

Public Participation Plan for the North and Central Lower Rio Grande Valley Watershed Protection Plan (February 2019)

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

The Northern and Central Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) watersheds are north of the Arroyo Colorado watershed in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy counties. The watersheds include several TCEQ segments (Figure 1-1): North Floodway (2494B_01), Hidalgo Main Floodwater Channel (2491C_03), Raymondville Drain (2491C_01), Willacy Main Drain (2491C_02), and remaining perennial freshwater drainage ditches flowing into main drains (2491C_04). The Raymondville Drain and the Hidalgo Main flow into the Lower Laguna Madre Bay assessment unit (AU) 2491_01 which is impaired for low dissolved oxygen (DO). The North Floodway flows into the Lower Laguna Madre AU 2491_02 which is impaired for low DO and bacteria. Of note, the Arroyo Colorado also flows into AU 2491_02.

The project area is comprised of subwatersheds associated with the Raymondville Drain, the Hidalgo Floodway, and the IBWC pilot channel (IBWC North Floodway). These major waterways contribute freshwater and stormwater to the Laguna Madre. This project will begin the assessment of these subwatersheds. It is anticipated that these three distinct subwatersheds will need to be assessed, quantified, and identified as separate major watersheds in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

There is a lack of water quality data collection within the target region and limited data has been collected to assess the project watershed(s) impairments and concerns or determine the contributing sources. The watershed has not been characterized and stakeholders are unaware of the concerns and impairments. Stakeholders need to be educated on the potential causes of the impairments to assist in determining goals and objectives for reducing pollutants in their watershed. Part of raising awareness is to provide watershed characterization information including geographic boundaries and available water quality data. Identification of existing data will take place to provide to stakeholders so that future planning and implementation activities can take place.

Stakeholders also need to be engaged to determine what existing data is available and to define the goals and objectives of potential future watershed-based plans. Through the stakeholder engagement process, as well as a series of public meetings to solicit public input, a course of action for addressing potential pollutant loads can be determined.

This project will consider evaluating the northern boundary of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed. Project leaders will work with the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership, its stakeholders, and the TCEQ to identify issues and concerns that may arise from this project that may impact the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan.

In an effort to address the concerns and impairments of the Lower Laguna Madre (2491) assessment units 01 and 02, the watersheds of the North and Central Lower Rio Grande Valley (NCLRGV) watersheds, comprised of the Raymondville Drain, the Hidalgo Floodway, and the IBWC Floodway must be characterized to identify potential causes and sources. This project will identify existing data and identify data gaps for characterization as well as identify a path forward by selecting an analytical method for estimating pollutant loads. This project will also engage, educate, and solicit input from stakeholders on the goals, objectives, and indicators for addressing the impairments and concerns. Ultimately, it is the goal of this project to partially accomplish Element A and initiate Element E of EPA's nine elements for watershed-based plans found in the Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect our Waters.

This project will start the watershed characterization by acquiring existing data from various sources, identifying potential causes of water quality impairments and issues, identifying potential sources of

pollution and relative contribution, and completing an inventory of data. This data will be analyzed to identify information that can be used to assess current conditions. A conceptual model will be developed to show the linkage between the water quality problems and sources of impairments. This analysis, to the extent possible, will include a spatial and temporal exploration of water quality problems and sources of pollution in the watershed. Identification and analysis of existing data will assist in determining data gaps and what data needs to be collected in the future. Additionally, the existing data and new data will drive the selection of the analytical method that will be used for estimating pollutant loads.

In addition to the above mentioned data collection and interpretation, stakeholders will be engaged to provide the local input needed to identify goals, objectives, and indicators that will help in the watershed planning process. To begin, the project team will develop a public participation plan that will outline how the public will be engaged and an associated timeline to ensure that project goals and objectives are carried out. To implement the public participation plan, the project team will identify and meet with key individuals on individual or a small group basis to inform them on the water quality issues and solicit their input on the most appropriate methods for proceeding. Public stakeholder meetings will also be held in an effort to develop/refine goals that will meet water quality standards, identify issues and concerns of the stakeholders, solicit input on major deliverables, and gain public acceptance of the project. Further, project information will be disseminated through public outreach and educational opportunities as well as through media sources, events, and a project website. Information and partnerships gleaned from this project will provide the foundation for future watershed based plan development as the impairments and concerns are addressed. Characterization through this project will provide the local knowledge from stakeholders about sources of pollution and data collected will provide a basis for analytical approaches that can be taken.

