

**Texas AgriLife Research
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Texas Water Resources Institute**

**Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Implementation
FY 07 CWA 319(h)
TCEQ Agreement No. 582-7-77045**

Quarter no. 17 From 3/1/11 Through 5/31/11

I. Abstract

Work during this quarter consisted of the continuation meeting and updating the various workgroups of activities associated with the implementation of the WPP. Workgroup and Steering Committee meetings were held in the month of April. The Habitat Workgroup continues to work with the International Boundary Water Commission in efforts to mitigate the amount of vegetation that will be taken out of the Arroyo Colorado riparian zone. The ACWC has been very active with the E&O component of implementing the ACWPP which can be viewed especially in task 2 and 3. Work next quarter will consist of continuing the implementation of the ACWPP and updating the milestones table on page 157 as well as compiling any data related to the Arroyo Colorado for posting on the website.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

TASK 1: Project Administration

Subtask 1.1: Project Oversight –TWRI will provide technical and fiscal oversight to ensure Tasks and Deliverables are acceptable and completed as scheduled and within budget.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has provided guidance and assistance to Watershed Coordinator in developing meeting agendas, summaries, an agency resolution, and facilitation of various meetings.

95% Complete

Subtask 1.2: Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) – TWRI, with the assistance of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator (ACWC) and Arroyo Colorado Grant Writer/Water Quality Analyst (ACGC), will submit QPRs to TCEQ by the 15th of the month following each state fiscal quarter for incorporation into the Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS). The Reports will include:

- *status of deliverables for each Objective and Task*
- *narrative description of activities for each task outlined in this Scope of Work in Progress Report format*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Submitted Year 4, Quarter 4 Report on June 15, 2011.

95% Complete

Subtask 1.3: Quarterly TTVN or Teleconference – To facilitate good communication between project participants, a quarterly TTVN (Trans-Texas Videoconference Network) or teleconference will be scheduled and hosted by TWRI.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI and Watershed Coordinator and Project Manager maintain regular communication on a weekly basis.
- b. TWRI participated in workgroup and steering committee meetings in person on April 21, 2011.

95% Complete

Subtask 1.4: Arroyo Colorado Website – TWRI will maintain and improve the Arroyo Colorado website.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The Web site continues to receive updates including promoting activities which contribute to the progress of the WPP
- b. Continually add and update upcoming events on homepage.

95% Complete

Subtask 1.5: Reimbursement Forms – Texas Cooperative Extension will submit reimbursement forms by the last day of the month following each state fiscal quarter

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. An invoice was submitted to TCEQ for \$26,759.14 on February 28, 2011.
- b. Total Balance Remaining to date: \$79,322.78 or 16% of total project budget left.
- c. The next invoice is set to go out in June

84% Complete

Subtask 1.6: Final Report – TWRI, with assistance of the ACGC and ACWC, will provide TCEQ and EPA with a comprehensive report on the activities and success of the WPP conducted during the course of this project. An assessment of data collection and analysis efforts conducted under Task 5 of this scope of work will also be included in the final report.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report at this time.

0% Complete

TASK 2: Steering Committee and Work Group Facilitation

Subtask 2.1: Facilitate and Coordinate Meetings – The ACWC will facilitate the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Steering Committee and Work Group meetings by working with the chairman and work group leaders. Specifically, the ACWC will be responsible for:

- *Developing agendas, arranging meeting facilities and sending E-mail notices for Quarterly Steering Committee meetings*
- *Assisting all individual work groups with facility arrangements, developing and distributing agendas, and developing meeting summaries as requested by the Work Group Leaders; Work Group meetings will be held as needed, but, at least, semi-annually*
- *Providing information requested by work group leaders prior to and following work group meetings*
- *Attending all individual work group meetings*
- *Compiling and submitting all individual work group meeting agendas and meeting summaries to the TWRI project manager (these will be attached to QPRs and submitted to the TCEQ contract manager and posted on the webpage)*
- *Coordinating efforts of the individual work groups and the Watershed Steering Committee to facilitate the integration of the different components of the Watershed Protection Plan implemented by each workgroup*
- *Updating all Steering Committee meeting participants on the progress of individual workgroups (and/or arranging for individual workgroup leaders to provide these updates) and of the overall implementation of the Watershed Protection Plan*
- *Facilitating a forum for open discussion among Steering Committee meeting participants and interested parties attending the meetings*
- *Arranging presentations by guest speakers offering useful information to Steering Committee participants*
- *Preparing and disseminating summaries of Watershed Steering Committee meetings to all participants*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a AC-O&E Workgroup meeting held on April 12, 2011.
- b. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a Ag Workgroup meeting held on April 21, 2011.
- c. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a Habitat Workgroup meeting held on April 21, 2011.
- d. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a ACWP Steering Committee meeting held on April 21, 2011.
- e. Meeting summaries for SC and workgroup meetings are included in Appendix B. All summaries will be posted to the Project website.
- f. Attended all workgroup meetings, provided information requested by work group leaders and conducted follow-up activities as noted in the meeting summaries.
- g. Updated Partnership on overall implementation of the ACWPP at SC meeting on April 21, 2011.

