

**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. 8 From 12/01/08 Through 02/28/09

I. Abstract

The hiring of a new watershed coordinator (program coordinator) and the recent maternity leave taken by the TWRI Project Manager has caused this project to lose some momentum. However, the activities will pick up soon as the watershed coordinator becomes more familiar with project activities. Looking ahead the watershed will see the implementation of several long awaited habitat/wastewater infrastructure projects as construction has began or will begin soon on new treatment wetlands. Further, local stakeholders will be actively participating in storm drain marker installation during the next quarter as part of Earth Day activities.

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.
- b. TWRI continued to brief new watershed coordinator (program coordinator), Jaime Flores, on project activities and watershed partnership management
- c. A schedule of deliverables to track project activities and contract status is included in Appendix A.

72% 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 2, Quarter 4 Report on March 30, 2009.

72% 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 Grant Writer(s) maintain regular communication on a weekly basis.
- b. Due to project manager being on maternity leave, TWRI participated in workgroup and steering committee meetings via teleconference.

72% 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.
- b. Continually add and update upcoming events on homepage.

72% 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 \$27,502.85 covering all expenses from December 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009.
- b. Total invoiced expenditures to date: \$219,775.42 or 64% of total project budget.

64% 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 bi-annual WWI workgroup meeting held on December 16, 2008.
- b. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly O&E meeting held on January 13, 2009.
- c. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly Ag Workgroup meeting held on January 26, 2009.
- d. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly Habitat workgroup meeting held on January 26, 2009.
- e. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly SC meeting held on January 26, 2009.
- f. All meeting summaries for SC and workgroup meetings are included in Appendix B. All summaries will be posted to the Project website.
- g. Attended all workgroup meetings, provided information requested by work group leaders and conducted follow-up activities as noted in the meeting summaries.
- h. Updated Partnership on overall implementation of the ACWPP at SC meeting including provided the SC with updated implementation schedules on agricultural, education and outreach, habitat and wastewater infrastructure activities at the January 26, 2009 meeting.

72% 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. Bi-monthly updates were distributed to the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership members via the Arroyo Colorado listserv on December 2 and 18, 2008; January 6 and 21, 2009; February 9 and 25, 2009. Copies of updates are provided in Appendix C.

72% 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 (26 new members signed up at the Texas Watershed Stewards Workshop in November and need to be added to list).
- b. The work group member list was again updated with the hiring of the new watershed coordinator to better reflect participation and interest. The new lists were distributed to the work groups and steering committee during the July and August meetings for finalization. Lists currently listed on Project Web site will be corrected.

90% 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. December 3, 2008, met with Javier Guerrero, LRGV-TPDES Task Force, to discuss upcoming classroom presentations..
- b. December 8, 2008, attended Weslaco Independent School District Science curriculum classes held at Estero Llano Grande World Birding Center.

65% 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. The Dirty Dozen was published in The Texas COOP Power magazine's December issue. It reached approximately 90,000 residences in the Rio Grande Valley.
- b. January 13, 2009, Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly O&E workgroup meeting.

- c. The ACWP in conjunction with the LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force conducted classroom presentations at a number of Elementary, Middle and High schools throughout the Rio Grande Valley. The classroom presentations are one of the key components of the O&E measures outlined in the Watershed Protection Plan. The presentations consist of a power point that outlines watersheds and their purpose, the water cycle and how pollutants affect the watershed. After the power point presentation, we conduct a demonstration using the Arroyo Colorado Watershed model. We have received very positive responses from Teachers, Principals, Science curriculum directors and Superintendents. Approximately 20 students attend each presentation. The presentations and demonstration of the AC model were made at the following School's:
- December 9, 2008: Dr. Rodriguez Elementary, Harlingen, TX.
 - December 15, 2008:Rafael Cantu Junior High, Palmhurst, TX
 - January 7, 2009: Santa Rosa Middle School, Santa Rosa, TX.
 - January 15, 2009: A. P. Solis Middle School, Donna, TX.
 - January 15, 2009: J. W. Caceres Elementary School, Donna, TX.
 - January 16, 2009: Weslaco High School, Weslaco, TX.
 - January 27, 2009: Dr. Saenz Middle School, La Joya, TX.
 - January 27, 2009: De Zavala Middle School, La Joya, TX.
 - January 29, 2009: Alton Memorial Middle School, Alton, TX
 - January 29, 2009: E. B. Reyna Elementary School, La Joya, TX
 - January 30, 2009: Donna High School, Donna, TX.
 - February 2, 2009: E. E. Middle School, Edcouch, TX.
 - February 6, 2009: N. L. Trevino Elementary, Edinburg, TX.
- d. The physical watershed model was demonstrated at the following events:
- Estero Llano Grande World Birding Center in conjunction with WISD Science curriculum director hosted the entire WISD Middle School students to a week long, interactive science program at the Birding Center. December 8-12, 2008.
 - McCANALEBURG Classic, December 27, 2008.
 - Fiesta De La Feria, February 28, 2009.
- e. Storm Drain Markers were distributed to Participating Cities in January. Cities will have Valley wide installation event next quarter.

72% 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. Agricultural education events occur on a regular basis in the watershed as part of the TSSWCB funded project, Education of Agricultural BMPs. As of the last quarter reported (October through December 2008), 212 residents from Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties were educated. The total number of participants who have benefited from the Arroyo Colorado Education Program is now 5,787.
- b. Attended project kickoff meeting on December 17, 2008 with AgriLife County Extension agents to discuss two new agricultural education projects.

- c. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly Ag Issues Workgroup meeting held on January 26, 2009. At the meeting it was reported that 131 WQMP'S have been certified. That makes a total of 680 plans in the watershed for a total of 6,400 acres. Total of \$646,532 have been paid to producers for cost share assistance.
- d. Agrilife Research personnel began monitoring edge of field sites in January.
- e. AgriLife Extension wrapped up the soil testing campaign for the 2008-2009 year; total participants were less than expected for this year.

72% 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. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a quarterly Habitat workgroup meeting held on January 26, 2009.
- b. Received updates on 4 Cities Wetland Project: La Feria has already broken ground on two sites, 3 acres and 8 acres; San Benito, broke ground in February on 20 acre wetland; Mercedes has just amended WWTP permit and put wetland on hold; Alamo is conducting feasibility study and San Juan is accepting bids and should break ground by summer, 2009.
- c. Received positive feedback from General Land Office regarding CMP proposal on Port of Harlingen Wetland project slated to begin September 2009.

72% 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. Developed agenda, arranged meeting facilities and sent E-mail notices for a bi-annual WWI workgroup meeting held on December 16, 2008.
- b. Action/discussion items at the WWI workgroup meeting included the following:
 - Gather current information from WWTP's.
 - San Benito WWTP wetland project started in February 2009
 - The City of Alamo is currently conducting a feasibility study to determine if the City will upgrade their wastewater treatment facility that would include the development of wetlands on their old lagoon type treatment plant.
 - The La Feria wetlands project has commenced with them breaking ground the first week of February. They were behind in the development of a wetland system; TCEQ retracted funding due to slow action.
 - The city of San Juan is currently taking construction bids for the individual wetland project.

72% Complete

Subtask 3.5: Semi-annual Newsletter Publication.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Started a draft outline of stories for the spring newsletter.
- b. Developed or tracked the following news releases:
 - 12/01/08: *New Road Signs Denote Arroyo Colorado Watershed* – published in AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest, and Cotton Gin & Oil Mill Press
 - 1/22/09: *Arroyo Colorado Watershed Steering Committee Meets January 26* – published in AgNews, Southwest Farm Press on 1/23/09, and Media Newswire on 1/26/09
 - 02/16/09: *San Benito Turns Sewer Ponds into Wetlands* - McAllen Monitor

72% 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. Worked with Lower Rio Grande Valley Stormwater Task Force on the development of an EPA environmental education proposal for printing and distributing utility bill inserts that inform residents of ways to prevent water pollution.
- b. Worked with Texas AgriLife Communications to revise and improve the EPA environmental education proposal for producing and airing public service announcements about water quality issues in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed.
- c. Worked with the International Museum of Arts and Sciences and City of McAllen public utilities to edit a proposal to update the Arroyo Watershed Curriculum and provide workshops to local educators on incorporating the curriculum into their classrooms.
- d. Maintained and updated information on potential funding opportunities for distribution to work group and steering committee members.