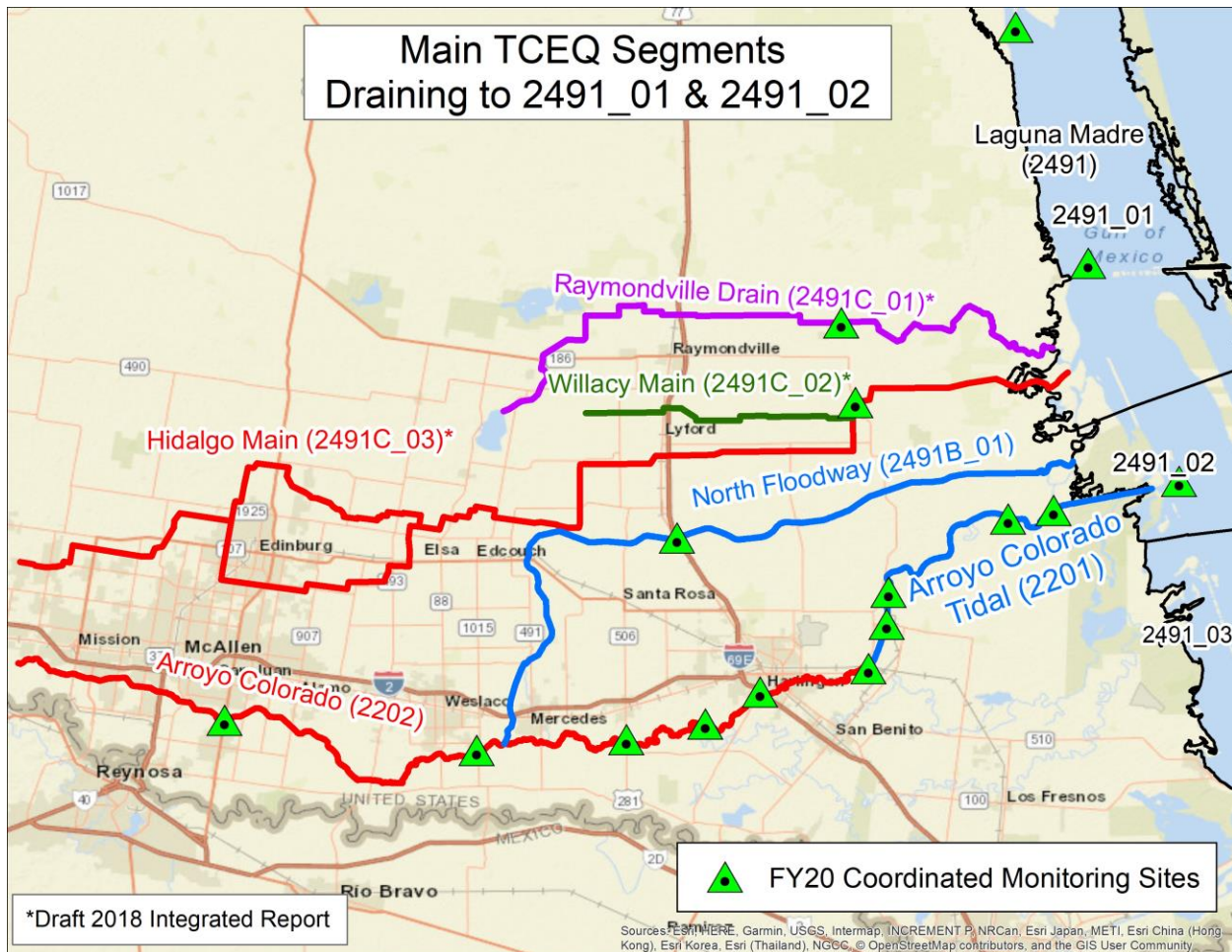


Figure 1-1. Map of TCEQ defined segments and coordinated monitoring sites flowing into the Lower Laguna Madre assessment units 2491_01 and 2491_02. More information on coordinated monitoring sites can be found at <https://cms.lcra.org/>.

