

Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting

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

February 19, 2015

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

ATTENDEES

Jaime Flores, TWRI
Ashley Gregory, TWRI
Sam Sugarek, NRA
Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB
Arthur Talley, TCEQ
Willie Cupit, TPWD
Joe Hinojosa, Santa Cruz ID
Ashley Wendt, TSSWCB

Kyle Wright, NRCS
Kim Jones, TAMUK
Rodrigo Davila, San Benito
Jacinto Hinojosa, San Benito
David Salinas, Weslaco
Tony Reisinger, TX Sea Grant

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

SWAT model is complete, the model team is reviewing all BMP's and future scenarios to include in SWAT before making final run of the model. TIAER is still working to fine tune the CW QWL 2 model on the tidal segment. The team is planning to have the modelers present the preliminary results at the April meeting and the final results in July.

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 they have completed 26 WQMP's on 1,063 acre and spent \$276,000 and have a balance of \$38,000 for additional plans- Ronnie is currently waiting for 3 WQMP's to be certified that will zero out the funding. The TSSWCB was able to acquire an additional \$ 95,000 to develop additional WQMP's in the AC watershed.

For more details refer to the Ag WG summary.

Waste Water Infrastructure Workgroup Jaime Flores, TWRI

Jaime began by discussing the edits that have been made to the latest draft of the update; adding tables instead of text to display the WWTP upgrades, new WWTP's and colonia connections. Jaime also discussed his efforts to visit with all individual WWTP's to get the most recent numbers on WWTP capacity, any plans to expand/upgrade and time frame, any plans to hook up additional colonias in the next 5, 10 and 15 year.

What should we do as far as permit discharge limits in the Update?

- All plants with the exception of Alamo are discharging at the 10-15-3 permit; numbers represent Total Suspend Solids-Biological Oxygen Demand- Ammonia
 - Alamo has installed 4 solar powered circulators to break down solids before treatment. Must complete new plant/wetland to achieve 10-15-3 by 2017.
- The most recent WWTP's to upgrade their facilities; Mercedes and Pharr already operating at the newest discharge permit 7-12-2. ACWP wants to set 7-12-2 permit as new discharge permit goal short term goal and 5-5-1 as long term goal.

Questions from the group:

- Are there a high number of colonias within the watershed that still need to be connected?
- How much does it cost the homeowner to connect?

Could we come up with some type of cost share to help them pay for the cost of the connection?

Habitat Workgroup Dr. Jones, TAMUK

Jaime announced that TWRI was awarded the CMP grant they submitted to fund Phase II of the San Benito Wetland project. The project will consist of extending the effluent pipeline to the other 10 cells that comprise 11.60 acres. These cells are due North and adjacent to the 4 cell/6.36 acres that comprise Phase I of the San Benito wetland project. **We need to come up with scenarios for the model in time (depth, area, location, general assumptions, etc.).**

Jaime wants to include all additional Phases of the project in the Habitat/wetlands portion of the Update to the ACWPP.

For more details refer to the Habitat WG meeting summary.

Education & Outreach Workgroup Jaime Flores, TWRI

- There is a need for a 3rd model because models are being used a lot.
- > 12,000 people have viewed the model in the last year
- For most of December and January the model #1 was used by Quinta Mazatlan Birding Center; they now want to purchase their own model.
- Model #2 is being used by the UTRGV-Coastal Studies Lab.
- February the model was taken to the Coastal Studies Expo, >2,500 kids attended.
- 319 grant was received to continue the co-ordination efforts of the ACWPP Partnership and update. This grant also has a task that involves Teacher workshops where the WC

and team will teach Arroyo Curriculum to science teachers in the watershed through and in partnership with Region 1.

- Jaime is asking the cities that are planning Earth Day events to make sure and reserve the model with enough time.

Urban Nonpoint Source Workgroup Tim Cawthon, TCEQ

- New SWAT model was able to input new urban BMPs
- SWAT modeling is done and currently being interface with the tidal section model (WQUAL2)
- The Stormwater Task force and TAMUK, who received some funding to write a storm water management section of the update will work with the ACWP on this section of the Update. The WG has also reviewed the UT Coastal Stormwater Management Guide that was introduced last year. The WG is confident that many of the current BMP's and ordinances that listed in this guide are applicable for use in the Update.

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

Action Items for next Quarter Work Group and Steering Committee Meetings

- Jaime will send the group a copy of the most recent draft of the update, the update plan document, list of maps, photo contest flyer. WG members are to make comments and edits to the draft and send back to Jaime so that he can incorporate the comments/edits into the next draft. This draft will be reviewed at the next WG and SC meetings.
- The SC wants to include a land use map that shows how large farms are being broken down into smaller farms. Can show how agriculture is still the largest land use but is changing rapidly.
- Will be having the 1st Stakeholder meeting for the Brownsville Characterization project next Thursday.

Grants Update Jaime Flores, TWRI

CMP/San Benito grant proposal to extend effluent pipe to 12 acre/10 ponds North of existing wetlands awarded!

Dr. Wagner NRC/RCPP-LRGV Water Improvement Initiative-awarded!

TCEQ FY15 CWA 319 NPS Coordinating Implementation of the ACWPP Grant awarded!

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

Next meeting April, most likely the 3rd week.

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