72% 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. Submitted 3 project proposals for funding under EPA's Environmental Education Program:
 - *A curriculum for the Arroyo Colorado Watershed.* \$27,530. A collaborative effort between TWRI (lead), City of McAllen, International Museum of Arts and Sciences, Texas Stream Team, and the ACW Partnership.
 - *Lower Rio Grande Valley Utility Bill Inserts.* \$22,960. A collaborative effort between TWRI (lead), Lower Rio Grande Valley Stormwater Task Force, and the ACW Partnership.
 - *Developing PSAs for the Arroyo Colorado Watershed.* \$52,646. A collaborative effort between TWRI (lead), Texas AgriLife Communications, and the ACW Partnership.
- b. Total number of proposals to date submitted on behalf of the implementation of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan include 12 full proposals and 4 pre-proposals led by TWRI and 6 proposals led by other entities (TAMUK-3 UTPA-1; LRGVDC-1 and City of McAllen-1).
- c. Proposal workplans for the submitted proposals are available upon request.

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. Nothing to report at this time.

35% Complete

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

Momentum was lost with the resignation of the program assistant and program coordinator and the transition to a new program coordinator. On top of that TWRI Project manager was on maternity leave during this quarter, which delayed activities.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter**Task 1**

- Continue improving Web site including development of database per task 5.
- Request a no-cost extension for project to ensure adequate expenditure of funds
- Maintain regular weekly communication with project personnel.
- Submit quarter 9 report on June 15, 2009.

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 E&O workgroup meeting on April 14, 2009.
- Schedule and facilitate a Steering Committee meeting for April 27, 2009. 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 bi-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.
- Finalize the development of an O&E evaluation instrument.
- Develop an evaluation instrument for distribution to the Arroyo Colorado SC.
- 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.
- Followup with the outreach and education subcommittee of the stormwater taskforce to further plan the stormdrain marking campaign to be likely held on April 18, 2009.

Task 4

- Identify additional funding opportunities to pursue.

Task 5

- Post static graphs on Web site.
- Begin adding other databases including, but not limited to Texas Stream Team data and possibly, TPWD data.

Appendix A
Schedule of Deliverables and Status

Deliverable	Due Date	Date Submitted	Comments
TASK 1			
Quarterly Progress Reports	7/15/2007	7/16/2007	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	9/15/2007	9/14/2007	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	12/15/2007	12/13/2007	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	3/15/2008	3/13/2008	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	6/15/2008	6/17/2008	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	9/15/2008	9/16/2008	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	3/15/2009	3/30/2009	Submitted via email & posted on Site
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		
	Special release (supplement) to WPP - status of Imp.		
Draft Final Report	2/28/2010		
Final Report	3/31/2010		
Quarterly Meetings	Jul-07	7/9/2007	in CS
	Oct-07	9/25/2007	in CS
	Jan-08	1/24/2008	in AC
	Apr-08	3/4 & 4/24	in AC
	Jul-08	8/21/2008	Meeting delayed due to Hurricane Dolly (site visit to AC in June '08)
	Oct-08	10/23/2008	
	Jan-09	--	No meeting occurred as TWRI PM was out on maternity leave
	Apr-09		
	Jul-09		
	Oct-09		
Reimbursement Forms	Jan-10		
	7/30/2007	7/16/2007	reimbursed 9/25/07
	9/30/2007	9/28/2007	
	12/30/2007	1/14/2008	Cory: unpaid as of 3/31/08, see Mary
	3/31/2008	3/24/2008	Jen: given to Mary, mistake in match sheet noted
	6/30/2008	6/26/2008	took to 7/15 meeting; given to Mary 7/15; discussed all invoices at 7/15 meeting
	9/30/2008	10/3/2008	
12/30/2008	12/15/2008		

Website Updates	3/31/2009	3/26/2009	
	6/30/2009		
	9/29/2009		
	12/29/2009		
	3/30/2010		
	7/15/2007	--	Files were transferred from Sea Grant to TWRI
	9/15/2007	9/1/2007	Web site went online at http://www.arroyocolorado.org
	12/15/2007	12/15/2007	Added projects in the watershed and related information
	3/15/2008	3/15/2008	Added 'About the Watershed' section
	6/15/2008	6/15/2008	Checked; new presentation and news item added
	9/15/2008	9/15/2008	Added ecotourism luncheon presentation; txH2O story
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	
	3/15/2009	3/15/2009	
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
12/15/2009			
3/31/2010			
TASK 2			
Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings	7/24/2007	7/24/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	10/25/2007	10/25/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/24/2008	1/24/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	4/24/2008	4/24/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	7/24/2008	8/21/2008	(July mtg delayed due to Hurricane Dolly) Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	10/23/2008	10/23/2008	
	1/26/2009	1/26/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	4/27/2009		
	7/27/2009		
	10/26/2009		
Bi-Annual Habitat Restoration Workgroup Meeting	1/25/2010		
	7/24/2007	7/24/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/24/2008	1/24/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
		6/12/2008	Participated in wetland tour to Vista site in Victoria, TX (no mtg notes)
	7/24/2008	8/14/2008	(July mtg delayed due to Hurricane Dolly) Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/26/2009	1/26/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
Bi-Annual Ag Workgroup Meeting	7/27/2009		
	1/25/2010		
	7/24/2007	7/24/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/24/2008	1/24/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site

	7/24/2008	8/20/2008	(July mtg delayed due to Hurricane Dolly) Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/26/2009	1/26/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	7/27/2009		
	1/25/2010		
Bi-Annual Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup Meeting	9/20/2007	9/20/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	12/17/2007	12/17/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
		4/9/2008	Combined with water quality monitoring meeting
	7/24/2008	6/12/2008	Participated in wetland tour to Vista site in Victoria, TX (no mtg notes)
	1/26/2009	12/16/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	7/27/2009		
	1/25/2010		
Bi-Annual Outreach & Education Workgroup Meeting	7/16/2007	7/16/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	9/11/2007	9/11/2007	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site; Add. meeting 10-16-07
	1/15/2008	1/15/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	4/15/2008	4/15/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	7/15/2008	7/15/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	10/14/2008	10/14/2008	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	1/13/2009	1/13/2009	Minutes submitted in QPR/posted on Web site
	4/14/2009		
	7/14/2009		
	10/13/2009		
	1/12/2010		
Agendas & Summaries submitted with QPRs			Also posted on Web site
Update workgroup & steering committee membership list	Aug-07	9/15/2007	Provided SC opportunities to review information for posting
	Aug-08	8/21/2008	Handed out workgroup/SC list at mtngs for review. Revised listing will be posted Sept 08
Post workgroup & steering committee membership list on Website	Oct-07	10/8/2007	SC list has email contact info; workgroup lists - no contact info;
Bi-monthly email updates	bimonthly until 3/31/10		Posted on the Website (TCEQ note: not always bimonthly but saved on I drive and as paper files - 2007: June 5, 25; July 19, 31; Aug 15, 31; Sept 18; Oct 1, 12, 24; Nov 16, 30; Dec 14. 2008: Jan 2, 22; Feb 7, 27; March 12, 31; April 17; May 1,31; June 17; July 1, 18, 31; Aug 18, Sept 5; Oct 20; Nov 3, 17; Dec 2, 18, 2008: Jan 6, 21; Feb 9, 25;

TASK 3			
Conduct at least one presentation per month to different targeted audiences	Ongoing (in QPR)		
	7/15/2007	7/23/2007	
	9/15/2007	9/17/2007	see QPR
	12/15/2007	12/13/2007	see QPR
	3/15/2008	3/12/2008	see QPR