1.4 Public Participation Plan (PPP) Purpose

This PPP has several important purposes for the project. It identifies key stakeholders in the watershed and provides a format for their participation in the Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) process. The PPP also helps raise public awareness and outreach for the project. Finally, it develops a structure for continued input and interaction with the public and stakeholders for this project.

Increasingly, public participation in decision making is vital to the success of community projects. This PPP shows how the NCLRGV Watershed Partnership will communicate and engage the community in an ongoing effort to develop a WPP. Stakeholder input during this project will be gathered on the NCLRGV watershed and its potential pollutant sources. As part of the collaborative process, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) will work with stakeholders and partners to create a vision, goals, and action items that incorporate the environmental, economic, and social values of stakeholders and partners. The UTRGV will also work with stakeholders and partners to reconcile different values and viewpoints of the various participants in order to arrive at mutually acceptable management recommendations.

1.5 Project Time Frame (Tasks 3 and 4)

Schedule of Deliverables

Task No.	Task Deliverable	Due Date
3 Watershed Characterization – Data Evaluation and Analysis		
3.1	Summary of existing data and information	Quarter 4, Month 1
3.2	Database Establishment	Quarter 3, Month 1
3.3	Interim Existing Data and Information Analysis Report	Quarter 4, Month 2
3.4	PowerPoint for presentation to stakeholders	Quarter 6, Month 2
3.5	Draft Watershed Characterization and Next Steps Report	Quarter 6, Month 2
3.5	Final Watershed Characterization and Next Steps Report	Quarter 8, Month 2
4 Partnership Coordination		
4.1	PPP	Quarter 2, Month 1
4.2	Documentation of key stakeholder meetings, including agendas, presentations, and sign in sheets (minimum 3 per quarter)	Quarterly
4.3	Raymondville Drain Stakeholder Group - Documentation of group meetings, including agendas, press releases, presentations, and sign in sheets (minimum 2 per year)	Quarters 2, 4, 6, and 8
4.3	Hidalgo Main Stakeholder Group - Documentation of group meetings, including agendas, press releases, presentations, and sign in sheets, minimum of two (2) per year;	Quarters 2, 4, 6, and 8
4.3	North Floodway Stakeholder Group - Documentation of group meetings, including agendas, press releases, presentations, and sign in sheets, minimum of two (2) per year;	Quarters 2, 4, 6, and 8

Task No.	Task Deliverable	Due Date
4.3	Annual Regional Watershed Stakeholder Meeting for the three stakeholder groups	Quarter 4 and Quarter 8
4.3	Documentation of public education and outreach events, including agendas, press releases, presentations, and sign in sheets (minimum 3 per year, total of 6)	Quarters 2-7
4.4	Documentation of project webpage and updates	Quarterly, in QPR
4.5	Draft Partnership Coordination Report	Quarter 8, Month 1 (with Final Report)
4.5	Final Partnership Coordination Report	At least two weeks prior to the end of the Contract (with Final Report)

2.0 Lead Agencies Roles & Responsibilities

2.1 Stakeholder Facilitation

UTRGV will continue to recruit a diverse group of stakeholders, both ideologically and geographically throughout the watershed, that are representative of the people that live in the watershed and have an interest in improving the water quality. UTRGV will engage stakeholders from many different groups including urban stormwater, wastewater, infrastructure, agricultural, habitat, and economic. The project team will select stakeholders from existing groups as well additional stakeholders that have roles and interest in the watershed.

UTRGV will facilitate the stakeholder meetings and activities. UTRGV's Project Manager will function as the facilitator and primary point of contact with the stakeholder group. UTRGV will set up meetings, create awareness about the project throughout the community, and maintain working relationships with stakeholders.

