

Arroyo Colorado Habitat Workgroup

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

February 9, 2012

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Attendees:

Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB
Beth Almaraz, NRA
Sam Sugarek, NRA
Kim Jones, TAMUK
Ernesto Reyes, USFWS
Donny Valdez, TWRI
Tony Reisinger, TX Sea Grant

Omar Rios, Harlingen
Martin Alcala, TAMUK
Pilar Corpus, Edinburg
Joe Hinojosa, Brownsville
Augusto Sanchez, TAMUK
Jimmy Stout, TPWD
Leo Gustafson, USFWS

MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions..... Tony Reisinger, TX Sea Grant

Red Tide Update Tony Reisinger, TX Sea Grant

No Red Tide cells have been detected in several weeks
\$7 million dollar loss to the oyster industry but oyster season did open
In the past the HAB has really took hold in the LLM, why not this year? Bloom was primarily offshore.
Tony-Has the work implementing WPP reduced the amount of N that contributes to HAB?
Cameron Co. still has a warning issued for walking pets on the beach, the breve toxin is still in the dead fish. Toxin lasts for a long time in the dead fish tissue and if pet eats fish, the toxin can kill the pet
Jaime-Is there anything you can use to kill HAB like copper-sulfate?
Tony-It is very expensive and if you do apply to HAB, the algae will die off and release the toxins all at once and that is actually worse

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

Vegetation and Tree removal from Arroyo Colorado 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.

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.

Project Updates and Discussions:

LID Project Kim Jones, TAMUK

CIAP-Ramsey Park Wetland Project..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

Grant has been sent to FWS for final approval-should begin project in late spring to early summer. Will let Harlingen know when final approval has been given.

Available Grants/Potential StudiesAllen Berthold, TWRI

Asking WG members to develop potential ideas/projects for upcoming 319 cycle and provide them to the WG for consideration. Ideas/projects will be ranked and selected for grant development and submittal.

Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

April 19, 2012