Appendix

	6/15/2008	6/17/2008	see QPR
	9/15/2008	9/16/2008	see QPR
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	see QPR
	3/15/2009	3/15/2009	see QPR
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		
Meet face-to-face with at least 4 community leaders per month to deliver basic facts on the Arroyo Colorado and discuss progress in implementing the ACWPP.	Ongoing (in QPR)		
	7/15/2007	7/23/2007	
	9/15/2007	9/17/2007	see QPR
	12/15/2007	12/13/2007	see QPR
	3/15/2008	3/12/2008	see QPR
	6/15/2008	6/17/2008	see QPR
	9/15/2008	9/16/2008	see QPR
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	see QPR
	3/15/2009		
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		
Contingent upon approval by TXDOT, install roadway signage by the end of the two year contract	3/31/2009		sign contractor confirmed April 2008 and design and locations being decided as of 4/24/08; Ordered and installed 10 signs in November 2008. Shared design with City of McAllen and stormwater taskforce who is interested in installing signs at additional sites around the valley (4 in McAllen).
Have storm drains stenciled in at least six cities and communities within the Arroyo Colorado watershed.	3/31/2009		metal plates decided as of 4/24/08. Worked with stormwater task force to place bulk order. Received markers in December 2008 and will install valley-wide in Earth Day Celebration on 4/18/09.
Implementation status of education and outreach measures, agricultural pollution control measures, habitat restoration measures, and wastewater infrastructure pollution control measures.	QPRs		
	7/15/2007		
	9/15/2007		
	12/15/2007		
	3/15/2008		
	6/15/2008	7/15/2008	TWRI is combining this with task 3 for a partnership update
	9/15/2008	8/21/2008	Provided SC with implementation schedule updates; included in QPR
	12/15/2008	10/23/2008	Provided SC with implementation schedule updates; included in QPR
	3/15/2009	--	no activity to report for this quarter
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		

	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		
Media press releases (1 per quarter required)	7/15/2007		
	9/15/2007		
	12/15/2007		
	3/15/2008		
	6/15/2008	6/15/2008	4/14/08: <i>International museum displaying model demonstrating Arroyo Colorado Watershed</i> ; 4/20/08: <i>Children celebrate Earth Day at IMAS – McAllen Monitor</i> 7/11/08: Richard Moore produced and aired video on ABC affiliate KRGV-TV-5 highlighting AC and the effort to improve it (http://www.richardmooreoutdoors.org . DeLa Garza assisted; 7/11/08: <i>Preparing for Schoolyard habitat gardens - McAllen Monitor</i> ; 7/13/08: <i>Planning Ecotourism Luncheon - McAllen Monitor</i> ; 7/16/08: <i>Arroyo Colorado Watershed Meeting Scheduled for July 24 - AgNews, Media Newswire on 7/21/08</i> ; 2008: <i>Cities to Build Effluent Polishing Wetlands- TRA Newsletter (Vol 6, Issue 1)</i> ; 7/21/08: <i>Arroyo Colorado Watershed Meeting Set August 21- Texas Farm Bureau Ag Headlines</i> 10/3/08: <i>Texas AgriLife Program Saves Growers Millions while Protecting Water - AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 10/3/08 and 11/2/08, Media NewsWire on 10/6/08, Extension on 10/7/08, Crop Life and HighPlains Midwest Journal on 10/10/08, Hutchison County Highlights on 10/08, Valley Morning Star on 10/11/08, Southwest FarmPress on 10/28/08, Fresh Plaza on 11/8/08, North Texas e-News on 12/06/08; 10/12/08: EcoExposure: McAllen Festival Promotes Sustainable Living Options - McAllen Monitor</i> ; 10/22/08: <i>Meeting Slated to implement Arroyo Colorado improvement plan - AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 10/22/08; 11/06/08: Soil Testing Saves Farmers Millions - PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest; 11/7/08: Texas Watershed Steward in the Arroyo Colorado - AgNews, Farm Bureau on 11/12/08; 11/7/08: Public Invited to Arroyo Watershed Workshop - PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest, AgNews on 11/7/08, Ag Headlines on 11/12/08, High Plains Journal on 11/17/08; 11/13/08: STC to hold two-day environmental conference - The Monitor</i> ; 11/18/08: <i>Jaime Flores appointed new Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator - AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest on 11/18/08, Valley Morning Star on 11/30/08.</i> 12/01/08: <i>New Road Signs Denote Arroyo Colorado Watershed - AgNews, PR Newswire Policy & Public Interest, Cotton Gin & Oil Mill Press</i> ; 1/22/09: <i>Arroyo Colorado Watershed Steering Committee Meets January 26 - AgNews, Southwest Farm Press on 1/23/09, Media Newswire on 1/26/09; 02/16/09: San Benito Turns Sewer Ponds into Wetlands - McAllen Monitor</i> ;
	9/15/2008	9/15/2008	
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	
	3/15/2009	3/15/2009	
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		
Evaluation instrument (survey) for targeted audiences at select events	8/31/2009		making due date changes upon contract extension and this survey is aimed for completion by 8/31/09
Evaluation instrument (survey) for SC and Partnership	8/31/2009		making due date changes upon contract extension and this survey is aimed for completion by 8/31/09
Summary of evaluation instrument (survey) results		QPRs	

Semi-Annual Newsletter

Oct-07	10/20/2007	previous newsletters on the website, include: 6/2005, 1/2006, 8/2006
Apr-08	4/1/2008	Distributed to over 600 ind (596 direct + 54 hand distribution)
Oct-08	11/15/2008	Distributed to over 700 individuals
Apr-09		
Oct-09		<i>contingent upon funding availability</i>

TASK 4

10 Grant Proposals	QPRs		
Summary table of grant application status	7/15/2007	--	
	9/15/2007	9/15/2007	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	12/15/2007	12/15/2007	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	3/15/2008	3/15/2008	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	6/15/2008	6/15/2008	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	9/15/2008	9/15/2008	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	Submitted with QPR & distributed at SC meeting
	3/15/2009	--	No grant table distributed to SC since TWRI personnel did not travel down for meeting
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		

TASK 5

Data summary report	11/30/2008	11/30/2008 Updated 7/15/08	Cory: Need to review and discuss with TWRI; Jen: Mark updated and current static graphs on the website are available for NRA, others to come
	11/30/2009		
Data clearinghouse including monitoring update	7/15/2007		
	9/15/2007		
	12/15/2007		
	3/15/2008		
	6/15/2008	7/15/2008	7 monitor sites have increase to 12; this deliverable will be modified upon contract extension
	9/15/2008	9/15/2008	Posted monitoring sites and static graphs on website to be accessible to the public
	12/15/2008	12/15/2008	no changes
	3/15/2009	3/15/2009	no changes
	6/15/2009		
	9/15/2009		
	12/15/2009		
	3/15/2010		

Appendix B**Steering Committee and Workgroup Meeting Summaries****Arroyo Colorado Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup**
December 16, 2008 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm**Meeting Summary****Welcome and Introductions**..... Lee Clapp, TAMUK

Jaime Flores, new watershed coordinator
 Laura de la Garza, Comite Resources
 Megan Meier, TWRI (by phone)
 Darrell Gunn, Harlingen Waterworks
 Roger Miranda, TCEQ
 Kristina D. Hernandez-HALFF Associates, Inc.
 David Salinas, City of Weslaco

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan:**Review ACWPP Implementation Status**.....Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Semi-annual newsletter mailed out mid-November.
- Storm drain markers (2760) – half in English and half in Spanish – have been delivered to Javier Guerrero at TAMUK, who will deliver them to the Weslaco Public Works building. This will serve as a central distribution point for the participating cities, as the TPDES Storm Water Task Force meetings will be held there. The participating cities have agreed to have a Valley-wide installation on Earth Day.
- Road signs marking the Arroyo Colorado Watershed were installed in November.
- Upcoming meetings are planned for January (Steering, Ag, Habitat, O&E).
- Completion of milestone chart (need to complete wastewater component at this meeting; everyone received a copy of the spreadsheet in the email Laura sent out last month).
- Towards meeting the new MS4 public education requirements, the “Dirty Dozen” PSA was published in Texas COOP Power Magazine. 90,000 copies were mailed out at the end of November. In addition, the Task Force is working on 300,000 utility bill inserts.
- Santa Rosa is the first Storm Water Task Force city to receive its MS4 permit. All of the other cities (13) in the Task Force will be receiving theirs shortly.
- Megan Meier is working on an Environmental Education grant for EPA.
- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) has developed a postcard and website (www.gbra.org) (partially funded by TCEQ).