2.2 Existing Data Collection and Analysis

UTRGV will be responsible for data collection and analysis to include:

- Assemble existing data and information
- Analyze existing data and information
- Identify data gaps
- Summary of existing data and information
- Maps and graphs presented to stakeholders on water quality and pollution sources.
- Watershed Characterization and Next Steps Report

2.3 Report Writing

UTRGV with input from the Stakeholder Groups will write the existing watershed data assessment and other associated reports. The reports will be written in such a manner that all stakeholders will easily be able to understand the information and be able to use the reports in order to provide feedback and implement the management measures of what eventually will be WPP. The WPP will satisfy portions of the EPA's 9 Elements of Watershed-Based Plans, as laid out in EPA's, "[Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters](#)". Nine-element WPPs are required for all TCEQ 319-funded WPPs. Additional water quality and flow data collection is necessary in this watershed in order to develop a nine-element WPP.

3.0 Project Partners

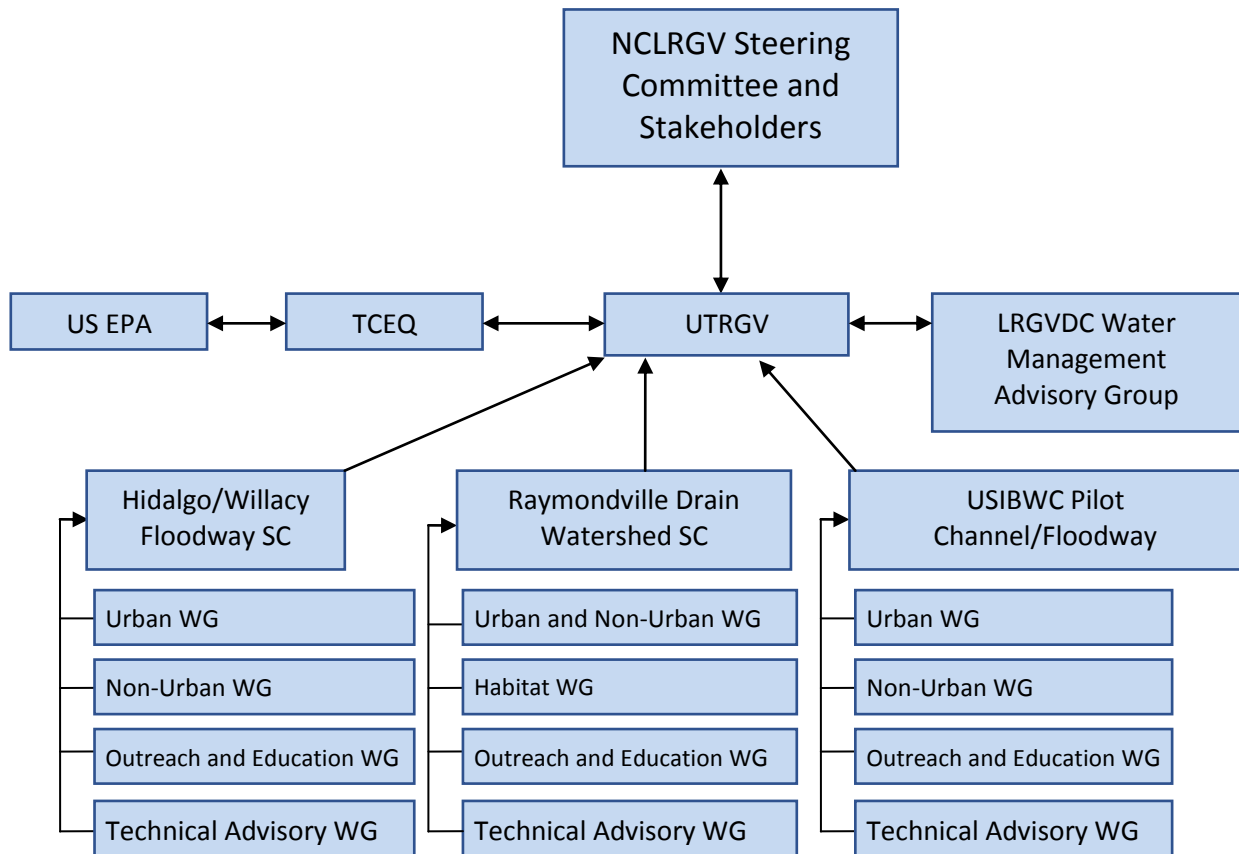
3.1 Partners List

- UTRGV (Lead Agency)
- LRGV TPDS Stormwater TaskForce (Assists with Stakeholder Group Facilitation)
- TCEQ
- Texas State and Soil Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

