

Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting

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

February 9, 2012

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

ATTENDEES

Jaime Flores-TWRI
Jim Tabak, VLF
Sam Sugarek, NRA
Beth Almaraz, NRA
Adam Tabak, VLF
Jude Benavides, UTB
Kim Jones, TAMUK
Rene Jaime, San Juan
David Salinas, Weslaco
Donny Valdez, TWRI
Tony Reisinger, TX Sea Grant
Kamala Platt, Educator

Joe Hinojosa, Brownsville
Patty Alexander, VNC, CCDD#1
Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB
Jacinto Hinojosa, San Benito
Omar Rios, Harlingen
Darrel Gunn, HWWS
Pilar Corpus, Edinburg
Augusto Sanchez, TAMUK
Ernesto Reyes, USFWS
Bill Ellis, ACC
Martin Alcala, 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 Issues Ronny Ramirez, TSSWCB

All field work has been completed in both the Edge of field drainage ditch study and the BMP Evaluation study and the final reports have been submitted and are being reviewed by TSSWCB.

QAPP for SWAT has been approved by EPA-Kannan will start running model by the end of the month, will present results at next SC meeting

Cost Share education-Soil testing campaign has been very successful- will have at least 500 samples

Habitat IssuesDr. Jones, TAMUK

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

Rodolfo Montero, IBWC, asked RGV TX Master Naturalist chapter for volunteers to mark native and non native trees in an effort to save live native trees as IBWC continues to clear trees

from the AC in Harlingen in the areas that almost flooded in 2010 in the aftermath of Hurricane Alex and 2 other tropical storms. IBWC is using a boat to reach the east side of the AC.

Ramsey Park CIAP Jaime Flores, TWRI

Grant has been sent to FWS for final approval-should begin project in late spring to early summer

Wetland Hydrologic Index Prioritization-Final MapsMartin Alcala, TAMUK

Martin Alcala presented the final maps that his WHIP study produced. The WHIP incorporated the expertise of the watershed stakeholders through interviews pertaining to various criteria affecting the placement of constructed treatment wetlands in the watershed. Based on the results from the interviews, weights were assigned to each criterion and through GIS various maps were produced. Locations on the maps were spatially prioritized through a rating system ranging from 0 to 1. Different levels of uncertainty were also integrated into the spatial prioritization assessment through the use of fuzzy sets theory. The maps will be made available to the ACWP and used to evaluate the locations of future wetland sites. This study was part of his Ph.D. dissertation which he successfully defended at the end of the month.

Education and Outreach Jaime Flores, TWRI

AC Watershed signs..... David Salinas, City of Weslaco

City of Weslaco produced AC NPS pollution prevention signs funded by a ACWP grant. Signs are being installed throughout the RGV in various Cities. Stencils to be used at stormwater inlets are also being produced by Weslaco and used throughout RGV.

Earth Day/Trash Clean-up scheduling Jaime Flores, TWRI

Local events at various Task Force Cities are being planned. Coordination in part will include attempting to avoid events occurring on same day. As events are scheduled, dates will be provided to the ACWP.

Stenciling Project Pilar Corpus, City of Edinburg

Harlingen is taking lead on placing order for storm drain markers-Omar is asking cities that are interested to get in contact with him. Other cities like Alamo, are using a stencil and spray painting to mark their storm drains-numerous other cities are planning on using stencils/spray paint as well as markers

Classroom Presentations Jaime Flores, TWRI

The TF provides classroom presenations year round, teams from various participating organizations (Brownsville and McAllen Composting, HWWS and City of Mission Wastewater, ACWP watersheds, TPWD ecosystems and wetlands, Harlingen Stormwater and others). Teams

visit 3rd-high school grades and provide presentations. Teams actually visit the classroom and engage students. Classroom visits will continue after Spring break. The TF and TAMUK work closely with the STC Dual Enrollment Programs engaging them frequently.

TF Stormwater ConferenceJavier Guerrero, TAMUK

14th Annual Stormwater TF will be held at Pearl Resorts on SPI starting March 28-30, 2012- please register asap-working on having a strong agenda-will be offering CEU's, themes: MS4 permit, NPS pollution, ACWPP, and LID.

Arroyo Track at TFSW Conference.....Jaime Flores, TWRI

Jaime Flores, Jude Benavides, Arthur Talley and Tim Cawthorn speakers.