95% Complete

Subtask 2.2: Provide Bi-Monthly Updates – The ACWC will provide e-mail updates to TWRI, TCEQ and the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership on progress made in implementation of the ACWPP at least twice monthly.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Monthly updates were distributed to the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership members via the Arroyo Colorado listserv on March 30, 2011; and May 12, 2011.

95% Complete

Subtask 2.3: Provide Membership Lists – The ACWC will provide TWRI updated lists of the Steering Committee and their contact information for posting on the project website.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The latest membership list has over 715 individuals (some members were replaced by new employees; list membership has remained the same).

95% Complete

Subtask 2.4: Engage Stakeholders – The ACWC will encourage participation and involvement of key stakeholders in the implementation of the WPP.

The ACWC conducted the following actions during this reporting period:

- a. March 1, 2011, attended LRGV Storm Water Task Force Green Streets Webinar- Weslaco.
- b. March 2, 2011, attended the LRGV Storm Water Task Force Housekeeping Meeting- La Feria.
- c. March 4, 2011, attended LRGV Storm Water Task Force LID grant meeting- Brownsville.
- d. March 7, 2011, attended LRGV Storm Water Task Force-Storm Water Conference meeting-San Juan.
- e. March 14, 2011, attended Ocelot Festival planning meeting, Laguna Atascosa NWR.
- f. March 21, 2011, attended LRGV Storm Water Task Force LID grant meeting- Brownsville.
- g. March 23, 2011, attended IBWC Citizens Public Forum meeting-Mercedes.
- h. March 30-April 1, 2011, attended LRGV Storm Water Conference and was the plenary speaker and panelist for a break out session–SPI, TX.
- i. April 8, 2011, attended LRGV Storm Water Task Force LID grant meeting- Brownsville.
- j. April 8, 2011, Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a AC-O&E Workgroup meeting
- k. April 12, 2011, attended Ocelot Festival planning meeting, Laguna Atascosa NWR.
- l. April 13, 2011, attended Cameron Co. Coastal Issues Workgroup Meeting, San Benito. April 14, 2011, attended CRP-LRG Coordinated monitors meeting, TCEQ Harlingen office.
- m. April 15, 2011, Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a AC-Habitat Workgroup meeting.
- n. April 15, 2011, Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a AC-SC meeting.
- o. April 19, 2011, monitoring the IBWC-AC vegetation and tree removal project in Harlingen.
- p. April 25, 2011, attended Ocelot Festival planning meeting, Laguna Atascosa NWR.
- q. April 26, 2011, met with Dr. Benavides at UTB to discuss ACC.

- r. April 28, 2011, attended LRGV Storm Water Task Force LID grant meeting- Brownsville.
- s. May 9, 2011, attended LRGV Storm Water Task Force LID grant meeting- Brownsville.
- t. May 12, 2011, monitoring the IBWC-AC vegetation and tree removal project in Harlingen.
- u. May 16, 2011, monitoring the IBWC-AC vegetation and tree removal project in Harlingen.
- v. May 17, 2011, attended LRGV Storm Water Task Force LID grant meeting-Mission.
- w. May 18, 2011, met with Jim Tabak to discuss Financial Development WG for ACC.
- x. May 20, 2011, attended LRGV Storm Water Task Force LID grant meeting-San Benito.
- y. May 20, 2011, met with First Choice Power about sponsoring/donating to the ACC.
- z. May 23, 2011, monitoring the IBWC-AC vegetation and tree removal project in Harlingen.
- aa. May 24, 2011, attended Bahia Grande widening planning meeting, Laguna Atascosa NWR.
- bb. May 25, 2011, met with Jim Tabak to discuss Financial Development WG for ACC.
- cc. May 26, 2011, met with Dr. Benavides at UTB to discuss ACC.

