

Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting

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

October 23, 2014

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

ATTENDEES

Jaime Flores, TWRI
Ashley Gregory, TWRI
Sam Sugarek, NRA
Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB
Tim Cawthon, TCEQ
Willie Cupit, TPWD
Briana Saenz, TAMUK
Augusto Sanchez, TAMUK
Liana Lerma, TPWD

Sonny Philips, La Feria
Joe Hinojosa, Santa Cruz ID
Stephanie Mahathey, ACAS
Kim Jones, TAMUK
Esmeralda Sanchez, La Feria
Paula Rodriguez, La Feria

MEETING GOALS

- 1) Capture/verify all milestones/accomplishments implemented during Phase I
- 2) Identify proposed/planned activities to be implemented in next 5-10 years
- 3) Identify new/emerging BMPs not included in Phase I for inclusion in Phase II

Welcome and Introductions..... Dr. Jude Benavides, UTB

Dr. Benavides was unable to attend meeting, he was teaching a class, and Jaime presided over the meeting

Work Group & Project Updates (5 minutes each)

Update on Modeling Activities..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

Jaime has been in communication with the modelers. The WC with help from the SW TF have provided Urban NPS BMP's to be added to the SWAT. The WC has also acquired the 911 GIS files for Hidalgo Co and is working to acquire the same data for Cameron and Willacy Co. Both modelers continue to work to be able to interface the 2 models so that they can work together. We have scheduled both TIAER & BREC to give an update on the models at the next SC meeting

Agricultural Issues Workgroup..... Ashley Gregory, TWRI, Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB

Current 319 project had a total of \$315,000 with a goal to write 21 new WQMP's for producers. To date TSSWCB have completed 26 WQMP's on 1,063 acre and spent \$276,000 and have a balance of \$38,000 for additional plans.

August 20th an Ag Water Issues Workshop was held to discuss issues facing agricultural water delivery and use. It was well attended, over 60 people representing irrigation districts, various federal and state agencies (FSA, NRCS, TSSWCB), educators and producers were present.

The soil testing campaign began on October 1st and will run through the end of February 2015. We've been promoting via FaceBook, news article in the local papers, flyers, airing of the PSA and radio.

A Crops Fertility Program was held on October 16th to promote the importance and benefits of soil testing. 45 people attended to program and everyone left with soil sample bags and forms. Overall it was a good program with very informative presentations.

Waste Water Infrastructure Workgroup Jaime Flores, TWRI

Jaime and Ashley continue to visiting with the individual WWTP operators to gather information from the WWTP to verify what has already been accomplished. The information being verified:

- Projected timeline for Infrastructure improvements based on plant capacity.
- Verify current WWTP Capacity
- # of colonias, connections, residents

Habitat Workgroup Dr. Jones, TAMUK

Please refer to Habitat WG Summary

Education & Outreach Workgroup Jaime Flores, TWRI

This was reported at the last meeting "A total of 41 events and 12,619 people viewed the model throughout the watershed. These numbers verify that our partnership with the UTPA Coastal Studies Lab on the BWET Arroyo Colorado Teachers Workshops to "Teach the Teachers" is working. The O&E component of the ACWPP is making great strides in the watershed and the Arroyo Curriculum is making its way into local classrooms.

Based on the success of the BWET Arroyo Colorado Teachers Workshops to "Teach the Teachers", TWRI has submitted a grant to the FY15 TCEQ 319 NPS program that will include Arroyo Colorado Teachers Workshops in Hidalgo Co. as part of the new grant.

Urban Nonpoint Source Workgroup Tim Cawthon, TCEQ

The WC received all Urban NPS data from the SWTF and submitted the data to Dr. Jeong to include in the SWAT model. We are scheduled to have modeling results at the February ACSC meeting

Update/Phase II of the ACWPP.....Roundtable Discussion

- Review existing milestones, accomplishments and identify remaining implementation efforts
- Identify proposed/planned activities to be implemented
- Identify new/emerging BMPs not included in Phase I
- Based on the model, will we need to consider “engineered BMP’s” to compensate for all of the modifications of the AC

Next StepsJude Benavides, UTB

- Review of Phase II ACWPP Timeline

Action Items for next Quarter Work Group and Steering Committee Meetings

- Jaime & Ashley-continue to verify WWTP capacities and colonia connections
- Ronnie & Ashley- continue working to identify how many acres of the various BMPs that have been implemented are still considered active and then categorize those active BMPs into acreage within the sub-basins.
- Jaime-obtain 911 shape files for Cameron and Willacy Co

Grants Update Jaime Flores, TWRI

TWRI/ACWP submitted FY 15 319 NPS grant to the TCEQ-“Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Coordination”.

Other Business..... Dr. Jude Benavides, UTB

Adjourn..... Dr. Jude Benavides, UTB