EPA3.2 Project Organization Chart

The NCLRGV Stakeholder Group is a coalition of organizations and stakeholders committed to restoring and/or protecting the aquatic resources of the waterbodies in the NCLRGV. The Stakeholder Group consists of funding agencies, project partners, stakeholders and technical advisors as outlined below.

Partnership organization chart



3.3 Partners Roles & Responsibilities

All partners involved agree to cooperate and work beside all other agencies to reach the goals of the project. Each partner should work to accomplish each responsibility it took upon itself to assure the success of the project.

3.4 Partners Communication Protocol

Individuals are not permitted to speak on behalf of the Watershed Partnership or Stakeholder Committee as a whole unless authorized by the Partnership or Committee to do so. Members of the Partnership do not speak for UTRGV, TCEQ, TSSWCB, or other Partnership members. If a Partnership/Committee spokesperson is needed, they will be selected by the Partnership.

An open line of communication will exist between members of the Partnership and the UTRGV Project Manager. In order to keep partners informed, all press releases, public notices, and any media communications that may relate to the project will be distributed electronically and placed on the project webpage.

4.0 Watershed Stakeholder Group

4.1 Stakeholder Group Structure

All stakeholders involved in the planning process will fall under the structure of the Watershed Partnership. There are two types of committees with the following roles and responsibilities.

- **Steering/Stakeholder Committee:** The Steering/Stakeholder Committee will be responsible for making decisions and approving the final Watershed Characterization Report. Input from the Work Groups, UTRGV, and state and federal partners will be taken into consideration for decisions. UTRGV facilitates the Steering/Stakeholder Committee.
- **Work Groups:** The Steering Committee established 4 Work Groups to facilitate discussion and receive input from local stakeholders. These Work Groups are 1) Technical Advisory Committee, Non-Urban, Habitat, Urban and Infrastructure. UTRGV facilitates the Work Groups.

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities

Each Stakeholder Group member should attend meetings and is expected to participate fully in all group deliberations. Members will offer insights, suggestions, and concerns from a community, environmental, or public interest perspective. Committee members are expected to work together to achieve a consensus. The decision making process is further described in Section 4.8.

4.3 Agencies involved as Stakeholders

Agencies and organizations that are considered potential stakeholders are listed below.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership
Cameron County
Willacy County
Hidalgo County
Hidalgo and Willacy Drainage Districts
All irrigation districts
USIBWC
School Districts
All the cities within the boundaries of the watersheds
Nueces River Authority
Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge
LRGV Stormwater Task Force
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Water Development Board
Texas Department of Transportation
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
United States Department of Agriculture
Sierra Club – Rio Grande Valley Chapter

University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley
Texas A&M-Kingsville
Research, Applied Technology Education and Service (R.A.T.E.S)
Texas State Technical College

4.4 Citizens (by interest type) involved as Stakeholders

The project partners have identified major land uses and business types in the watershed for inclusion in the stakeholder process as listed below.

Rural landowners, ranchers, and producers
City Residents
Local Land Developers
Local Homebuilders
Local Home Owners Associations
Local Engineering Associations/Local Engineering Consultants
Major Business Owners (represented by area Chamber of Commerce)

4.5 Steering/Stakeholder Committee and Work Group Membership

Stakeholders are defined as those who make and implement decisions, those who are affected by decisions made or those who have the ability to assist with the implementation of decisions. Anyone who falls within these broad categories or has an interest in improving water quality within the NCLRGV watersheds can become a stakeholder in the Watershed Partnership. The Steering/Stakeholder Committee is composed of representatives from a diversity of interests and geographic locations in the watershed. The members represent stakeholder groups who are most affected by this project.

