from 9 am to 2 pm on both days at the City of Pharr International Convention Center. The focus of the workshop is to seek funding opportunities that would help us implement the watershed protection plan. The Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership, Rural Economic Development Group of the Texas Department of Agriculture, the LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force, TAMUK and the City of Pharr are hosting the event. The workshop is available to all Arroyo Colorado stakeholders, local governments and schools that are interested in helping clean up the Arroyo Colorado. Lunch will be provided, several outreach booths from invited agencies will be on location, and the seminar is free. I want to encourage everyone to attend this workshop.

I slipped away to the Arroyo to get some more fishing in. I did not do as well as the last time. In fact, I got skunked. The tides are changing and the heat is pushing the fish into deeper water so if you do go, fish the channels.

Looking ahead,
Jaime Flores

July 16, 2009

Hello Arroyo Partners:

Last week I attended the Texas Watershed Coordinator's Roundtable meeting at Texas AgriLife Blackland Research Center in Temple. The meeting was very well attended, I believe 81 people, and proved how important watershed issues have become and will continue to be for years to come. The meeting discussed the challenges faced by Watershed Partnerships across the state, specifically in building sustainable entities and highlighted some of the successful models used by various groups.

We will be discussing our own plan of action to sustain the Arroyo Colorado Partnership at our next steering committee meeting on July 27 from 4:30 to 7 pm. I will be sending out more information about the steering committee meeting next week. In addition to discussing sustainability, Richard Eyster, Texas Department of Agriculture, will be updating us on revisions to surface water standards and the recent 6th Circuit Court decision regarding permit requirements for pesticide use near or over water. The Agricultural Issues Workgroup will also meet that morning from 9 am to 12 noon (see attached agenda). Both meetings will be held in the Rio Red Room at the Citrus Center in Weslaco. Please join us.

Two events highlighting wastewater management and infrastructure issues are happening tomorrow (Friday, July 17). First, TCEQ is hosting a workshop titled, "The Future of Biosolids Management in the Lower Rio Grande Valley," from 8:30 am - 3:45 pm at the McAllen Convention Center. See attached agenda. This event is a US-Mexico Border 2012 Environmental Program. Following the workshop, the Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup will meet from 4-6 pm (agenda attached) at the Macaroni Grill across from the Convention Center.

Finally, here are a couple of other events you might be interested in:

--Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge would like to invite everyone to attend their Wild Wednesday's at the park (see attached flyer). There are two more events scheduled for the month of July. For more information contact Laura De La Garza at 956-784-7500.

--The Arroyo Colorado Grant Opportunity Workshop will be held August 11-12. The workshop will be from 9 am to 2 pm on both days at the City of Pharr International Convention Center. The focus of the workshop is to seek funding opportunities that would help us implement the watershed protection plan. The Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership, Rural Economic Development Group of the Texas Department of Agriculture, the LRGV TPDES

Stormwater Task Force, TAMUK and the City of Pharr are hosting the event. The workshop is available to all Arroyo Colorado stakeholders, local governments and schools that are interested in helping clean up the Arroyo Colorado. Lunch will be provided, several outreach booths from invited agencies will be on location, and the seminar is free. I want to encourage everyone to attend this workshop.

The fishing has been outstanding. I made it up to Port Mansfield on Saturday and landed 5 hefty trout and 2 reds, one was 30" so I had to tag it. Then Sunday morning we went back and caught a total of 13 trout and four reds. Lots of big reds schooling out there. If you have a chance, hit the water.

*Looking ahead,
Jaime Flores*

August 14, 2009

Hello Arroyo Partners:

The TCEQ workshop, "The Future of Biosolids Management in the Lower Rio Grande Valley," held at the McAllen Convention Center on July 17 was very well attended. There were speakers from Austin to Monterrey as some of the same methods for biosolids management are being used on both sides of the Border. The workshop provided a venue to share information and lessons learned, which benefited our area cities as they work to improve waste management while protecting water quality.

Following the workshop, the Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup met at Macaroni Grill to discuss the status of meeting wastewater milestones outlined in the watershed protection plan. This included an update on the number of colonias that has been hooked up to wastewater treatment plants, the number of new and upgraded plants and water reuse numbers. We also found out that we still need similar information from about 7 cities in the watershed. We are actively working to get this information to get a complete assessment of the wastewater infrastructure's progress on implementing the watershed protection plan.

