

Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting

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

April 23, 2015 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Jaime Flores, TWRI
Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB
Stephanie Mahathay, ACAS
Jacinto Hinojosa, San Benito

Tim Cawthon, TCEQ
Tony Reisinger, TX Sea Grant
David Salinas, Weslaco
Joe Hinojosa, Santa Cruz I.D.

Welcome and Introductions..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

Work Group & Project Updates (5 minutes each)

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

Jaime informed the group that TIAER would make a presentation on the modeling activities at the next meeting in July. TIAER and BREC have had some issues calibrating the model for D.O. in the Tidal segment. This was anticipated as the AC is a very dynamic system. We are looking forward to the modeling results. We hope that it will help prioritize “hot spots” or areas of pollution loading for BMP implementation to mitigate the loading in those areas.

Agricultural Issues Workgroup..... Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB

To date 44 WQMP’s have been written/implemented this year. There is approximately \$40K left and Ronnie already has another three farmers signed up for WQMP’s that should exhaust the remaining funding for the year. Ronnie went on to inform us that the amount of rain this year has affected what farmer’s planted this year. The soil was so wet that farmers could not plant at the appropriate times to produce a good cotton crop. Additionally, price of cotton seed was also very high so the amount of cotton produced in the RGV will be way down this year.

Waste Water Infrastructure Workgroup..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

Jaime has been collecting the most current data on WWTP capacities, discharge permits. Future plans to build/expand WWTP’s, colonia connections and effluent re-use numbers and proposed projects. David brought up the fact that due to the drought and increased and improved water conservation methods there are lower flows in Waste Water pipes, transmission lines and lift stations resulting in higher B.O.D. and Bacteria levels. This situation is being felt throughout the state as Cities try to deal with the unintended consequences of water conservation methods. They are actually flushing the lines with fresh water to make up for low flows to dilute the elevated B.O.D and Bacteria levels.

Habitat Workgroup Dr. Jones, TAMUK

Please see Habitat WG Summary

Education & Outreach Workgroup Jaime Flores, TWRI

Jaime gave the city of Alamo Stormwater and city personnel a small workshop on how to set up and use the watershed model. The city was going to set it up as one of the exhibits for a city festival on May 23,2015. Jaime described the various features on the map and went through mock pollution scenarios to demonstrate how everyday sources of pollution enter the watershed/waterbodies. UTPA Coastal Studies lab will be using the second model throughout the summer in their numerous summer camps and field days. A lot of children go through these camps and they are being exposed to the Arroyo Colorado Curriculum, model and overall awareness and appreciation of the Arroyo Colorado. Jaime suggests we include getting 1-2 more models as part of the Update.

Urban Nonpoint Source Workgroup Tim Cawthon, TCEQ

Jaime has been working with the TF and other cities to make a list of BMP's and projects they would like to see in the update. The WG is also looking at the Sustainable Drainage Design for Coastal Texas by UTBEG. This document was designed to serve as a guidance document and is applicable to the entire Texas Coastal Area. CMP NPS funding is in jeopardy of being lost. A condition of the funding is that the state adopt measures to reduce NPS pollution in the Coastal Zone. The WG can adopt many of the practices and use them I the update and the BRWC project. A goal should be to get all of the Coastal Cities and Cameron Co. to adopt as many of these measures as possible.

Update of the ACWPP.....Roundtable Discussion

- Review Update of AC WPP-4th Draft
- Verify information in Ch. 1 & 2

The WG went through the document page by page to make note of the latest edits and to provide new comments and edits. The WG was pleased with the progress and suggested;

- that we use the same order of cities in all tables, from West to East.
- add a completion date column to Table 5 and to
- add the Harlingen Baseball Field, Soccer Complex and Ramsey Park to reuse
- Under LID-add number of storm drain markers, storm drain stenciling, miles of MS4 mapped, street sweeping data, vacuum truck data, number of tires collected per month
- There is no O&E section in chapter 2, add it to chapter.
- Under O&E-number of watershed signs, events/watershed model displayed, AC presentations, classroom presentations, workshops.

Next Steps Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Review of Update ACWPP Timeline

We are keeping with the current timeline and are expecting TIAER to present the modeling results at the next meeting in July.

- Action Items for next Quarter Work Group and Steering Committee Meetings

To review the draft Update and make a list of items currently not included, projects wanted, emerging issues that are coming up through city projects, expansion, etc.,

Grants Update Jaime Flores, TWRI

TWRI will partner with San Benito to submit a CMP grant proposal for Phase III of the San Benito Wetland project

Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

Storm Water TF/ACC Fishing Tournament-May 23, 2015, Need teams to enter

Save the Arroyo Fiesta-October 13, 2015, need volunteers to help set up, need volunteers to sell tickets.

Adjourn Jaime Flores, TWRI