

Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting

Estero Llano Grande World Birding Center
3301 S. FM 1015, Weslaco, Texas 78596

October 20, 2011

4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Jaime Flores-TWRI
Kati Carberry-NRA
Tim Cawthon, TCEQ
Sam Sugarek, NRA
Beth Almaraz, NRA
Allen Berthold, TWRI
Jude Benavides, UTB
Kim Jones, TAMUK
Melisa Gonzalez, Alamo
David Salinas, Weslaco
Donny Valdez, TWRI

Robin Gelston, TXDOT
Irene Szedlmayer, La Feria
Joe Hinojosa, Brownsville
Patty Alexander, VNC, CCDD#1
Felipe Perez, Mission
Ashley Alexander, TSSWCB
Darrel Gunn, HWWS
Arthur Talley, TCEQ
Augusto Sanchez, TAMUK

MEETING AGENDA

4:30 Social – Snacks and Refreshments

5:00 Welcome and Introductions.....Dr. Jude Benavides, UTB (Steering Committee Chair)

5:10 Work Group Updates (10 minutes each)

Agricultural IssuesAshley Alexander, TSSWCB

Ashley Alexander, has taken Pam's role. The ag workgroup meeting was held at the Harlingen Pump House. Jaime updated the WG on the WPP Implementation. First presentation was given by Venki on preliminary results from the sub-watershed monitoring in drainage ditches, early conclusions showed that there was some pollutant reductions resulting from drainage ditches.

- Donnie presented on general ag nps and the history of the ACWPP as well as sources for cost-share funding. Donnie solicited feedback on presentation

-Dr. Juan Enciso gave preliminary results on edge of field study. Conclude that more nutrient and irrigation management is needed. This was done comparing two years of data.

- Wrapped up meeting by having Braswell and Bippard presentation talking about conservation tillage and the importance of it. Are there good farmer attendance? yes but typically only a few

Habitat IssuesDr. Jones, TAMUK

LID grant has been ongoing and TCEQ is currently observing the sites. Dr. Jones recognized all the cities that are involved in the LID project.

- from a habitat point of view, several new wetlands will be developed with signage and will be available for educational opportunities.

McAllen regional detention facilities are ongoing to catch and treat some of the rainfall runoff. Jaime - most cities have a 10% green space requirement and we are hoping to get that to 12-15% through the LID project.

IBWC Arroyo Colorado tree & vegetation removal project.....Jaime Flores, TWRI

IBWC has shot measurements from Falcon dam to the LLM and will now process the data and run to the model. Live tree removal began yesterday at the 499 crossing/ramsey park section of the Arroyo. IBWC stated that only invasive species will be removed. There are no environmental monitors on site and Tony Reisinger was asked to take some of the master naturalists out there. Next phase (next year) native trees may be removed pending decisions.

Tony gave us a red tide update. It has been ongoing for about 2 months and approximately 3 million fish have been killed. It started at the san martin outfall at the port of Brownsville. As of now, there is nothing in the Arroyo.

- Port of Harlingen wetland project. the port did not approve of the site that we were studying but we will be meeting with the board to discuss continuing projects in other sites. Also, we will try to conduct a project on the 150 acres site.

- Ramsey Park in Harlingen, we will be working to construct wetlands and utilize it to run WW effluent through it. Then, we will expand it to other parks in the area. Harlingen also has a plan to move to a 100% re-use, 0% discharge into the arroyo over the next 20 years.

Education and Outreach.....Jaime Flores, TWRI

AC Watershed signs.....Jaime Flores, TWRI

The ACWP commissioned the city of Weslaco to produce 36 signs and all 36 signs have been completed. Cities need to pick them up, install them and then take pictures of the signs, record GPS coordinates and send the information to Jaime. Irene Szedlmayer, La Feria, suggested using anti-vandalism hardware when putting up signs. La Feria had their signs stolen.

Grant opportunitiesJaime Flores, TWRI

UTPA submitted a BWET grant and included the Partnership

Waste Water InfrastructureJaime Flores, TWRI

WWI workgroup meeting yesterday and ERH has \$4 million to hook up colonies but the residents do not want to do this. Currently, ERHWSC has asked HWWS if they can provide service to a colonia that HWWS currently provides service to be able to have enough residents hooked up to make the WW service economically feasible to go through with WWI upgrades. Dr. Clapp gave the update of ARRA results

Updating WPPJaime Flores, TWRI

AC Urban Non Point Source WG/TXDOT/MS4 & ACSC.....Jaime Flores, TWRI

Discussions have been ongoing regarding an Urban Nonpoint Source Workgroup formation. Jaime discussed the ms4 permit and the second bullet under the impaired water bodies and total maximum daily load section.

This workgroup would address this section and see where it is going to go and how it will affect the Partnership.

- The cities already have a storm water management program
- as a result of putting this in the monthly, TXDOT has contacted Jaime asking why they are not on the Steering Committee. With the upcoming new construction, it may be a good idea to put them on the steering committee.

last year out of all the dry weather monitoring, there was only 1 illicit discharge found.

----- Robin was instrumental in getting the permits for the signs.

- TXDOT is welcome to join the steering committee. and they directly tie into the urban NPS workgroup.

- it was unanimous that TXDOT join the steering committee.

- Jaime will be the co-chair to start for now on the Urban NPS workgroup. Robin will help by reading through the permit and taking notes on the changes in the new permit.

-The WG will try to get together before the end of the year to compare notes.

- Arthur suggested naming the WG "Urban Storm Water" WG since storm water is a point source after it is collected in the Storm Water system and then discharged..

- The focus of this workgroup is point source, Jaime - we will first find out a name (mission and focus) PRP resulted in a lot of sampling to track bacteria as one example.

TCEQ has on their website the Houston PRP

Javier and Jaime are the co-chairs and Robin is on the committee.

- mission, and scope will be presented to the SC in January.
- AC urban storm water workgroup is name (does include NPS)

6:10 Long-Term Partnership SustainabilityJaime Flores, TWRI

Arroyo Colorado Conservancy-Financial Development WG...Jaime Flores, TWRI

Fundraising events for 2012.....Jaime Flores, TWRI

ACWPP Implementation grant has ended as of August 31, 2011 and the ACWPP Sustainability grant has begun. The ACC have officially opened a checking account at Frost Bank and will be depositing 2 checks.

Jim has arranged meeting with bass pro shop to become a corporate sponsor.

- The ACC has been established, next step is to form another WG. This would be named the Financial Development WG. Jim would be chair.

Between now and next year we will be trying to come up with fundraising events.

-Initial ideas-fishing tournament, picture contest, WPP cover contest, 50/50 raffle, golf tournament, fish fry/bbq cook off, membership levels, raffling a car or motorcycle, yazoo stream festival, kid fish

Plum creek model for using money from municipalities was discussed and it was mentioned that the SWTF would contribute \$10,000 annually to the ACC.

6:20 Grants Update..... Allen Berthold, TWRI

6:30 Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

6:45 Adjourn.....Dr. Jude Benavides, UTB (Steering Committee Chair)