Steering Committee Members per watershed work groups

A. Hidalgo/Willacy Floodway Watershed Protection Plan - Includes region above the Arroyo Colorado to the south watershed boundary of the Raymondville Drain, and from the Starr County border to the Laguna Madre

Steering Committee:

1. Chair David Fuentes, Hidalgo County Commissioner
2. Vice Chair Eduardo Gonzalez, Willacy Commissioner
3. Marci Oveido, LRGVDC
4. Andrew Ernest, UTRGV
5. Melisa Gonzales, City of Alamo
6. Chris Fuller, Ph.D., RATES/RGV
7. Tushar Sinha, Ph.D., TAMUK
8. Ahmed Mahmoud, Ph.D., UTRGV
9. Jose Hinojosa, LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force
10. David Alaniz, City of La Villa
11. Javier Guerrero, UTRGV

B. Raymondville Drain Watershed Protection Plan - Includes region above the Hidalgo/Willacy Floodway northern watershed boundary to the northern LRGV County limits, and from the Starr County border to the Laguna Madre

Steering Committee:

1. Chair Eduardo Gonzalez, Willacy County Commissioner
2. Vice Chair Jose Hinojosa, SCID#15
3. Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County Commissioner
4. Mardoqueo Hinojosa, P.E. City of Edinburg
5. Andrew Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., UTRGV
6. Marcie Oveido, LRGVDC
7. Kim Jones, P.E., TAMUK
8. Chris Fuller, RATES/RGV
9. Javier Guerrero, UTRGV
10. El Sauz Ranch TBD
11. Member TBD

C. USIBWC Pilot Channel/Floodway Watershed Protection Plan - From the Rio Grande River region, including regions not included in the Arroyo watershed, along the Rio Grande River continuing north and then east to the Laguna Madre.

Steering Committee:

1. Chair Andrew Ernest, UTRGV
2. Vice Chair Juan Uribe, USIBWC
3. Marci Oveido, LRGVDC
4. Augusto Sanchez, Cameron County
5. Eduardo Gonzalez, Willacy Commissioner
6. David Fuentes, Hidalgo County Commissioner
7. Jose Figueroa, City of Mercedes
8. Juan Cesar Bezares-Cruz, TAMUK
9. Benjamin Worsham, City of Weslaco
10. David Salinas, City of San Juan
11. David Alaniz, City of La Villa

Elements that may be included in each workgroup scope

- A. Funding Sources (grants, corporate partners, etc.)
- B. Economic Development
- C. Education and Outreach
- D. Coastal issues
- E. Regulatory issues
- F. Modeling
- G. Sources and Quantification of Pollutant Loading
- H. Available Data and Data Gaps
- I. Monitoring of Water Quantity and Water Quality
- J. Load Reductions, Management Measures and Best Management Practices
- K. Habitat Preservation

4.5.1 Replacements and Additions

The Steering/Stakeholder Committee may add new members if (1) a member is unable to continue serving and a vacancy is created or (2) important stakeholder interests are identified that are not represented by the existing membership.

4.5.2 Alternates

Members unable to attend Steering/Stakeholder Committee meetings (an absentee) may send an alternate. Absentees may also provide input via another committee member or send input via the UTRGV Project Manager, as the facilitator for these meetings. The facilitator will present such information to the committee.

4.5.3 Absences

All Steering/Stakeholder Committee members agree to make a good faith effort to attend all meetings. However, the members recognize that situations may arise necessitating the absence of a member. Please notify the facilitator of planned absences or alternates attending for your interest group.

4.6 Goals and Management Measure Development

The NCLRGV Watersheds Partnership will assist with developing the goals and Management Measures for the WPP. The Partnership will also identify and prioritize programs and practices to achieve the goals. The stakeholders are ultimately responsible for the implementation of the project. The ultimate goal of this project is to develop a nine-element WPP and then implement the management measures.

