

Arroyo Colorado Education and Outreach Workgroup Formed Under The Arroyo Colorado Watershed Steering Committee

Meeting Summary – May 31, 2005

ATTENDING WORK GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Tony Reisinger
Ginette Garcia
Don Hockaday
Laura De La Garza
Terry Bredemeyer
Annette Hernandez

Video-conference Attendees from the TCEQ in Austin
Roger Miranda
Earlene Lambeth
Dave Buzan

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Laura De La Garza called to order the tenth meeting of the Education and Outreach work group at 5:40 pm. The meeting was held in the Board Room of the Learning Resource Center on the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) campus in Harlingen, Texas. Video conferencing was provide and there was an establish connection with the TCEQ.

The meeting notes of January 18, 2005 and February 15, 2005 were approved. Next there was a discussion on work group membership and the posting of that list on the TCEQ and Arroyo Colorado websites. Tony Riesinger motioned that we send a letter to the current list of member and ask them to respond or deny membership.

Don Hockaday stated that we needed a list of small task for work group members. Ginette Garcia recommended a big annual meeting to discuss Valley outreach efforts. There was also a suggestion to have these meetings at an earlier time.

Ms. De La Garza then review outreach efforts as listed in the agenda.

Next Ms. Garcia gave an update on the IMAS “Smart About Water” project. She solicited ideas on specific water quality systems, like wetlands. She stated that people in Reynosa wanted to be involved in wetland restoration projects. Tony stated that Mike Heep would be a valuable resource in wetland projects.

Ms. Garcia then discussed the work and meetings with Eric Mendelman and Texas Watch, that the IBWC had donated water quality monitoring equipment and that she had been working with the McAllen Public Utility in the identification of sites for the Texas Watch program. Ms. Garcia discussed the teacher training workshop where the educator's guide for the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Curriculum would be presented and tested.

Next, Dave Buzan informed us that Kris Shipman had prepared Coastal Expo trunks and that those trunks are available for education and promotions. The dates and place of the next series of Coastal Expos were identified.

On a new topic, Roger Miranda then stated the need for the Storm Water Task force to do more demonstration projects for storm water BMPs. He informed the group about the TCEQ's Small Business Group and their composting demonstration project and that they wanted to be involved in this Arroyo project. Brian Noble is the contact person. Roger also discussed the partnering opportunity with the Lower Rio Grande Development Council in relation to their 604(b)3 contract with the TCEQ in regards to NPS outreach and education.

The group discussed the RFP for the market survey that it was important to get this to out to local marketing firms. The local firms identified included Breed McCumber, Top Performance Industry, Johnson and Meade, and Ideas in Action, it was suggested that Laura look in the local phone book for other firms to send the RFP to.

Ginette brought up the need for information documents to be used for outreach and education. That she needed the most important facts about the Arroyo so that outreach materials like door hangers and book marks could be made. It was pointed out that important facts are listed in the current "Get to Know the Arroyo Colorado" brochure. It was also recommended that we create a library of information concerning the Arroyo and put in on our website similar to what was done for Caddo Lake. Tony recommended a calendar project similar to the Galveston Bay Estuary Program.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the importance of coordinating with the Texas Cooperative Extension for outreach to the agricultural community. Other important groups include the LRGVDC, the Storm Water Task Force, and the TCEQ Small Business division.

The next meeting would be scheduled at a later date.