

Arroyo Colorado Habitat Workgroup

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

April 23, 2015

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Attendees:

Jaime Flores, TWRI
Willy Cupit, TPWD
Jimmy Stout, TPWD
Javier De Leon, TPWD

David Salinas, Weslaco
Tony Reisinger, TX Sea Grant
Stephanie Mahathey, ACAS
Jacinto Hinojosa, San Benito

MEETING AGENDA

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

Phase II of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

Review of Fourth Draft Update of the ACWPP Jaime Flores, TWRI

Review and verify projects and goals to be listed under Habitat Restoration for Chapter 1 & 2.

The WC distributed copies of the most recent draft of the Update of the ACWPP and displayed a copy on the screen to begin the meeting. Jaime explained that the WG was to review the first two sections for accuracy to ensure we list all notable accomplishments completed during the first 10 years of the ACWPP are included in chapter 2. The WG members agreed and suggested we go through the draft page by page to ensure everyone is in agreement of what should be reported/included.

Tony suggested we list number of fish kills in the Zone of Impairment. He believes the number of fish kills have dropped dramatically over the last 10 years.

The WG was pleased with the way the tables to report the various milestones were coming together. It was suggested that we use the same order of cities in all tables, from West to East. It was suggested to add a completion date column to Table 5 and to add the Harlingen Baseball Field, Soccer Complex and Ramsey Park to reuse

TPWD suggested listed the efforts to control invasive species in the watershed; Salt Cedar and Arrundo

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.

Ernesto noted that the IBWC did not follow proper procedures or management plan while clearing the banks of the AC and now must restore/mitigate 44 acres for USFWS. There will be a meeting to gather public input/comments for the restoration project later this year.

Other items to include in chapter 2;

Wetland Enhancement Projects-San Benito, La Feria, San Juan

TPWD Managed properties and refuges

USFW Managed properties and refuges

Rio Reforestation acres/trees planted, future goals

Collaboration/Partnerships for projects in Update and Implementation

Jaime asked the USFWS & TPWD representatives what they would like to see in the Update;

1 Wetland buffers/filter strips for Ag Fields along the Arroyo

Mangrove restoration project

Bank stabilization

Dredging the Y

Boater Education-Disposing of raw sewage

Master Naturalist Volunteer Time

Updated Natural Area Inventory List

Use the WHIP model for prioritization

Project Updates and Discussions:

CIAP-Ramsey Park Wetland Project Javier Mendez, COH
Javier was unable to attend the meeting. Jaime updated the group. The COH is looking for additional funding to re-pave the entire parking lot with a bio retention basin to capture and treat stormwater.

Harlingen Parks Master Plan-Arroyo Colorado Hike & Bike Trail Javier Mendez, COH
Javier will give us an update at the next meeting.

Available Grants/Potential Studies Jaime Flores, TWRI

TWRI/COSB awarded CMP grant for San Benito Wetland Phase II.

City of Harlingen did not submit grant proposal to the CMP for Phase II-IV Harlingen Parks but will submit one in the next cycle. COH is asking for our support for this project.

Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn Dr. Jones, TAMUK