95% Complete

TASK 3: Facilitate Watershed Protection Plan Implementation

Subtask 3.1: Facilitate and Coordinate Implementation of Education and Outreach Measures as Outlined in ACWPP

The ACWC conducted the following actions during this reporting period:

- a. March 26, 2011, had AC model on display at the Mercedes Earth Day Festival- over 200 general public.
- b. March 30-April 1, 2011, speaker and panelists at LRGV Storm Water Conference, SPI, TX..
- c. April 4, 2011, gave AC presentation to the Queen City 4-H club in Mercedes, TX-15 kids, 10 parents.
- d. April 9 , 2011, participated in Arroyo Boat cleanup from Rio Hondo boat ramp.
- e. April 15, 2011, speaker and had AC model on display at the San Juan Earth Day Cleanup at the San Juan wetlands, 300 students, 20 teachers and numerous city employees.
- f. April 23, 2011, hosted TX Stream Team Monitor Training at Estero Llano Grande World Birding Center-20 volunteers AC model on display at the Fiesta De La Feria, over 1000 general public.
- g. May 1, 2011, AC model on display at the Ocelot Festival, over 1000 general public.
- h. May 7-8, 2011, Ac model on display at Dragon Fly days at the Estero Llano Grande World Birding Center and Valley Nature Center, Weslaco, TX, 600 general public.
- i.

95% Complete

Subtask 3.2: Facilitate and Coordinate Implementation of Agricultural Pollution Control Measures as Outlined in ACWPP

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for an AC-AG Issues Workgroup meeting that was held on April 21, 2011.
- b. Worked closely with TSSWCB on all TSSWCB grants in the watershed; 06-10 and 10-11.

95% Complete

Subtask 3.3: Facilitate and Coordinate Implementation of Recommended Measures Described in the Habitat Component of the ACWPP

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. April 10, 2011, Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a Habitat Workgroup meeting.
- b. April 23, hosted TX Stream Team Volunteer Workshop.
- c. March-May, monitoring the IBWC-AC vegetation and tree removal project in Harlingen.
- d. March-May, working with UTB, POH & APAI, to complete POH wetland delineation project.

95% Complete

Subtask 3.4: Facilitate and Coordinate Implementation of Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Control Measures as outlined in the ACWPP.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Continued collecting data on WWTP water reuse numbers, number of colonia's and residents hooked up to WWTP and tracking upgrades of all WWTP facilities.
- b. Worked with Dr. Clapp, TAMUK, to coordinate monitoring of WWTP outfalls in the AC Watershed. Went on several WWTP Sampling events and met with several of the WWTP Operators.
- c. Working on developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup meeting that will be held in August 2011.

95% Complete

Subtask 3.5: Semi-annual Newsletter Publication.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Working on story topics and drafting articles for the spring newsletter.

95% Complete

TASK 4: Resource Identification and Grant Writing

Subtask 4.1: *Track Grants and Assist Partners in Grant Applications – In coordination with TWRI, the Arroyo Colorado Grant Coordinator/Water Quality Analyst (ACGC), with assistance from the ACWC, will: 1) actively seek and pursue funding opportunities for watershed protection and restoration projects, 2) track appropriate grants that fund activities outlined in the WPP and assist Arroyo Partners in the grant application process and 3) link appropriate partners and projects.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Several grant opportunities were analyzed and are anticipated to be pursued in the upcoming cycles from GLO, TCEQ and TSSWCB

95% Complete

Subtask 4.2: Lead proposal development to request/acquire funding for Implementation of Measures as Outlined in ACWPP. A minimum of 10 grant proposals will be developed during the project period by the ACGC, in cooperation with the ACWC, TWRI, and project partners. Upon completion, the grant proposals will be submitted by either project partners or TWRI/TCE, whichever is most appropriate. Potential proposals may include, but not limited to funding requests to:

- *Implement recommendations of the Outreach and Education Work Group.*
- *Produce an educational video.*
- *Increase wastewater and surface water infrastructure development within cities and public utility systems for colonias.*
- *Design and construct individual and/or regional enhanced biological treatment projects.*
- *Conduct feasibility studies and final engineering designs for development of individual and regional constructed wetland demonstration projects throughout the watershed.*
- *Establish individual and regional constructed wetland projects.*
- *Conduct feasibility studies for modifying the drainage channels to maintain moist soils to sustain wetland plants for treatment of nonpoint source pollution.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This task is complete.