4.7 Decision Making

The Steering/Stakeholder Committee is the decision making body for the Partnership. The Committee will strive for consensus when making decisions and recommendations. Consensus is defined as everyone being able to live with the decisions being made that will have an impact on the watershed. It is understood that to reach a consensus in such a diverse group of stakeholders will require compromise and negotiation from the project partners.

4.7.1 Stakeholder Input

Topics, ideas, and opinions of stakeholders regarding the WPP will be welcomed at stakeholder meetings. Additionally, UTRGV will have an open door policy to information, opinions and feedback from stakeholders throughout the project. However, stakeholders are encouraged to provide constructive input during meetings providing information for the benefit of the Partnership as a whole.

4.8 Meetings

As of now most are held at LRGVDC in Weslaco, Tx.

4.8.1 Ground Rules

All meetings are open to the public and all interested stakeholders are encouraged and welcome to participate. Participants should be able to freely express their opinions at the meeting, to get all the viewpoints onto the table. A series of guest speakers, who are experts in certain areas of the project, will be invited to present and provide information at some of the meetings to ensure all participants are fully informed on relevant topics involving the project.

1. Be open to new concepts and be respectful of other points of view.

2. There will be no audio or visual recording of meetings: minutes of meetings will be a brief overview of topics discussed and will be emailed to the group and placed on the NCLRGV watersheds website.
3. All Committee members agree to make an effort to attend all Watershed Partnership Committee meetings. We do recognize that members may have other obligations and are unable to attend. In this case:
 - a. If members are unable to attend a meeting, they should send a replacement.
4. Committee Decisions:
 - a. Committee will approve recommendations by consensus
 - b. If consensus cannot be reached, then recommendations will be decided by 2/3 majority.
5. The Committee will make recommendations based on information they have gathered and on input from stakeholders
 - a. Subcommittee recommendations will be accepted based on Watershed Committee consensus with final approval from the Watershed Committee Chair.

4.8.2 Frequency

Steering Committee will be quarterly. Work Group meetings will meet as needed-to provide input and help the steering committees for inclusion of the first five elements in the WPP.

Meeting times will be set in an effort to accommodate the attendance of all Committee members. The UTRGV Project Manager will notify members of the Committee and Work Groups of meetings dates and times.

4.8.3 Materials Distribution

UTRGV will be responsible for the creation of documents and paperwork relevant to the project. UTRGV will be responsible for the distribution of materials via email and/or United States Postal Service (USPS). Electronic or email will be used preferentially, although if requested, participants will receive documents via USPS. UTRGV will be responsible for posting the materials to the project webpage. The project webpage is located at this address: ***TBD***. Materials will include meeting agendas, education materials and PowerPoint presentation handouts to be distributed prior to each meeting and meeting summaries to be distributed following each meeting.

Distribution will occur via mail (as requested), email and the project webpage. To encourage equal sharing of information, materials will be made available to any interested party or stakeholder that wishes to receive the materials. Those who wish to distribute materials to the Steering/Stakeholder Committee and/or Work Groups will ask the UTRGV Project Manager to do so on their behalf.

All meeting minutes will be documented and posted on the project webpage. The documentation of topics, ideas and opinions discussed at meetings will allow stakeholders to see how their involvement has affected the planning process over time.

4.8.4 Meeting Notifications

Future meeting dates will be discussed at each stakeholder meeting to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide input on scheduling. Meeting notifications will be sent out at least two weeks prior to the meeting date to ensure all stakeholders and citizens are aware and had appropriate notice. Notification methods will include:

- Email

- Letters (to stakeholders that do not use email)
- Phone calls to Committee Members
- Project Web Page
- Media

4.9 Media Protocol

The UTRGV Project Manager, will be responsible for communications with the media.

If Partnership or Stakeholder Committee members have an issue regarding the watershed planning process, they will voice their concerns to the UTRGV Project Manager instead of exploiting media outlets.

5.0 Public Outreach and Education

An outreach and education campaign will be initiated to create public awareness for the Watershed Planning Project. A variety of methods will be utilized to distribute information about the project and ways in which individuals can become involved. The program will educate citizens about local water quality issues, NPS pollution, watershed functions, and how individual actions can have an effect on local water quality.