Review of Wastewater Components of the ACWPP.....Laura De La Garza

- Existing or planned colonia hookups:
 - Jaime will ask cities for their most recent colonia hookup counts stating from Jan. 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008, as well as additional hookups planned for the near future.
- Current and proposed re-use volumes:
 - Jaime will also ask cities for up-to-date reuse rates.
 - McAllen currently reuses more than 1 MGD.
 - Weslaco also reuses 1 MGD and plans to increase this to 1.5 MGD.
- Voluntary nutrient and *E. coli* sampling conducted by the cities:
 - Nutrient and bacteria sampling requirements are described on p. 45 of the Pollutant Reduction Plan (October 2006 version).
 - Nutrient and *E. coli* sampling conducted will kick in when cities reapply for permits in 2010.

- Roger reported that bacteria counts in the Arroyo are going down (although they are going up in the Rio Grande) and consequently nutrients may be a larger concern.
- TCEQ is leaning towards third party to conduct monitoring. Dr. Clapp (TAMUK) and Dr. Heise (UTB) will move forward on providing the monitoring.
- Labs will need to be NELAC-certified; labs are developing in the LRGV.
- Roger indicated that the cities would probably be exempted from having to develop a QAPP
- Enhanced treatment systems:
 - Three-cities wetland project – see update below.
 - 106 money may be available along with other grants.
 - Chances of 319 funding is slim.
 - Weslaco North plant to upgrade to 5.5 MGD, South Plant still at 1.5 MGD. Weslaco plans to partner with TPWD on developing a 25 acres wetland on the Las Palomas WMA and is looking to create a wetland/habitat incrementally as treated wastewater becomes available. They would begin by flooding 5 acres and increase as necessary.
 - Weslaco is creating a stormwater utility and will fund it through \$1 connection fees.
- Status of Implementation measures of the Pollutant Reduction Plan and WPP (see spreadsheet).
 - Need to update table.
- Proposed amendments/revisions to the Pollutant Reduction Plan
 - ACWPP “considered a ‘living’ document subject to revisions and modifications every 5 years in coordination with the Rio Grande (Region M) Regional Water Plan.”
 - Plan revisions based on knowledge gained – adaptive management.
 - Many cities have already exceeded their original plans and are looking ahead.

Project Discussion/UpdatesLaura De La Garza

- Inflow and Infiltration Study Findings from the City of Weslaco..... David Salinas, City of Weslaco
 - Presentation will be loaded onto ACWPP website.
 - CDM closed-circuit TV study found collapsed line (clay) under canal.
 - Also found gutters connected directly to clean-outs to the sanitary sewer.
- Three-Cities Wetland Project Update..... San Benito, San Juan, La Feria
 - San Juan has solicited bids for wetland Project and is planning to break ground in spring.
 - La Feria has resubmitted their design to TCEQ. Roger said it is close to being approved.
 - San Benito has also submitted wetland design to the TCEQ. Delays due to problems associated with existing sludge at bottom of lagoons to be converted to wetlands.
- Mercedes is interested in picking up a project, but encountered higher than anticipated land costs for the original 10-acre site. Considering wastewater and stormwater wetland design.
- Weslaco still interested in wetland development on 25 acres owned by TPWD.

New Wastewater Treatment Facility ProposalsLaura De La Garza

- City of Combes is interested in coming up with a way to alleviate the flooding and major I&I problems that resulted from Hurricane Dolly. Flood waters are believed to have infiltrated their collection system causing the city of Harlingen to handle greater flow than anticipated, that resulted in them being charged with increased wastewater treatment fees. Situation overwhelmed Harlingen’s lift stations. Combes need storm water infrastructure and drainage – potential funding through Community Development Block Grants. This is a pertinent issue for ACWP – could serve as a non-partisan mediator. Combes should be invited to the next meeting – share Weslaco’s experience? What drainage district is Combes in? It was suggested that the city of Combes consider LID (low-impact development) BMPs for stormwater manangement. Dr. John Jacob identified as a good source of information.
- Hidalgo Co. MUD#1 (near Peñitas) - Applying for 1 MGD plant permit. They are currently at 0.5 MGD. The new plant is listed as 100% reuse and overflow will drain into North Floodway and not the AC as originally thought. Kristina, HALFF Associates, provided update.

Harlingen Wastewater Treatment Plants Daryl Gunn

- Harlingen closed its WWTP #1 in January 2008 and expanded its WWTP #2, which is currently operating under a 10/15/3 permit. Both permits will expire in 2010, at which point Harlingen will apply for a major modification.

Future Growth Roger Miranda

- Although the Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) is active for another 8 years, it does not address future growth.
- Future growth should be incorporated into new PRP.
- Need to plan for reuse; document existing reuse plans.
- New discharge permits should be tracked on Nueces River Authority website. Go to www.nueces-ra.org/CP/CRP/wastewater.php.
- For more information, search TCEQ Chief Clerk Database.

Discuss/Prioritize Future Funding Needs and Sources Lee Clapp, TAMUK

- TWDB water and wastewater planning grant.
- Grant table review.
- Near-term WWTP infrastructure improvements:
 - Alamo (30/90) – **needs funding** (see below).
 - MHWSC – Progreso (30/90) – **still awaiting USDA funding** (need update)
 - La Feria (30/90) – has funding, will break ground soon.
 - San Benito – has funding
 - ERHWSC – has funding
 - Hidalgo (30/90) – done.
- Near-term WWTP expansions:
 - Pharr – has funding.
 - Donna – has funding
 - Weslaco – has funding
 - HWWS #1 – closed

Discuss Funding Sources Laura de la Garza

- CWA 319 funding is possible if effluent is combined with stormwater and/or irrigation return water.
- CWA 106 funding could be available fro wetland development
- Can construct wetlands in parks – Texas Parks & Wildlife Department can provide leveraged funding.
- EPA 2025 funding, NRS?
- Coastal Management Program (CMP) grants – Rio Hondo?
- Coastal Impact Assessment Program (CIAP) grants – LRGVDC feasibility study for regional wetlands system.
 - Rio Hondo pledged up to 0.5 MGD to wetland system.
 - Rio Hondo wetland to be part of a nature park and educational center with additional public access to the Arroyo Colorado
 - Megan and Roger will discuss the Port of Harlingen proposal in more detail.
- Laura met with Robert de Leon at Alamo to discuss proposal for 30/30 plant.
 - Will request a meeting with the TCEQ permitting group?
 - Comite Resources is conducting a feasibility study for upgrading the Alamo wastewater treatment system and the development of wetlands.
 - MHWSC has an over-sized mechanical plant just south of Alamo.
- Kristina indicated there is funding available through TWDB. The application is a bit long, but available funding is expected to be large this coming year because of President-elect Obama's proposed stimulus package. See website below:
www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/financial/fin_infrastructure/cwsrffund.asp

Other Business/Upcoming Events Laura De La Garza

- TCEQ is considering sponsoring a bio-solids composting conference in the Valley
 - Ross Pumfrey, Austin TCEQ, held a conference call 10/9/08 to determine interest in a biosolids conference and participants expressed interest.
 - TCEQ will survey a few other cities and determine which additional approaches to sludge management merit presentation at the workshop.
 - Laura said it would be important to discuss the finances and economics of any approach that is presented, so that the participants understand what resources and payoffs are involved.

- Stormwater:
 - Roger indicating that, when updating plan in future, we need to beef up stormwater section since stormwater permits are being issued now -- MS4's didn't exist at the ACWPP was first developed.
 - New Storm Water Task Force members may be back-charged.
 - S & B's MS4 plan for the county? Get from Michelle at Mercedes.
 - Most cities went with the Storm Water Task Force; Harlingen developed their own plan.
- Phil Wheland (UTPA Chemistry) has a grad student studying heavy metals at the mouth of the Arroyo.
- Lee and Elizabeth Heise will develop a work plan for a two-year sampling program for nutrients and bacteria.
- Juan Enciso is conducting a shallow groundwater sampling study as part of his ag assessment study.

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn..... Lee Clapp, TAMUK

- Discussed having the meeting quarterly because of the amount of information and data that needs to be updated.
- Need more participation from the cities with the WWTP permits to see where they are and if they are meeting the goals set forth in the WPP.
- Next meeting will be in February.