Engineering Academy VisitsJavier Guerrero, TAMUK

TF and TAMUK teams visit the Dual Enrollement Engineering Academy frequently and discuss environmental programs and topics. TAMUK and TF visited the STC DEEA Weslaco campus and met with students and parents. Also, DEEA visit the TAMUK campus on Feb 23. We discussed environmental topics and programs.

STC Dual EnrollmentJavier Guerrero, TAMUK

See above

LID Webcast SeriesJavier Guerrero, TAMUK

As part of the LRGV LID Demonstration and outreach program, 319 funding, the program is providing LID training webcasts monthly. The LID schedule is provided to the ACWP.

New Offices ISEE/Task Force..... Augusto Sanchez, TAMUK

The TF and ISEE have been provided office space and the Rio Red building at the TAMUK Research Center. ISEE will renovate the facility and is temporarily located on the 2nd floor of the new TAMUK research Center. ISEE and TF expect to move into the Rio Red facility by Summer. ISEE and the TF intend on providing a classroom for meetings, webcasts and training. TAMUK is meeting with Citrus Center officials in March to develop a workplan.

AC Urban Storm Water WG..... Pilar Corpus, City of Edinburg

Stormwater Certification ProgramJavier Guerrero, TAMUK

A TF workgroup is meeting regularly and will submit to State Rep Armando Martinez a plan to develop a state-wide stormwater professional licensing program.

EPA Effluent regulations Comment Period..... Pilar Corpus, City of Edinburg

A TF workgroup is meeting regularly and will submit comments to the EPA

NPS Management Program Comment PeriodJavier Guerrero, TAMUK

A TF workgroup is meeting regularly and will submit comments to Arthru Talley of TCEQ

MS4 Phase II New Permit Pilar Corpus, City of Edinburg

A new SWMP is being developed by the TF that will carry the group through 2017. It is requested that our SWMP goals, especially the LID program goals, be incorporated into the ACWPP Update.

6:10 Long-Term Partnership SustainabilityJaime Flores, TWRI

Update on 501 3c Status/Structure/Board of Directors ACC ...Jaime Flores, TWRI

The ACC Board of Directors (BOD) held an annual meeting on February 9, 2012 prior to the ACSC meeting. A new Board Member, Bill Ellis, was nominated and selected to serve on the ACC BOD. Bill is an attorney and AC stakeholder that owns property along the AC. Planning fundraisers for the ACC, will have more details before next SC meeting.

The ACC will partner with the Valley Land Fund on their annual photo contest and the theme of this year's photo contest will be the Arroyo Colorado. The ACWP is very excited about this opportunity to work with the VLF to showcase the beauty of the Arroyo Colorado through photography. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds from the purchase of every coffee table book produced at the end of the contest will go directly to the Arroyo Colorado Conservancy.

Funding from TAMUK and the Task ForceDr. Kim Jones, TAMUK

The TF will present the ACWP/ACC with a check on behalf of the SWTF cities in an effort to sustain the ACWP. The SWTF will be the first Platinum sponsor.

6:20 Grants Update.....Jaime Flores, TWRI

LRGV LID (Phase I, II and III)Augusto Sanchez, TAMUK

Augusto will provide an update on the 319 LID program at the conference. Phase I is a \$1.5M. Phase II is \$1.2M and Phase III is \$Phase IV is also being planned for submittal this year; innovative BMPs are needed for this last phase. Approved BMP demo projects included rain gardens, bioswales, rain harvesting systems, pervious parking lots, constructed wetlands and vegetated roofs. Partners include Brownsville, Cameron County Drainage District #1, Harlingen Water Works Systems, La Feria, Valley Nature Center, Weslaco, Alamo, San Juan, Alton, La Joya and UTB, Second round of QAPP comments was responded (sampling plan section)

2008 RDF McAllen ProjectAbel Garza, TAMUK

Vinod will provide an update of this project at the conference.

BMP Inventory (2008 RDF Project Amendment)Javier Guerrero, TAMUK

This grant will include funding for TWRI's monitoring QAPPs, administration and for a BMP inventory project that will attempt to map urban structural BMPs in the AC watershed within TF member jurisdictions and will develop load estimates (reduction potential) of various pollutants.

Border 2012Melissa Gonzalez, City of Alamo

TAMUK received 2 Border 2012 grants, one for a tire waste reduction project and one for a NPS sign development, installation and outreach program. Both will be underway by May 2012.

6:30 Other BusinessJaime Flores, TWRI

6:45 Adjourn.....Jude