UTRGV will work closely with stakeholders to communicate project goals, activities and findings to ensure that decision-making regarding the waterbody is stakeholder-driven. To communicate project goals, activities, results and accomplishments to affected parties, UTRGV will facilitate public Steering Committee/Stakeholder meetings. The Project Team will develop and disseminate educational materials to watershed stakeholders through methods listed below.

1. Project Webpage (UTRGV responsibility)
2. Electronic mail (UTRGV responsibility)
3. Direct mail (UTRGV responsibility)
4. Local Newspapers (UTRGV responsibility)
5. Public notices (UTRGV responsibility)

As part of this project, UTRGV will create an effective plan to reach the target audiences with specific information and social marketing solutions to inform the public, garner support and change behaviors throughout the watershed. Activities may include:

- Partnerships with schools to conduct outreach water quality education;
- Campaigns to distribute water protection brochures and market the outreach plan;
- Urban growth /Low Impact Development workshops;
- Texas Watershed Steward training;
- Texas Stream Team education events and trainings;
- Septic system workshops;
- Campaigns regarding illegal dumping and litter

5.1 Media Relations

5.1.1 Proactive Media Outreach/Response

The UTRGV Project Manager in cooperation with the project partners will be responsible for identifying the proactive opportunities for media outreach. The UTRGV Project Manager may use press releases to announce partnership meetings, events, general information and opportunities for public involvement.

5.1.2 Protocol for Inquires, Misinformation

In order to ensure consistency, well informed answers will be provided to the media outlets. All media inquiries regarding the Watershed Planning Project should be directed to the UTRGV Project Manager. Members of the Partnership or Stakeholder Committee should not speak on behalf of the Partnership. Misinformation issues should be handled on a case by case basis. Members of the Partnership should stay informed of public opinion and all news regarding the Watershed Planning Project.

5.1.3 News Releases

News releases will be developed as needed to communicate key points regarding the project, announce meeting dates and times and Outreach & Education events/workshops. Press releases will be produced by

the Project Team and will be issued on the project web page. The UTRGV Project Manager will also email press releases to stakeholders.

5.2 Designated Spokespersons

The Project Team will assign a primary and secondary spokesperson to represent the Watershed Partnership. The spokespersons will share a unified message regarding the watershed planning process and issues the plan will address. They will communicate both technical and general information to interested parties.

5.3 Internet

UTRGV currently maintains a website for the NCLRGV Watersheds Partnership. The project webpage is located at this address***TBD*** The webpage will provide an overview of water quality concerns within the watershed and links to project partners. It will also contain information regarding the project; including media coverage, maps, factsheets, photos, meeting agendas and meeting minutes. UTRGV will maintain the project webpage on its website.

5.4 Advertising

The use of advertising may be used to promote events and activities related to the project. It will be used to ensure appropriate information is being released to the public and that public participation is encouraged at every opportunity.

Times when advertising may be required include:

- Public Notices - properly inform public of upcoming notices
- Events - To raise awareness for forums or other events that offer the public an opportunity to obtain accurate info about the project and have concerns addressed.
- Education issues - To help communicate specific points that may come under particular scrutiny or be a focus of misinformation.
- Emergency Action - when crisis issues need to be addressed immediately via advertising.

6.0 Glossary

AU - Assessment Unit

BMP - Best Management Practice

NCLRGV – North and Central Lower Rio Grande Valley

LRGVDC – Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

LRGVSTF – Lower Rio Grande Valley Stormwater Task Force

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

GIS - Geographic Information System

LDC - Load Duration Curve

NPS - Nonpoint Source

NRA – Nueces River Authority

PPP - Public Participation Plan

QAPP - Quality Assurance Project Plan

Stakeholder - those who make and implement decisions, those who are affected by decisions made or those who have the ability to assist with the implementation of decisions.

SWMP - Storm Water Management Program

TCEQ - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Load

TPWD - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

TSSWCB – Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

USPS – United States Postal Service

UTRGV – University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley

WPP - Watershed Protection Plan