

Brownsville Resaca Watershed Stakeholder Meeting

Rancho Viejo Town Hall
3301 Carmen Ave., Rancho Viejo, Texas 78575

January 21, 2016 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Jaime Flores, TWRI
Jude Benavides, UTRGV
Cecilia Espinoza, UTRGV
Patty Alexander, Stakeholder
David A. Garza, Cameron Co.
Tom Rodino, Bayview
Asael Mejia, UTRGV
Yvonne Peck, Arroyo City
Alejandro Garcia, UTRGV
Andrew Atkinson, UTRGV
Tim Cawthon, TCEQ
Francisco Arredondo, UTRGV
Leslie Soto, UTRGV
Joe Vega, PT. Isabel
Sarah Nash, UTRGV
Raul Garcia, Los Fresnos
James Martinez, UTRGV
Martha Ruiz, UTRGV
Martin Reyes, UTRGV
Chantal Calis, UTRGV

Lean McIntosh, BPUB
Rene Mariscal, BPUB
Willy Cupit, TPWD
Susan Fagan, UTRGV
David Hicks, UTRGV
Myrna Leal, UTRGV
Brenda Bazan, UTRGV
Vincent Ochoa, UTRGV
Jacinto Hinojosa, San Benito
Robert Valenzuela, San Benito
Raul Gomez, Cameron Co
Alendra Infante, UTRGV
Cristian Martinez, UTRGV
Joe Garcia, UTRGV
Briana Garcia, UTRGV
Daniela Molina, UTRGV
Brianda Montoya, UTRGV
Romeo Rubiano, UTRGV
Andre Munoz, UTRGV
Joe Hinojosa, SCID #15
Joe Figueroa, Brownsville

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

Jude gave an update/overview of the Lower Laguna Madre/ Brownsville Resaca project. He wanted to emphasize the purpose of the project; to characterize the watershed and plan for a WPP for the watershed.

Justify the name change to LLM from the BR; The impaired segments are 2494, 2494A, 2491.02 all of which are in the LLM, the name needs to reflect the impaired waterbody. Tim suggested that we petition the NRA to add LLM 2491.03 to the WAP table as a special interest.

The Brownsville Ship Channel is the major drainage component in the watershed.

Due to flat terrain and unique nature of the watershed, a conventional model would not work, there would be too much uncertainty, argue for a simple model that everyone can use and understand and would cost less.

There was some discussion and questions. A couple of stakeholders suggested we combine the name LLM/BR watershed. Several stakeholders wanted a copy of Jude's ppt. Jaime was going to send it through email and post it to the webpage.

Establishment of the LLM Steering Committee Jaime Flores, TWRI

Questions for Group:

- 1) What is the purpose of the SC?
- 2) What are the responsibilities of a SC member?
- 3) Who should be on the SC?
- 4) Who should be the chairman of the SC?

Jaime gave an outline of the Arroyo Colorado SC and some of the ground rules that they use as an example. The group was going to review them and decide on the language that they want to use. The main responsibilities discussed were to attend all the SC meetings and to participate and be active when asked to review/edit documents needed for the WAP and grant proposals. Jude suggested having 2-3 year terms and then the member can decide to stay or vacate his/her seat. The group began to make a list of the Key stakeholders that should be included or asked to participate as SC members as well as regular members of the group. The list will be attached. The group decided to keep the number of SC members to no more than 12-15 members. The group decided to elect Commissioner Garza as the SC Chairman. It was suggested that Tony Reisinger be asked to be Co-Chair. Jose Figueroa volunteered to be a SC member to represent Brownsville. Jude will serve as the Chair of Technical Advisory Committee. Commissioner Garza suggested the meetings be held during work hours and the group agreed. The next meeting will be held in the afternoon, 1:30 pm was the time that most of the group agreed on.

Update on the LLM Monitoring QAPPDr. Jude Benavides, UTRGV

- 1) Status of the QAPP
 - 2) Planned Monitoring-when will it start?
 - 3) Who will conduct the monitoring?
 - 4) How long will it take?
 - 5) What will we do with the data, how will it be used?
- Watershed Characterization Progress Update

Jude informed the group that the final draft of the QAPP would be completed in the next couple of weeks and will be submitted to the TCEQ for comments. Jude and his students will conduct the monitoring. Jaime said that he would also help with the monitoring if needed. We hope to begin sampling by the summer 2016. The data will be processed and used to identify information gaps and to help form the basis for the next grant proposal.

TCEQ FY 17, NPS 319 Grant Application Jaime Flores, TWRI

- 1) Continuation of the Watershed Characterization project
- 2) What do we need to complete the characterization process?
- 3) Establishment of Watershed Partnership?

We asked Tim when the TCEQ FY 17 NPS Grant RFP will open. Tim said it opens June 1, 2016. The group agreed to form the SC and begin working on the framework of a grant. The group wants to apply for a grant to develop a WPP for the LLM watershed.

Other BusinessDr. Jude Benavides, UTRGV

- Complete map with priority areas before next meeting
- Next meeting-proposed meeting locations, dates and times
- Topics for next meeting

Adjourn.....Dr. Jude Benavides, UTRGV