Arroyo Colorado Outreach and Education Workgroup
January 13, 2009 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions..... Jaime Flores, TWRI
Jaime Flores, TWRI
Don Hockaday, UTPA
Megan Meier, TWRI

Project Discussion:

CREST-RESSACA Conference Jaime Flores, TWRI
- 7th annual; had stormwater information for students and professionals; over 200 attendees; Jaime was one of keynote speakers;

Arroyo Colorado Outreach Activities:

Dirty Dozen in COOP Magazine Jaime Flores, TWRI
- sent to approx. 900,000 residents

Road Signage – Watershed Boundary Jaime Flores, TWRI
- 10 signs installed; Task Force working to install additional boundary and waterway crossing signs printed by some of the Task Force cities

Storm Drain Marking Jaime Flores, TWRI
- Markers ordered and received; some cities have picked up and others will get at upcoming Task Force meetings; trying to coordinate valley-wide marking event on Earth Day; Weslaco ordering storm drain manholes with information already printed on them

O&E Project Updates:

Texas Stream Team Heidie Moltz, Texas Stream Team
- Jaime provided update after conversation with Heidi; on auto-pilot; monitors in AC most active in state and are turning in a lot of data; working on data analysis to present in April in public event (**post on website and include in bi-monthly updates and possibly newsletter**)

Storm Water Task Force Outreach Program Jaime Flores, TWRI
- LRGV TPDES; presenting to several local high schools about storm water awareness to thousands of students so far; Jaime has presented information about the watershed at many of these schools as well; 8 additional presentations are scheduled for this month; trying to combine all presentations for teachers to use in following school years

Curriculum Development Jaime Flores, TWRI
- trying to combine all presentations for teachers to use in following school years

Upcoming Grants and Potential Projects

O&E EPA Proposals..... Megan Meier, UTPA
- Three separate proposals were put forward outlining PSAs, watershed curriculum, and utility bill inserts

BWET Grant.....Don Hockaday, UTPA
- USFWS.gov/coastal potential grant announcement
- supports AC O&E component
- geared towards elementary students (problem b/c many elementary school teachers with little science training)
- give elementary teachers background they need and hands-on program to use in classroom to prepare students to better understand/appreciate presentations and application of the information
- meets several TEKS (water, density, weather, etc.)
- tour of sewer treatment plant and birding center in South Padre Island one day and in Harlingen another day
- would like to have another watershed model built (**what is cost?**)
- would start in October 2009 and last three years
- sending us a copy

Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

Next Meeting Date/Adjourn..... Jaime Flores, TWRI
- send notes to group
- April 14, 2009

**Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership
Agricultural Issues Workgroup
January 26, 2009 9:00 am-12:00 pm**

MEETING SUMMARY

ATTENDEES:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Pamela Casebolt | Alex Nunez |
| Brad Cowan | Enrique Perez |
| Willy Cupit | Xavier Peries |
| Laura De La Garza | Ray Prewett |
| Juan Enciso | Ronnie Rameriez |
| Michael Euler | Ruben Saldana |
| Jaime Flores | Jose Sanchez |
| Andy Garza | Venkatesh Uddameri |
| Arturo Ibarra | Sonny Vela |
| Roger Miranda | Aaron Wendt |

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

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

Review of Components Addressing Agricultural NPS Pollution Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB
Components Addressing Agricultural NPS Pollution in the Arroyo Colorado

The goal of the ACWPP is to reduce the addition of pollutants such as oxygen-demanding substances, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment to the Arroyo Colorado and to improve natural habitat to the degrees necessary to meet the uses designated by the State of Texas and specified in the State's Water Quality Standards.

To reduce pollutant loading from agricultural nonpoint sources in the Arroyo Colorado watershed, state and federal governments are working with local stakeholders in the watershed to focus state and federal technical and financial assistance and educational programs on agricultural issues in the AC watershed. The programs encourage and support the voluntary adoption of BMPs to reduce suspended sediment levels resulting from cropland erosion, oxygen demanding organic material (BOD) from runoff of crop residue and N and P fertilizer runoff from irrigated cropland fields.

Over the first 5 years of the Plan (by 2010), the goal is to encourage the voluntary implementation of conservation plans on 33% of the irrigated cropland in the watershed (100,000 acres). Our long term goal by 2015 is to encourage the voluntary implementation and maintenance of conservation plans on at least 50% of the irrigated cropland in the watershed (approximately 150,000 acres).

**** Based on the new draft LULC map, we could potentially be closer to our goal depending on the number of acres that are irrigated cropland. If the % of irrigated cropland is less than estimated (300,000 acres), then we will be closer to achieving our goal. Our original estimate was based on the 1998 LULC map which was made in 2005 and is the true "starting point" from the WPP.*

Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Status Jaime Flores, TWRI

Project Updates/Discussion:

Best Management Practice Implementation Andy Garza, TSSWCB

- Current report showed 131 WQMPs certified on 6,400 acres
- Cost-share cap was raised from \$10,000 to \$15,000
- TSSWCB still has a one time cost-share rule
- Project will end August 31, 2009
- Applying for FY2009 §319 funds to continue providing technical assistance in the Arroyo Colorado

Best Management Practice Education Brad Cowan, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

- Soil testing campaign ongoing.
 - o 250 soil samples have been turned in
 - o New geo-reference component. GPS is used where soil samples were taken by AgriLife Extension
- Strong Master Gardener Program and urban education efforts
- Continued cotton, grain, sorghum, and pesticide safety trainings as well as field days
- Texas Watershed Steward workshop in November was well received
 - o 67 participants with 50% being new to the watershed

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Assessment

Juan Enciso, AgriLife Extension Service
Venki Uddameri, TAMUK

- Juan provided update on project (Task 7 – edge of field monitoring)
 - o Sampled at 3 locations for pre-planting irrigation
- Will request a 1 yr no-cost extension to accommodate sampling next year
- Venki provided update on project (Task 6 – Drainage ditch monitoring)
- Preliminary results
 - o Temperature and pH very buffered/consistent

- o Flows vary over the cross section
- o BOD values appear to be stable
- o DO is low during the summer months and recovers during the winter and spring
- o The form of nitrogen is dependent upon the amount of oxygen in the ditch
 - Nitrate is dominant when sufficient oxygen is present
 - Nitrite is dominant under anoxic conditions
- o Automatic samplers will be deployed in the future

SWAT Model Simulation of the Arroyo Pamela Casebolt, TSSWCB

- Final model runs are being conducted to calibrate and validate the model
- Upon completion of the model, a final report will be drafted and submitted to TSSWCB
- Project ends 3/1/2009

Other Programs Available in the Arroyo Colorado:

TPWD Restitution Funds Alex Nunez, TPWD

- TPWD restitution funds are funds collected from fish kills or pollution events. Funds have been used to enhance wetlands, purchase land, stream bank restoration, etc.
- Preference is given to activities that focus on the geographic area where injury occurred.
- Best to develop a master plan for a project and the geographic area of interest. Follow up with the regional KAST biologist.

2008 Farm Bill.....Sonny Vela, USDA-NRCS

- Farm Bill passed in 2008.
- Promotes organic production
- Adjusted group income decreased and pay limits were reduced from \$450,000 to \$300,000
- EQIP, WHIP, GRP, and WRP program rules were published in the Federal Registry
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) is currently accepting proposal. Deadline for proposals is March 2nd. More information is available at: <http://frwebgate5.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/TEXTgate.cgi?WAISdocID=38565272582+0+1+0&WAIAction=retrieve>

Discuss/Prioritize Future Funding Needs and Sources Jaime Flores, TWRI

- *Agricultural Water Conservation* grant through the Texas Water Development Board is accepting proposals until March 4, 2009. Grants range between \$150,000 - \$200,000
- TSSWCB §319(h) grant for technical assistance, cost share (December 2008 RFP)

Other Business Pamela Casebolt, TSSWCB

Next Meeting Date Monday, July 27, 2009

- Field Tour reminder and details
- Need for a living geo-database for the watershed

Adjourn

Arroyo Colorado Habitat Work Group
January 26, 2009 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

MEETING SUMMARY

ATTENDEES

Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension
 Jaime Flores, TWRI
 Laura de la Garza, Comite Resources
 Amy Spaulding, Valley Land Fund
 Kendall Keyes, TPWD

Martha McClain, City of San Benito
 Michelle Leftwich, City of Merced
 Loretta Mokry, Alan Plummer & Assoc.
 Ernesto Reyes, USFWS
 Roger Miranda, TCEQ

Cecilia Wagner, TWRI*

*Phone called into meeting

Welcome and Introductions..... Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension

- Opened meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan

Protection Plan Implementation Highlights..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Semi Annual Newsletter mailed out in Mid November
- Ten Watershed road signs installed in November
- Storm drain markers already purchased, LRGV Storm Water Task Force Cities will have a Valley wide installation event around Earth Day
- Dirty Dozen published in Texas COOP Power Magazine-TWRI submitted grant for 300,000 utility bill inserts for Storm Water Task Force Cities
- Santa Rosa first City to receive MS-4 Permit
- LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force & ACP conducting O&E classroom presentations-December, January & February

Project Update and Discussions

Regional Wetland Study Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension

- Dr. Jones has a student that is using LIDAR data to use it for modeling the proposed wetland sites-Johnson Land San Benito WWTP and more. Dr. Jones could not make meeting. Will wait for update from him and his student. Dr. Jones informed me that they will have an update by spring
- Regional wetland is proving to be difficult due to the fact that most grants have a limit to them and the regional wetland will have a high price tag
- Several smaller wetlands are being planned and built by RGV Cities

4- Cities wetland update Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Michelle Leftwich gave update on Mercedes. They have amended their permit to expand and upgrade WWTP, would need another amendment for wetland. Mercedes still has questions regarding sampling, closure and liners. Roger answered some questions. Mercedes wetland is still a ways off.
- Martha McClain gave an update for the City of San Benito. They already went through amendment process to construct a 20 acre wetland that will include trails and viewing stations. Will be taking bids starting Feb. 3, hoping to start construction by Feb, 31.
- Laura De la Garza gave update on La Feria wetland. Already went through amendment process and received approval for 3 wetland ponds totaling 11 acres. Will start breaking ground immediately and hope to be done by August of this year.
- City of Alamo is conducting a feasibility study on a wetland system. They have lots of land available (75 acres of the old lagoon system, 1-50 acre parcel and 1-152 acre parcel). They are updating the WWTP plant to include bubble treatment.
- San Juan (still in design process) will be going out for bids again next Wednesday.

Valley Land Fund's Role in ACWPP Implementation..... Amy Spaulding, VLF

- **The Habitat Workgroup needs to draft a MOU for the VLF's permanent participation in the implementation of the ACWPP**
- Jim Tabak accepted the nomination of President of the VLF. Jim sent the SC a letter pledging continued support to the ACWPP.
- VLF with the Payne Auto Group will host benefit concert at El Rancho Charco on March 26, 2009. VLF wants everyone to attend.

Available Grants/Potential Studies Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

- Recently submitted grants included 3 outreach and education grants submitted to EPA Environmental Education Grant program.
- Still waiting to hear about the wetland development and habitat restoration grants we submitted to GLO under the CIAP and CMP Programs (e.g. Port of Harlingen, Rio Hondo, wetland feasibility study)

- Other Business** Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension
 - None
- Next Meeting Date/Adjourn**..... Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension
 - July 27, 2009

Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting
January 26, 2009 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

ATTENDEES:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Andy Garza, TSSWCB | Pamela Casebolt, TSSWCB |
| Chris Rakestraw, LLMFC-SAC | Rocky Freund, NRA |
| Willy Cupit, TPWD | Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension |
| Jaime Flores, TWRI | Roger Miranda, TCEQ |
| Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB | Loretta Mokry, Allan Plumer & Assoc. |
| Amy Spaulding, Valley Land Fund | Jude Beavides, UTB |
| Laura de la Garza, Comite Resources | Kendal Keyes, TPWD |
| Ernesto Reyes, USFWS | |

4:30 Social – Snacks and Refreshments Provided by LRGV-TPDES Task Force

5:00 Welcome and Introductions Jaime Flores, TWRI

5:10 Work Group Updates:

Agricultural Issues.....Andy Garza, TSSWCB

- A total of 131 WQMP's have been certified for a total of 6400 acres.
- 680 plans in the watershed itself.
- \$113,331 of cost share assistance are pending installation of BMP for payment.
- \$646,532 have been paid to producers for cost share assistance.
- 250 soil samples taken this year. Down from other years because of commodity prices. Will extend the soil sampling campaign.
- Updated land use numbers are in and will be used in SWAT modeling. SWAT modeling almost complete, will have completed version by April.

Habitat Issues.....Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant Extension

- Dr. Jones has a student that is using LIDAR data to use it for modeling the proposed wetland sites-Johnson Land, San Benito WWTP and more. Dr. Jones could not make meeting. Will wait for update from him and his student. Dr. Jones informed me that they will have an update by spring
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- Michelle Leftwich gave update on Mercedes. They have amended their permit to expand and upgrade WWTP, would need another amendment for wetland. Mercedes still has questions regarding sampling, closure and liners. Roger answered some questions. Mercedes wetland still a ways off.
- Martha McClain gave an update for the City of San Benito. They have went through amendment process to construct a 20 acre wetland that will include trails and viewing stations. Will be taking bids starting Feb. 3, hoping to start construction by Feb, 31.

- Laura De la Garza gave update on La Feria wetland. Have already went through amendment process and received approval for 3 wetland ponds totaling 11 acres. Will start breaking ground immediately and hope to be done by August of this year.
- City of Alamo is conducting a feasibility study on a wetland system. They have lots of land available-75 acres of the old lagoon system and two additional parcels of land 1-50 acre parcel and 1-152 acre parcel. They are updating the WWTP plant to include bubble treatment.
- San Juan will be going out for bids again next Wednesday. They are still in the design process.

Valley Land Fund’s Role in ACWPP Implementation..... Amy Spaulding, VLF

- **The Habitat Workgroup needs to draft a MOU for the VLF’s permanent participation in the implementation of the ACWPP**
- Jim Tabak accepted the nomination of President of the VLF. Jim sent the SC a letter pledging continued support to the ACWPP.
- VLF with the Payne Auto Group will host benefit concert at El Rancho Charco on March 26, 2009. VLF wants everyone to attend.

Water Quality Monitoring Rocky Freund, Nueces RA

- 604b grant-Nontidal sampling will switch from fecal coliform to ecoli. Submitted Sept. 1st, approved in December and started sampling in January.
- Routine monitoring -6 above tidal stations and 4 below tidal stations, NRA will hold a coordinated water monitoring meeting to decide best locations

Education and Outreach Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Semi Annual Newsletter mailed out in Mid November
- Ten Watershed road signs installed in November
- Storm drain markers already purchased, LRGV Storm Water Task Force Cities will have a Valley wide installation event around Earth Day
- Dirty Dozen published in Texas COOP Power Magazine-TWRI submitted grant for 300,000 utility bill inserts for Storm Water Task Force Cities
- Santa Rosa first City to receive MS-4 Permit
- LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force & ACP conducting O&E classroom presentations-December, January & February

6:40 Grants Update Cecilia Wagner, TWRI

6:50 Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

- Aquastreamer – looking at RFP to aerate Arroyo to improve D.O.
- GEO Data Base-Roger And Jude both think it is needed to store the Data that is being produced by ACWP-BMP’s, WQMP’s monitoring data, MS-4 permits, O&E activities, road signs, etc., could maybe use 319 money, CREST-RESSACA money, need costing study, **Jude will take lead on proposal.**
- Rio Hondo continuous monitoring station not working. Has not run for more than 3 months. **Jude will take lead on writing letter to TCEQ**
- Need to focus on finding three people to serve as board members. Roger suggested using different options, not just 501c3. Need to look at LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force as a model. Need to include Ken Jones and LRGVDC.
- Next meeting April 27, 2009

7:00 Adjourn Jaime Flores, TWRI

Appendix C**Bi-Monthly Updates December 2008 through February 2009**

December 2, 18 2008; January 6, 20, 2009; February 9, 25, 2009

December 2, 2008

Hello Arroyo Partners:

I hope everyone is full and well rested after the long Thanksgiving weekend. The Valley experienced some wonderful weather throughout the holiday and I am sure you took full advantage of it.

The Watershed Steward Program was very successful. The program was attended by approximately 67 people. The attendees included farmers, engineers, educators, students, city officials and interested citizens. Everyone, including myself, learned a great deal about our watershed and how to become better watershed stewards.