The Ag issues workgroup met on July 27 at the Rio Red Classroom. Richard Eyster, Texas Department of Agriculture, updated us on revisions to surface water quality standards and the recent 6th Circuit Court decision regarding permit requirements for pesticide use near or over water. The new proposed water quality standards would provide a tiered standard for e. coli per the designated use, with the option to change the designated use following a detailed assessment of the waterbody. Per the 6th Circuit Court decision, pesticide applicators may now need a permit to apply pesticides near or over water; currently, the Texas Department of Agriculture has a two year stay while the agency works to understand the permit details and determines the most efficient way to issue the permits.

The Steering Committee meeting held on July 27 focused on sustainability of the partnership. We are currently reviewing two options, which ensure the sustainability of the partnership and the continued efforts to clean up the Arroyo. We will be meeting again soon to decide which model is best for the partnership.

Finally, I want to update everyone on the Arroyo Colorado Grant Opportunity Workshop. While it was initially scheduled for August 11 and 12, we moved the date to accommodate some of the speaker's schedules. There a lot of State and Federal agencies involved so we are working with many schedules. We will set a date once we find a time that ensures enough speakers are available to make the event worthwhile.

The fishing is still great. It is so hot though, that I have only been going at night. Live shiner has been doing the trick.

*Looking ahead,
Jaime Flores*

August 31, 2009

Hello Arroyo Partners:

Two weeks ago, I took the Arroyo Colorado Watershed physical model to Paul Bond for some minor repairs. There was not any major damage but the model was showing some wear, especially around the corners. Paul is person that made the model and he has been commissioned to make another Arroyo Colorado Watershed model. I should have the original back in a couple of weeks and expect the second model to be completed early next year. I want to thank Rocky Freund and the Nueces River Authority for all of their hard work in finding the funds to make this possible.

The following Monday, I attended the Texas Watershed Planning Short course in Bandera, TX. The course was hosted by TWRI with help from TSSWCB, TCEQ and the EPA. The week long course was extremely informative and included a host of speakers from both out of the state and here in Texas. The course was attended by watershed coordinators from Texas, Louisiana and Alabama. Watershed's across the country are dealing with the same issues that we face here locally and it was nice to be able to build upon each others experiences and knowledge.

We have written a summary of our efforts to implement the watershed protection plan since it's inception to the present date for submission to Region M Water Planning Group. This group, established under Senate Bill 1 represents 8 local counties and is tasked with coordinating long-range water supply planning for the area. The summary of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan efforts, attached, will be presented to the group at their next meeting on September 2. I am glad to see Region M and the Arroyo Colorado Partnership working together to address both water quantity and water quality issues in the Rio Grande Valley.

There are several grant cycles coming up, including the Clean Water Act Section 319 Program, which funds activities addressing non-point source pollution. Many of our existing efforts are funded by this program and we are currently working with several cities to get new projects developed and submitted. If you have a project idea or are interested in pursuing this opportunity, please contact us. We will also be looking to our workgroups for support in developing these proposals. In addition to the 319 Grant cycle, please see the attached opportunity, Norman Hackerman Advanced Research Program, specifically geared to encourage and provide support to faculty members and students in Texas institutions.

My cell phone number, 956-371-6024 will not be an active number after the end of this month (August 31, 2009). I can still be reached at my office number 956-969-5607 and through email. Sorry for any inconvenience.

I finally had a chance to do a little off-shore fishing. I took a trip with two friends and Capt. Arlan Lewis from Port Mansfield. It was a spectacular day. We limited out on snapper by 11:00 am. We then caught two hefty kingfish trolling and were heading back to the dock by 12:00 noon. I saw some tarpon rolling around the Mansfield jetties. That is always a good sign.