100% Complete

TASK 5: Data Gathering and Analysis to Assess Effects of Water Quality Protection Plan

The ACGC will assemble and maintain a data clearinghouse for all data collected in the Arroyo and from that data, evaluate changes in BOD, TSS, fecal bacteria, and nutrient loading to Segments 2201 and 2202 of the Arroyo Colorado. Data collection will include:

- *Pollutant removal effectiveness of enhanced treatment projects through effectiveness monitoring conducted by participating cities.*
- *Wastewater permit holders self reporting data to better characterize loading of nutrients from WWTPs to the Arroyo Colorado*
- *Data collected through the Arroyo Colorado Agricultural Nonpoint Source Assessment Project'*
- *Texas Clean Rivers Program.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has added data weblinks to the website linking to various agency websites relating to Arroyo Colorado. Also, TWRI has acquired water quality data from Nueces River Authority that has been collected through the Clean Rivers Program and is in the process of analyzing for consistency. Graphs will be posted to the website

75% Complete

III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments

None to report at this time.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

Task 1

- Continue improving Web site including development of database per task 5.
- Maintain regular weekly communication with project personnel.
- Facilitate meetings focusing on the sustainability of the Partnership.

Task 2

- Post meeting summaries for the workgroup and Steering committee meetings to Project website.
- Facilitate (draft agenda, gather meeting location, and announce meeting to workgroup members) an habitat workgroup meeting on July 21, 2011.
- Schedule and facilitate a Steering Committee meeting for July. Draft and distribute agenda and meeting summaries.
- Schedule and facilitate an Ag Issues workgroup meeting for fall. Draft and distribute agenda and meeting summaries.
- Attend work group meeting and coordinate work group efforts.
- Arrange for guest speakers at Steering Committee meeting.
- Production and distribution of monthly updates.
- Continue to engage key stakeholders.
- Finalize work group member lists and update/correct on project Web site.

Task 3

- Demonstrate the physical Arroyo watershed model.
- Work with TWRI to develop appropriate news releases.
- Participate in the LRGV TPDES Storm Water Task Force Meetings.
- Continue participation in the USIBWC Citizen Forum, Region M planning, Rio Grande Regional Water Authority, and the Lower Rio Grande Water Committee meetings.
- Continue facilitation of work for the development of a regional wetland system.
- Meet with personnel regarding the WWTP water quality monitoring project conducted by LRGVDC.

Task 4

- Continue to submit and facilitate submission of proposal for funding of activities related to the Arroyo Colorado.
- Identify additional funding opportunities to pursue.

Task 5

- Post data links on Web site.

Arroyo Colorado Outreach and Education Workgroup

Texas AgriLife Extension Conference Room

April 12, 2011 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Meeting Agenda

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

Project Discussion:

ACWP Sustainability Grant Jaime Flores, TWRI

New O&E Materials/Event Planning..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

Road Signage Project Update Javier Guerrero, TAMUK

Task Force Convention Javier Guerrero, TAMUK

Arroyo Colorado Outreach Activities:

Classroom Presentations Jaime Flores, TWRI

O&E Project Updates:

Upcoming Grants and Potential Projects

Grants Update Jaime Flores, TWRI

Meeting adjourned

Arroyo Colorado Outreach and Education Workgroup

Texas AgriLife Extension Conference Room

April 12, 2011 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Attendees:

Omar Rios, Harlingen

Luis Guerra, San Juan

Jaime Longoria, HSWCD

Jaime Flores, TWRI

Marcie Oviedo, LRGVDC

Ludy Saenz, LRGVDC

Melisa Gonzales, Alamo

Javier Guerrero, TAMUK

Ernesto Hinojosa, Cameron Co

Meeting Summary

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

Project Discussion:

ACWP Sustainability Grant Jaime Flores, TWRI

Jaime informed the group that the ACWP had applied for 510c3, non-profit group status as the Arroyo Colorado Conservancy (ACC) last year. He went on to inform the group that the ACC had received official notification from the IRS that it had been granted the 501c3, tax exempt status and would be classified as a public charity. The ACC will function as the financial development work group for the ACWP and help guide the group's sustainability efforts.