The annual CREST-RESSACA conference was held on Nov. 24th -25th at La Copa Inn at South Padre Island, TX. It was also a great success and was very well attended. This was the 7th annual conference and it just keeps getting bigger every year. I would like to congratulate Javier Guerrero and all of the staff and faculty at TAMUK Environmental Engineering Department and the LRGV-TPDES Task Force for putting on such an outstanding event.

There is going to be an Arroyo Colorado Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup meeting this month. The meeting will be held Tuesday, December 16, 2008 in the Rio Red Classroom of the Citrus Center, located in Weslaco, Texas. The meeting will be held from 1:30pm to 3:30pm in the afternoon. I would really like all the Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup members to attend.

Here are a few other upcoming events that you may be interested in:

- EPA Watershed Academy Webcast- “Using Rain Gardens to Reduce Runoff: Slow it down, Spread it out, Soak it in!” on Dec. 3, 2008 at 1-3pm Eastern
You must register in advance to attend this Webcast. Register at the Watershed Academy Webcast Web site at: www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts. Note:
Your computer must have the capability of playing sound in order to attend this Webcast.*
- December 27 for the second annual McCANALenBurg Classic-Get a jump on your new year’s resolution to exercise and spend more time with your family on a community bike ride from 0-to-30 miles along the beautiful Edinburg Main Canal*

Again, I would like for everybody to take note that the Steering Committee and workgroup meetings have changed from Thursdays to Mondays. Here is the new schedule for 2009:

Steering Committee Meetings (4th Monday of the quarter month):

*Jan 26
April 27
July 27
Oct 26*

Education and Outreach Workgroup Meetings (not changed - 2nd Tuesday of the quarter month):

*Jan 13
April 14
July 14
Oct 13*

Ag Issues Workgroup Meetings (same day as steering committee - 4th Monday, but only twice a year):

Jan 26

July 27

Habitat Workgroup Meetings (same day as steering committee - 4th Monday, but only twice a year):

Jan 26

July 27

Winter is just around the corner and the weather is great. Be sure to take in the outdoors before it gets to wet and cold to go outside. That is all for now.

Looking ahead,

Jaime Flores

December 18, 2008

Hello Arroyo Partners:

The year is just flying by now. Six more days 'til Christmas and a week after that it will be the new year. This has been a historic year, good and bad. The United States of America is standing at a crossroads facing the biggest challenges our nation has ever faced. I hope we can stand united and work together to pull ourselves up by our collective bootstraps.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Storm Water Task Force has been busy conducting local school classroom presentations throughout the Valley. The classroom presentations are part of the outreach component of the Task Force's regional storm water management plan (SWMPs) associated with the TCEQ's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) TPDES program. City Engineers Ponciano Longoria and Martha Viada of the City of Harlingen conducted storm water runoff pollution prevention awareness presentations at Harlingen High and Harlingen South High Schools to approximately 500 students on November 19-20. Ms. Viada also conducted similar events at the Santa Rosa High School on November 25 in an effort that exemplifies the benefits of the partnerships of the coalition. Santa Rosa City Manager Jose Lopez expressed gratitude to the City of Harlingen's visit to their local school district by recognizing the event at a recent City Council meeting. Similar presentations were conducted by the City of Alton's Director of Planning David De Leon at Mission High and Mission Veterans High Schools and by City of Weslaco's Director of Public Facilities David Salinas at Weslaco East High School. A total of over 1,000 high schools students were engaged during these presentations.

Ms. Viada and Mr. Longoria also conducted presentations at a local elementary school. They were joined at Dr. H. Rodriguez Elementary School on December 10, 2008 by Humberto Almaraz of Toby Globy Eco- Program, and myself representing the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership. These students saw and participated in presentations about civil engineering, storm drain and waste water infrastructure, and the Arroyo Colorado watershed. The students particularly enjoyed a water conservation skit program developed by Mr. Almaraz that revolves around a mascot named Toby Globy (www.tobygloby.com). Mrs. Beulah Rangel's Gifted and Talented Science Class thoroughly enjoyed this program and has invited the guests back to perform a second program. On December 15, 2008, Javier Guerrero and I conducted presentations to approximately 144 students on the Arroyo Colorado Watershed held at the Rafael Cantu Middle school of the Mission Independent School District located in City of Palmhurst.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville's Javier Guerrero, the LRGV-TPDES Task Force liaison, who coordinates the classroom presentations for the coalition, reports that on December 9, 2008, the City of Santa Rosa was the first member of the Task Force to obtain the TCEQ's approved MS4 TPDES permit. The Task Force is extremely proud of this accomplishment as they have been working toward this goal since the year 2002. This permit mandates municipalities to regulate urban storm water runoff and gives the local governments the authority to adopt ordinances and policy to accomplish this requirement. Mr. Guerrero feels confident that the rest of the cities in the Task Force will be receiving their permits soon, seeing as they all submitted their permit applications at about the same time.

The Estero Llano Grande held a week long Environmental Science Class in conjunction with Weslaco CISD. Connie Alvior Sinoy, Science Strategist for Middle School Curriculum and Instruction for Weslaco Independent School District, received a grant for an environmental curriculum and these classes were the result. There were 12 interactive stations where students learned about the Arroyo Colorado watershed, pollution, photosynthesis, wildlife adaptations, types of wildlife, the water cycle and etc.,. They bused in all of the science students from Mary Hoge Jr. High throughout the week. We estimate about 600 students participated in this outstanding week-long event.

The Arroyo Colorado website has been updated under the "How you can help" page including online subscription to the newsletter or bimonthly update, checking out the model, supporting the partnership thru monetary and other means and becoming a volunteer monitor. If you are interested in any of these and other activities, please visit the website at <http://www.arroyocolorado.org/>.

There was an Arroyo Colorado Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup meeting held December 16, 2008. This meeting was very informative and produced an action list of priorities that are to be addressed by the next meeting.

Here are a few other upcoming events that you may be interested in:

December 27 for the second annual McCANALenBurg Classic-Get a jump on your new year's resolution to exercise and spend more time with your family on a community bike ride from 0-to-30 miles along the beautiful Edinburg Main Canal

The Coastal Bend Bays Foundation asked me to share some of their upcoming events as well. For more information visit www.baysfoundation.org. Coastal Bend Bays Foundation, 361-882-3439, A Partnership for Conservation.

1) CBBF has MOVED to 1231 Agnes, Suite A-4, One Agnes Plaza, Corpus Christi. Our mailing address PO Box 23025, Corpus Christi, TX 78403 has not changed. Our very sincere thanks to all who provided us with assistance, including Jerry Mathieu, our new landlord.

2) FREE Auto Check Saturday, December 20 at Whataburger Field. Flyer posted on www.baysfoundation.org

3) Thursday, December 18, 2pm. Nueces County Public Meeting, Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds, 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd, Robstown, Commissioners Court is to receive a presentation and discuss County-wide drainage.

4) Monday, January 12, 2009 - CBBF Coastal Issues Forum: State of the Port. Update on current Port projects by John LaRue, Executive Director, Port of Corpus Christi Authority. Social at 5:30pm, meeting starts at 6pm. Room 1003, Carlos F. Truan Natural Resource Center, TAMUCC, 6300 Ocean Dr.

5) Harte Research Institute's latest newsletter is now available at <http://harteresearchinstitute.org/>

6) Monday, February 9, CBBF Coastal Issues Forum - Focus on local power plants.

Happy Holidays from the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation!

Visit www.baysfoundation.org for lots of local information, updates and links.

Winter is here and it feels like it. We already know the weather forecast-cold front, next day-wind out of the south and then cold front, over and over again. If the hurricane season was an indicator, it should be a pretty wet winter. We will see. I hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Looking ahead,

Jaime Flores

January 6, 2009

Hello Arroyo Partners:

I want to wish everyone a Happy New year. I hope everyone is rested after the holiday break. Let's get those new year resolutions going; lose weight, exercise and clean up the Arroyo Colorado! If I eat one more tamale, I think I will explode. I cannot believe that we are in the year 2009! It has been nine years since the Y2K scare and computers are still running the world.