Looking ahead,

Jaime Flores

Appendix D

Updated Grant List

Final Deadline	Purpose	Funding Agency	Amount	Website	Notes	Application Status	Grant Status
5/1/09	assist businesses and industries in identifying better environmental strategies for reducing or eliminating waste and conserving natural resources. (1) promote P2 approaches to address agency priorities, (2) collaborate on national P2 information needs, (3) measure effectiveness of activities	EPA	\$80K to \$115K per project for 8 total projects (\$800K total avail)	http://www.epa.gov/p2/pubs/grants/ppin/ppin09.html			
5/3/09	Coastal habitat conservation, restoration or enhancement project in the area of the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail	TPWD	\$3000, \$10,000, or \$20,000			Wetland Creation and Educational project, Valley Nature Center (Weslaco Chamber of Commerce) - 1/2 ac wetland to be opened fall 2010	funded \$3,000 conservation grant
5/12/09	achieving cost-effective restoration and creation of estuary habitat (includes creation of riparian buffer zone in estuary) while promoting increased partnerships among agencies and between public and private sectors	USACE	\$1,500,000 max; \$100,000 min	http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw/p/estuary_act/index.htm			
5/26/09	Research on the ecosystem services provided by agricultural lands. Ecosystem services are the goods and services derived from natural and managed ecosystems upon which human welfare depends	USDA-AFRI & EPA-STAR	\$500,000 per project (\$4,500,000 total avail)	http://epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2009/2009_star_ecosystem_services.html	This would be a good opportunity for developing the GIS system for the entire AC partnership projects		
6/12/09	Proposed projects should address implementation of IPM approaches that reduce the risks associated with pesticide use in an agricultural or non-agricultural setting and demonstrate the importance and relevancy of the project to the goals of PESP	EPA	\$50K max per project (one per region funded) \$500K total available	http://www.epa.gov/oppbpd1/pesp/BPPD%20-%20PESP%202009%20RFP.pdf			
6/22/09	Local efforts to accomplish meaningful on-the-ground restoration of marine, estuarine and riparian habitats, including salt marshes, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, and freshwater habitats important to anadromous fish species (fish like salmon and striped bass that migrate to and from the sea). Emphasis is on using a hands-on, grassroots approach to restore fisheries habitat across coastal America, the Great Lakes region, and U.S. Territories of the Caribbean.	Fish America	\$10,000 to \$50,000 each project	http://www.fishamerica.org/grants/			
6/26/09	designed to meet the needs of private landowners wishing to enact good conservation practices on their lands. As a program, LIP efforts are focused on projects aimed at creating, restoring, protecting and enhancing habitat for rare or at-risk-species throughout the state	USFWS	75% cost share program (landowner pays 25%)	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/lip/	Allen Johnson Place opportunity?		

Appendix

6/26/09	Acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands in coastal states	USFWS	\$1,000,000 max	http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/		
summer 2009	Habitat restoration; planning and administrative costs; conservation management plans	GLO	Unspecified	http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ciap/index.html	2009 RFP Not released yet	
7/11/09	Habitat restoration; planning and administrative costs; conservation management plans	GLO	Unspecified			
7/15/09	Research, education, and extension activities that advance and disseminate the knowledge base available to agricultural and rural communities to improve the nations surface water and groundwater resources. Funded projects should lead to science-based decision-making and management practices that improve the quality of the Nation's surface water and groundwater resources in agricultural and rural watersheds.	CSREES	Projects not to exceed \$660,000 (\$12 Million total avail)	http://www.csrees.usda.gov/foia/waterqualityicgp.cfm		
7/15/09	Support and build state/tribal/local government wetland programs and address 1 or more of the 5 National Priority Areas: (1) state/tribal technical and meeting support; (2) regulation; (3) monitoring and assessment; (4) voluntary restoration/protection; and (5) water quality standards for wetlands	EPA	\$225,000 max; \$25,000 min (\$550,000 total avail)	http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/pdf/HQrfp07.pdf	projects must involve or benefit two or more states or be nationwide. States, tribes, & local government agencies not eligible to apply; Implementation projects are not eligible.	
7/31/09	Supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects that must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. Acquisition, establishment, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and wetland-associated uplands	USFWS	\$1,000,000 max; \$75,000 min (\$48.8 million total avail)	http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Standard/US/index.shtml	Shrimp Farm or Estero Llano Grande expansion	
7/31/09	Acquire and develop parkland or to renovate existing public recreation areas.	TPWD	\$500,000 max	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/grants/trpa/#outdoor	Master plan (listed as pre-proposal deadline on here) submission deadlines are 60 days in advance of application deadlines	Missed the deadline for submission of the master plan, which is 60 days prior to proposal submission
8/3/09	restoration, creation or enhancement of coastal habitats in the Gulf of Mexico and US territories of the Caribbean; Project significantly involve the community involvement and provide public education	GCRP	\$20,000-\$50,000 (~\$310,000 total avail)	http://www.gulfmex.org/restoration.htm	Pre-proposal is required; more info is requested if needed; projects must be 'on the ground' ready	
8/19/09	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	http://www.fws.gov/angered/grants/section6/		