New O&E Materials/Event Planning..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

Valley wide Trash Bash was held April 2, 2011. Every city in the watershed hosted a Trash Bash event in their city. It was huge success. Valley Proud Environmental Council deserves a big hand for putting these events together.

Valley Proud and the Valley Sportsmen Association hosted an Arroyo Colorado waterway cleanup at the Rio Hondo Boat ramp on 4-9-11. Over 40 volunteers in 5-6 boats collected over 800 lbs of trash.

San Juan will have an Earth Day event on 4/15/2011 at the San Juan wetlands. Once again, PSJA High School has adopted the park and will bus in 300 students as volunteers to help maintain the landscape surrounding the wetland.

ACWP is hosting a Texas Stream Team Training workshop at the Estero Llano Grande World Birding Center on 4-23-11.

Dragon Fly Days at the Estero Llano Grande and Valley Nature Center on May 7-8, 2011

Road Signage Project Update Javier Guerrero, TAMUK

Weslaco will be making signs for other Task Force Cities. Cities need to contact Oscar or Efrain with the City of Weslaco to place an order.

Stenciling-Omar informed the group that he has already made contact with a vendor about ordering storm drain markers. He showed the group the various options available. The group decided on one. Omar asked the cities to contact him with the amount needed so he can tally them up and place one order. Cities will also do stenciling on certain storm drains. Cameron county will use signs.

Task Force Convention Javier Guerrero, TAMUK

The TPDES Task Force held their annual convention March 30-April 1, 2011 at SPI, TX. There were 21 local governments in attendance and 80 students from Edcouch Elsa and Pt. Isabel. Lower turnout than expected, 60-80 professionals, but still a very informative and well received convention.

Arroyo Colorado Outreach Activities:

Classroom Presentations Jaime Flores, TWRI

Javier has and Task Force have completed presentations in Cameron Co/Brownsville, Weslaco, Mission and Harlingen. TAMUK has awarded teacher stipends to teachers from Edcouch Elsa, Pt. Isabel and PSJA. Currently two models for presentations can be used.

O&E Project Updates:

Task Force will be hosting Housekeeping Workshops this Summer; 1 in Cameron Co, 1 in Brownsville, and 2 in Hidalgo Co; 1 in Weslaco and 1 to be announced at a later date.

Other topics discussed:

Water bill inserts

PSA for city have been completed. TAMUK and Task Force will begin filming/production of documentary in June and should be completed by this fall. Dr. Jude Benavides will narrate the documentary.

Upcoming Grants and Potential Projects

Grants Update Jaime Flores, TWRI

Jaime talked about CARE grant. City of Alamo is currently working on this funding opportunity and Jaime talked about letters of support. Melisa is to get sample of letters out by Friday to all identified partners/stakeholders.

ACWP was awarded the ACWP Sustainability grant.

The ACWP will submit a grant to GLO in partnership with TPWD to conduct a special study in the AC.

Reminders of habitat workgroup meeting at Estero Llano Grande for Thursday, April 21 from 2-4 pm and Steering Committee Meeting from 5-7pm.

Meeting adjourned as lunch arrived.

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Workgroup

Harlingen Irrigation District Pump House
Trevino Road
Harlingen, Texas

April 21, 2011 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions Andy Garza, TSSWCB

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Status Jaime Flores, TWRI

Review of Components Addressing Agricultural NPS Pollution Andy Garza, TSSWCB

Implementing Educational Components of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Focused on Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Allen Berthold, TWRI

Agricultural Implementation Activities Allen Berthold, TWRI

Landowner Involvement in Technical Assistance Programs Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB
Sam Ruiz, Landowner

Agricultural Success Stories Allen Berthold, TWRI

Other Business Andy Garza, TSSWCB

Elect New Agricultural Issues Workgroup Co-Leader

Next Meeting Date October 2011

Adjourn/Lunch

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Workgroup

Harlingen Irrigation District Pump House
Trevino Road
Harlingen, Texas

April 21, 2011 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions.....Andy Garza, TSSWCB

