

Arroyo Colorado Outreach and Education Workgroup

October 16, 2007

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Meeting Notes

Laura de la Garza, TWRI
Kris Shipman, TPWD
Megan Meier, TWRI
Cecilia Wagner, TWRI
Elizabeth Heise, UTB
Tony Reisinger, Sea Grant
Paul Bergh
Sky Lewey, NRA
Jason Pinchback, Texas Watch

Welcome and Introductions.....Laura De La Garza, TWRI

- Three CMP proposals submitted
- Cameron County draft resolution
- Four cities wetland project (all cities in permitting phase)
- Ag group nutrient management conference
- Working with Valley Land Fund; special guest at Steering Committee meeting
 - Possibility of partnering with the Land Fund, Valley Proud, the Development Council or forming own 501(c)
- Participated in Pharr out nature day; demonstrated model
- EPA webcast

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan:

Project HighlightsLaura De La Garza, TWRI

O&E Project Updates:

CMP Grant Submittals.....Megan Meier, TWRI

- Rio Hondo Education and Outreach Center
- Pesticide Education in Cameron County
- Regional Wetland Feasibility and Site Suitability Analysis

Texas Watch Activity Jason Pinchback, Texas Watch

- Working on write up to distribute on activities in watershed
- Training with UTB tentatively scheduled in February
- Sampling during off months of Texas Clean Rivers Program
- Will work on analysis of last 6 months of data and will distribute

Project Discussion:

Demonstrating the Watershed Model Sky Lewey, Nueces RA
Laura De La Garza, TWRI

- Cecilia asked if presentation script available for other watershed models; Sky said everyone uses something different (powerpoint or flash cards) but they can help customize one for the Arroyo Colorado; will probably customize more after a few demonstrations
- Maybe look into something to cover model during transport; Sky said it is sturdy and just need to make sure to strap it down
- Housed at UTB
- Estero Llano Grande have requested using the model at end of the month
- Laura is main point of contact for checking model in/out and demonstrating
- Sky suggested using sign-in sheet to track how many people participated/seen model
- Texas Watch has powerpoint they use
- Kris Shipman has some script information as well
- Can have different scenarios (point sources and nonpoint sources)
- Presenter needs to know about watershed; maybe require reading material (like brochure) on watershed

VISTA Grant Application..... Kris Shipman, TPWD

- no defined deadline, but need to have it ready by January to recruit recent college graduates
- Need to determine who would take on the VISTAS and locate funding
 - Maybe compost education project elderly with Alicia Montez
 - Laura or Ruben could use one
- Kris recommended having at least 2 VISTAS in each location (looking at getting 9 total which would be \$30,000/yr); typically have a VISTA for 3-5 yrs
- Would have different VISTA each year (they only have 1 year terms)
- Might need to apply for a grant to fund VISTA; could be a combination of funding sources or donations
- Tony suggested tabling this grant for right now until the Partnership has more steady flow of funding available

Discuss/Prioritize Future Funding Needs and Sources Megan Meier, TWRI

- February 2009 is the end of the TCEQ contract end date but hoping to have enough funds for no-cost extension until August 2009
- So need funding from proposals to continue project; need to be own group or under another group to apply for funding after TCEQ funds expire
- Could work with cities and have them submit the grants (Pharr, McAllen, Military Highway—Mr. Salinas)
- TWDB Regional Wastewater Planning and Flood Planning (Jude Benavides)

Other Business/ Meeting Schedule..... Laura De La Garza, TWRI

- Need to work becoming own group or becoming part of another group
- Ocelot Festival in early February
- TPWD event on March 13-14 (Coastal Expo)

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn..... Laura De La Garza, TWRI

- January 24, 2008