The second annual McCANALenBurg Classic was held on December 27, 2008. They had a very nice turnout. There was at least 100 cyclists that participated in the event. A good time was had by all that attended. The Arroyo Colorado Watershed model was on display spreading the word about our watershed.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Storm Water Task Force and the Arroyo Colorado Partnership will be busy conducting local school classroom presentations throughout the Valley. We are still working out the schedule but we will be visiting at least three different school districts this month. The kids really enjoy these classroom presentations. They are very interested in what is happening to their environment and want to protect it. These presentations cover a lot of information including civil engineering; streets, storm drains and how they work, wastewater treatment plants and how they work and how they affect our environment. We then explain what a watershed is and that they live in one and give an overview of the water cycle and why it is so important. From there we discuss pollution, the different types of pollution and how it is harmful to the environment. It is a lot of material and they seem to just soak it up.

The Arroyo Colorado website has been updated under the "How you can help" page including online subscription to the newsletter or bimonthly update, checking out the model, supporting the partnership thru monetary and other means and becoming a volunteer monitor. If you are interested in any of these and other activities, please visit the website at <http://www.arroyocolorado.org/>.

I want to remind everyone that our Workgroup meetings are just around the corner. The Education and Outreach Workgroup Meeting will be held on January 13th. The Ag Issues Workgroup Meeting, the Habitat Workgroup Meeting and the Steering Committee Meeting will be held on the January 26th. I encourage everyone to attend these meetings. For times and locations for these meetings, please visit the Arroyo Colorado website.

The Holiday weather was great and a lot warmer than I expected. It still has not gotten really cold and wet for an extended period of time. I hope that we do not get a late cold front in February like we did several years back. That was a late freeze that damaged a lot of citrus trees and killed a lot of fish in the bay. I will keep my fingers crossed.

Looking ahead,

Jaime Flores

January 20, 2009

Hello Arroyo Partners:

I am sure that everyone is back up to speed now that the new year festivities are just a memory. I want to remind everyone that you are welcome to attend any or all of the upcoming workgroup and steering committee meetings on January 26 in the Rio Red classroom at the Citrus Center. Agendas for all 3 meetings are attached.

The Ag issues workgroup meeting will be from 9:00-am-12:00 noon. Around 1:00 pm, Andy Garza, Tom McLemore (Project Manager for the ADI project) and Dr. Enciso would like to invite everyone to a short tour (approximately 2 hours) to visit several relevant sites related to our project.

Preliminary Agenda for the tour is as follows:

1. Visit the pumping station at the Delta Lake Irrigation District.
2. Visit a field demonstration project (Wyatt-Hidalgo Farms) and talk with manager Benny Silva. This site is located close to the Estero Llano state park.

The Habitat workgroup will have their meeting from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Those interested in attending both the site tour above and the Habitat meeting might need to leave the tour a few minutes little early to make it back to the Citrus Center by 2:00pm.

The Steering Committee meeting will be held from 4:30pm-7:00pm.

I am hoping that all of these meetings prove to be very productive. It is always good to be updated on how much hard work is being done by so many different people. Hope to see many of you there.

Ouina Rutledge, the Renewable Resources Manager for the City of McAllen, is pleased to announce that The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council awarded the City a grant for the construction of a Compost Demonstration and Education Garden. It has been completed and they will be hosting a ribbon cutting/reception ceremony. We hope everyone that is interested can attend. For more information please call or email Ouina at 956-681-4050, <orutledge@mcallen.net>.

There are quite a few events coming up in March and April associated with World Water Day and Earth Day. The Arroyo Colorado Partnership and the LRGV-TPDES Task Force will be hosting several storm drain marker installation activities in conjunction with civic groups throughout the Valley. I will make sure to keep everyone informed as the information becomes available.

The weather is still great. I am so glad we live in such a beautiful and comfortable region. I will take the heat of summer to be able to enjoy the weather we are experiencing right now.

Looking ahead,

Jaime Flores

February 9, 2009

Hello Arroyo Partners:

The Agricultural Issues Workgroup, Habitat Workgroup and Steering Committee held their meetings on January 26th, and were quite productive. Everyone that attended was updated on the ongoing efforts of each workgroup as well as informed about the many challenges that the ACWP still faces. I would like to thank the LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force for sponsoring the food and drinks at the Steering Committee meeting. We will be posting the summaries of the meetings on the Web site soon.

One of the topics that was revisited was the sustainability of our Partnership. We have a lot of options and are interested in hearing from you as to the best way for us to succeed beyond federal support. If you have experience with leading a local supported organization, please contact me as we would like your input. One of our options includes applying for 501c3 status, which involves identifying three potential board members to direct the Arroyo Colorado Partnership. If you have someone in mind or you would like to nominate yourself, please feel free to contact me. We encourage and need your involvement as we begin this new phase of our partnership.

The LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force and the ACWP are still conducting local school classroom presentations throughout the Valley. Since the Workgroup and SC meetings we have presented to another eight schools. We have had great feedback from the principals, curriculum directors, teachers and the students. The Task Force is developing curriculum for the teachers so they can continue engaging the students after the presentation. These kids are going to have an uphill battle to save the Arroyo. They need to know about the problems that our water bodies are facing.

Ouina Rutledge, the Renewable Resources Manager for the City of McAllen, is pleased to announce that The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council awarded the City a grant for the construction of a Compost Demonstration and Education Garden. The ribbon cutting/reception ceremony will be February 12th at 10:00am. We hope everyone that is interested can attend. For more information please call or email Ouina at 956-681-4050, <orutledge@mcallen.net>.

The Friends of South Texas Refuges have announced that the 10th Annual Ocelot Festival will be held this Saturday, Feb. 14th, from 10am to 5pm. It is being held at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen. For more information contact Stacy Sanchez at (956)748-3607 x115 or at stacy_sanchez @fws.gov or visit <<http://www.friendsofsouthtexasrefuges.org>> www.friendsofsouthtexasrefuges.org.

Jerry Durham, the Education & Public Programs Director for the International Museum of Arts & Science, would like to invite everyone to the museum for World Water Day on March 21st. IMAS will have several presentations and activities related to water and water conservation.

The Arroyo Colorado Partnership and the LRGV-TPDES Task Force are planning several storm drain marker installation activities in conjunction with civic groups throughout the Valley. I will make sure to keep everyone informed as the information becomes available.

The entire Rio Grande Valley could really use some rain. It is amazing that just six months ago, we were overwhelmed with the amount of rain that Dolly dropped on us. Now we are looking to the sky, hoping for more.

Looking ahead,

Jaime Flores

February 25, 2009

Hello Arroyo Partners:

Spring is in the air and the weather has been great. There are quite a few events that are coming up that you might be interested in.

The City of La Feria would like to invite everyone to attend their Fiesta De La Feria. The Fiesta will be this Saturday, February 28th from 9:00 am to 10:00pm. There will be a children's area with the Arroyo Colorado Watershed model on display, an arts and crafts area, a car show and two live bands on two different stages. The Fiesta De La Feria is free and open to the public.

The Rio Grande Livestock Show and Rodeo will be held at the Mercedes Livestock Show grounds from March 14th-22nd. The Texas Department of Agriculture will have a "Planet Agriculture" Exhibit in one of the exhibit halls. There will be a number of exhibits and presentations promoting agricultural literacy and conservation. The Arroyo Colorado Watershed model will be on display March 14th-17th.

Jerry Durham, the Education & Public Programs Director for the International Museum of Arts & Science, would like to invite everyone to the museum for World Water Day on March 21st. IMAS will have several presentations and activities related to water and water conservation.

The Valley Land Fund in conjunction with the Payne Auto Group would like to invite everyone to the Concert for Conservation to be held March 26th at El Rancho Charco on Walker Lake. There will be a silent auction at 6:00 pm and live musical entertainment provided by Texas Heat and special guests, Boneyard, from 7:00-10:00 pm. For more information call the VLF at 686-6429.

The City of McAllen would like to invite everyone to their 2nd Annual Green Family Festival "Vida Verde" on April 18th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Quinta Mazatlan McAllen wing of the World Birding Center. The mission of the festival is to educate, engage, encourage and empower families and businesses to lead a more sustainable existence. There will live entertainment for children and families, creative culture, Earth art, speakers' series, educational booths and exhibits, and into the woods trail walks.

The Arroyo Colorado Partnership and the LRGV-TPDES Task Force will be having several storm drain marker installation activities on April 18th, throughout the Valley to celebrate Earth Day. I will provide more specific details as they become available.

I hope to see many of you at these great events.

Looking ahead,

Jaime Flores