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Status..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Jaime Flores provided an update on the Watershed Protection Implementation efforts. Specific efforts consisted of working with IBWC to reduce the amount of habitat lost within the Arroyo Colorado riparian area, setting up the 501(c)3 organization titled Arroyo Colorado Conservancy to ensure long-term continuation of the Partnership,

Review of Components Addressing Agricultural NPS Pollution.....Andy Garza, TSSWCB

- Andy Garza brought up the 2006 document titled “Components Addressing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution” which can be found at <http://arroyocolorado.org/media/2632/ComponentsAddressingAgNSP.pdf>.

Implementing Educational Components of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Focused on Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution..... Allen Berthold, TWRI

- A presentation was given that highlighted the educational projects that have been completed and are currently being conducted. Costs per project were provided along with the fiscal year that they began in.

Agricultural Implementation Activities..... Allen Berthold, TWRI

- The same presentation as above was given that showed the original objectives from the 2006 document mentioned above, milestones, estimated costs v. actual costs, total investment into Ag from government agencies, and specific projects relating to Cost-Share, Technical Assistance, Education, and Monitoring. Also, the presentation showed the amount of acres by year that have been incorporated into WQMPs by county since 1999.

Landowner Involvement in Technical Assistance Programs..... Ronnie Ramirez, TSSWCB
Sam Ruiz, Landowner

- Sam Ruiz of Mid-Valley Agriculture has been an outstanding advocate on conservation. Mr. Ruiz addressed the audience on the implementation of Best Management Practices. Sam has been involved with Conservation Programs for close to a decade and commends the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for their efforts in assisting Agriculture Producers. Topics of discussion included Irrigation Land Leveling, Irrigation Pipeline and Drip Irrigation Systems.

Agricultural Success Stories..... Allen Berthold, TWRI

- Several success stories were discussed to include into a newsletter. First, almost all milestones that were set in 2006 have been met with the exception of a FY12 Monitoring project and the long-term goal of 150,000 acres under WQMPs by the year 2015. Secondly, the amount of acres under WQMPs to date is a huge success for producers in the Valley. The amount of dollars that has been brought into the region is also a potential success story as government agencies have invested into preserving the region which has helped in stimulating the local economy. Lastly, results from the 06-10 monitoring project is a potential success pending what the data says.

Other Business.....Andy Garza, TSSWCB

Elect New Agricultural Issues Workgroup Co-Leader

Next Meeting Date.....October 2011

- Ronnie Ramirez was elect as the new Co-Leader for the Agricultural Issues Workgroup and will serve as the local point of contact for Agricultural Issues related to the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan.

Adjourn/Lunch

Arroyo Colorado Habitat Work Group

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

April 21, 2011 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions Tony Reisinger, TX Sea Grant

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

Vegetation and Tree removal from Arroyo Colorado Jaime Flores, TWRI

Project Updates and Discussions:

POH Wetland Project Jaime Flores, TWRI

Los Fresnos Resaca Project Jaime Flores, TWRI

LID Project Javier Guerrero, TAMUK

Solar Powered Circulator Project Jaime Flores, TWRI

Available Grants/Potential Studies Allen Berthold, TWRI

Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn Jaime Flores, TWRI

Habitat Workgroup Meeting
April 21, 2011

Welcome and introductions – Jaime

- Vegetation tree removal from arroyo. Started last Wednesday in McKelvey Park. Not taking out big trees yet, just dead debris
- Now IBWC is saying they will put the debris into a washout to stop erosion in an area of the Arroyo in Harlingen.
- Seems that IBWC will no longer use a chipper because of budget issues
- At ag issues wg mtg. producers were even surprised about the methods of disposing of debris

Projects

- POH – we have been unable to conduct the study at POH because of matching issues which are working on being resolved. Phase II of the project appears as it will not happen.
- Los Fresnos Resaca Project – update on location and capacity of Resaca. Talked to los fresnos city manager who went before the board to discuss purchasing the land for the project and will apply for a CIAP grant.

