

Brownsville Resaca Watershed Stakeholder Meeting

Cameron Count Annex Bldg.
1390 W. Expressway 83, San Benito, Texas 78586

April 14, 2016 1:30 p.m.-3:30 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
Andrew Atkinson, UTRGV
Tim Cawthon, TCEQ
Leslie Soto Sanchez, UTRGV
Joe Vega, PT. Isabel
Sarah Nash, UTRGV
Raul Garcia, Los Fresnos
Martha Ruiz, UTRGV
Martin Reyes, UTRGV
Chantal Calis, UTRGV
Lean McIntosh, BPUB
Willy Cupit, TPWD
Myrna Leal, UTRGV
Brenda Bazan, UTRGV
Vincent Ochoa, UTRGV
Raul Gomez, Cameron Co
Briana Garcia, UTRGV
Brianda Montoya, UTRGV
Romeo Rubiano, UTRGV

Andre Munoz, UTRGV
Joe Hinojosa, SCID #15
Joe Figueroa, Brownsville
Daniel Cavazos, UTRGV
Steve Bearden, P.I. Nav. Dist.
Victor Gutierrez, TWRI
Boyd Blihovde, USFWS-LANWR
Isaiah Derseg, UTRGC
Edoardo Davila, UTRGV
Jessica Stevens, UTRGV
Lucas Gomez, UTRGV
Leanna Lopez, UTRGV
Maria Quiroga, UTRGV
Jennifer Baez, UTRGV
Paulo Volano, UTRGV
David Figueroa, UTRGV
Victor Rangel, UTRGV
Francisco Arredondo, UTRGV
Cristian Martinez, UTRGV
Robert Nieto, UTRGV
Alejandro Sanchez, UTRGV
Lynne Pare, UTRGV
Celina Gonzales, Los Fresnos

Welcome and Introductions.....Commissioner Garza, Cameron Co.
Commissioner Garza asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves. He also welcomed all of the UTRGV students and told them they would witnessing how grassroots organizations can affect policies and change in local governments.

Establishment of the LLM Steering Committee Jaime Flores, TWRI/ Commissioner Garza, Cameron Co.

Questions for Group:

1) Have we selected/appointed all members yet?

By the end of the meeting, 8 of the 10 SC members had been selected and 2 members of the TAC. The final 2 SC members were added 4/21/16. They are listed below;

Steering Committee Members-

Chair-Commissioner David Garza
Vice Chair-Tony Reisinger-TX Sea Grant
Jose Figueroa-City of Brownsville
Joe Hinojosa-Santa Cruz I.D./Stakeholder
Celina Gonzales-City of Los Fresnos
Leah McIntosh-BPUB
Joe Vega-Cameron Co Parks
Samantha Baker Moore-UTRGV Sustainability Council
Dr. Kim Jones-TAMUK
Dr. Andrew Ernest-UTRGV

Technical Advisory Committee-

Chair-Dr. Jude Benavides

Willy Cupit

2) When will the final SC list of members be completed?

By the end of May.

3) How long will the SC member serve/length of term?

2 years

4) Subcommittees: Grant, Outreach, other (Chairs, members)?

The SC will work with stakeholders to determine which sub-committees or WG's are needed as the SC establishes itself through the remainder of the current 319 grant

5) By Laws

We will use the ACWP By Laws as a template and modify them to fit this SC and Partnership. Jaime will email the By laws to the group.

Watershed Action Planning Update..... Tim Cawthon, TCEQ

1) Nueces River Authority meeting notes

Tim and Jaime traveled to Corpus Christi for the NRA Coordinated Monitoring Meeting 3/30/16.

2) Lower Laguna Madre Special Interest Waterbody

It was requested at the meeting and to TCEQ that assessment unit (AU) 2491_03 of the Lower Laguna Madre (LLM) be added as a Special Interest waterbody to the TCEQ Watershed Action Planning (WAP) Table.

“AU 2491_03 has been added to the draft update of the TCEQ WAP Table as a Special Interest waterbody. The strategy (e.g. WPP or TMDL) needs to be decided on by stakeholders.”

3) No collection of routine quarterly bacteria (Enterococcus) data since 2008

TCEQ local field office Monitoring Supervisor, Chris Cottle, confirmed that no routine quarterly bacteria (Enterococcus) data since 2008 due to the fact that there is not a certified lab. BPUB stated that they could help running our samples at their lab.

4) Would SC like bacteria (Enterococcus) data included in TCEQ's assessment?

The group would like data collected under the project included in TCEQ's biennial assessment.

5) Possible extension and addition of tasks to current 319 project

Tim gave the group information on a possible extension; the extension would enable UTRGV to conduct a least 2 years of monitoring and to gather additional data needed to complete the characterization of the watershed. TWRI would have to submit an amendment of the current contract to the TCEQ.

Update on the LLM Monitoring QAPP.....Dr. Jude Benavides, UTRGV

1) Status of the QAPP

Jude began by giving an over view of the project with a power point. He emphasized stakeholder involvement and used the LU/LC to explain where pollutant sources are coming from in this watershed. TWRI/UTRGV have submitted the draft QAPP to the TCEQ for review. We expect comments back in May.

2) Planned Monitoring-when will it start?

We are hoping to start in the month of June.

3) Monitoring stations/tide conditions

Jude went over the monitoring stations with the group using a slide from the ppt.

TCEQ FY 17, NPS 319 Grant Application..Jaime Flores, TWRI/ Commissioner Garza, Cameron Co.

1) Watershed Protection Plan for the LLM/BSC

The group agreed that they wanted to submit a grant to write a WPP for this watershed.

2) Draft language for proposal

Jaime presented a document with examples of language that the group could use while preparing the grant submittal.

3) Parameter(s) of focus? Bacteria because of Brownsville Ship Channel impairment?

The group agreed that the focus should be on Bacteria and Nutrients.

4) Establishment of Watershed Partnership?

The group agreed that we should establish a Watershed Partnership and to bring in the private sector to help fund some of the projects and applying for RESTORE funding.

5) Grant project ideas

The group agreed to focus on the writing of the WPP first.

Other BusinessDr. Jude Benavides, UTRGV

Complete map with priority areas before next meeting

Jude has completed the map

Next meeting-proposed meeting locations, dates and times

In May, not sure on the location but Commissioner Garza wants to try and have it at the Cameron Co. Annex-TBD later. He also stated that inactivity is a problem, we must keep the momentum going.

Topics for next meeting

Announcements.....Commissioner Garza, Cameron Co.

18th Annual Water Quality Planning and Management Conference

Adjourn.....Commissioner Garza, Cameron Co.