LID Project – spoke of phase I and Phase II LID projects and the meeting was virtually about the money that is to be granted. San Juan and Valley Nature Center have a short timeline to start project without losing other funding sources.

Trying to write a formal letter for a NCE for LID

Last Friday San Juan held an earth day event and 300 kids from San Juan high school and middle schools. Students planted plants, cleared out weeds, built benches and birdhouses and general maintenance of the wetland. They want to try and do it every 6 months

Solar Powered Circulator Project – trying to get into port of Harlingen. Money for them is available but ownership is an issue. Partnership

Possibility to do wetlands maintenance training again. Demonstrations would be beneficial for the city employees.

Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting

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

April 21, 2011 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

MEETING AGENDA

4:30 Social – Snacks and Refreshments

5:00 Welcome and IntroductionsDr. Jude Benavides, UTB (Steering Committee Chair)

5:10 Work Group Updates (10 minutes each)

Agricultural Issues Andy Garza, TSSWCB

Habitat Issues Dr. Jones, TAMUK

Education and Outreach Jaime Flores, TWRI

Waste Water Infrastructure Jaime Flores, TWRI

6:10 Long-Term Partnership Sustainability Jaime Flores, TWRI

6:20 Grants Update Allen Berthold, TWRI

6:30 Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

6:45 Adjourn Dr. Jude Benavides, UTB (Steering Committee Chair)

ACW Steering Committee Meeting
April 21, 2011

Welcome and introductions

Attendees:

Ronnie Ramirez

Josh Oyer

Allen Berthold

Sam Sugarek

Jaime Flores

Kati Carberry

Work group updates

- Ag issues
 - Allen updated the Steering Committee attendees on agricultural activities and highlighted the implementation timeline that was established in a 2006 document that was created by the Agricultural Issues Workgroup. The number of acres in Water Quality Management Plans per county, number of dollars invested into Ag, and deliverables from past and ongoing projects were also discussed. The meeting was held at 10:00 on 4-21-11
- Habitat issues
 - Jaime updated the Steering Committee about what the habitat workgroup discussed during their meeting. This consisted of the current activities that were ongoing with the International Boundary and Water Commission and some of the methods that were being used, the various habitat related projects and their status, the various School's involvement with earth day events, and upcoming potential projects. The meeting was held at 2:00 on 4-21-11
- Education and outreach
 - Jaime updated the Steering Committee on the Education and Outreach activities which included participating in a Valley wide trash bash, Arroyo waterway cleanup, Earth Day events, and a Texas Stream Team Training. The Road Sign project was discussed as well as the storm drain stenciling. Jaime also discussed the classroom presentations and gave ongoing project updates. The meeting was held on 4-12-11.
- Wastewater infrastructure
 - TAMUK is still conducting monthly sampling as part of the ARRA, WWTP monitoring project. This will continue until the end of August. Results from the sampling events have started coming in and are being compiled by TAMUK

Long-term partnership sustainability

- Jaime informed the group that the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership had applied for 510c3, non-profit group status as the Arroyo Colorado Conservancy (ACC) last year. He went on to inform the group that the ACC had received official notification from the

IRS that it had been granted the 501c3, tax exempt status and would be classified as a public charity. The ACC will function as the financial development work group for the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership and help guide the group's sustainability efforts.

Grants update

- The General Land Office currently has a Request For Proposals open through their Coastal Management Program. Also, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will begin soliciting proposal on June 1 for their 319(h) grants.

Other business

- Josh Oyer gave a presentation about the Texas Stream Team and their efforts.
- Nueces River Authority is conducting a Recreational Use Attainability Analysis (RUAA) for the Arroyo Colorado. They are trying to determine if the Arroyo is used recreationally; ie, swimming, fishing, wading, etc. If they determine that it is not being used for these purposes, the TCEQ will lower the standards for bacteria in Segment 2202, Arroyo Colorado above tidal. This will have a tremendous impact on the Arroyo. If the standard is lowered, this will allow the Arroyo to continue to degrade and still meet the new standards that would be put in place instead of trying to reach the current standard. They have been conducting a literature search at the Harlingen, La Feria, Mercedes and Weslaco Public Libraries. They will be conducting a second sampling event on the weekend of April 23rd. They will have another RUAA presentation during the next ACSC meeting to be held on July 21, 2011 at the Estero Llano Grande World birding center