

**Hidalgo Willacy Floodway Watershed Protection Plan Steering Committee Meeting
September 25, 2019 | 12:00 PM | Hidalgo Co. Pct. 1 Offices, Weslaco, Tx**

1. Welcome and Introductions: Alejandro Livas

	Participants	Role
	David Fuentes	Hidalgo County Commissioner
X	Eduardo Gonzales	Willacy County Commissioner
	Blanca Davila	LRGVDC
X	Andrew Ernest, Ph.D.	UTRGV
X	Melisa Gonzales	City of Alamo
	Rodrigo Davila	City of Harlingen
	Tushar Sinha, Ph.D.	TAMUK
X	Ahmed Mahmoud, Ph.D.	UTRGV
X	Jose Hinojosa	LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force
X	David Alaniz	City of La Villa
	Javier Guerrero	RATES-RGV
X	Alejandro Livas	Hidalgo Co. Pct. 1
X	Oscar Garza	City of Elsa
X	Roxana Tello	RATES-RGV
X	Kimberly Salinas	City of Harlingen
X	Tim Cawthon	TCEQ
X	Roy Jimenez	City of Donna
X	Daniel Ramirez	City of Donna
X	David Salinas	City of San Juan
X	Roel Garza	City of San Juan
X	Peter Hermida	City of Weslaco
X	Isidro Venecia	City of La Joya
X	Juan De La Garza	City of Mission

2. Watershed Protection Plans – Mr. Tim Cawthon

PowerPoint presentation discussing watershed-based planning and steps for watershed characterization, focusing on EPA’s Elements A and B, see attached presentation.

- a. Watershed Planning Process
- b. Arroyo Colorado WPP
- c. Watershed Characterization
- d. Complicated Drainage: defining source areas and sub basins
- e. Local GIS Viewers: available public data for local communities where GIS software is not needed

3. Project Update – Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud

PowerPoint presentation discussing Hidalgo/Willacy Floodway Watershed Partnership, see attached presentation.

- a. Project Overview: characterizing major sub-watersheds in Hidalgo/Willacy Floodway by gathering existing data and identifying any gaps, in order to identify any potential causes and sources of impairments.
- b. Potential Data Sources: different flow and water monitoring stations around the counties, existing data and maps from local cities and counties.
- c. Geospatial and Non Geospatial Data: showing available GIS layers of local roads, drainage networks, land use, drainage projects, flow, drinking water and climate data.
- d. Steering Committee Members: need to define sub steering committee members in different sectors including – urban & Infrastructure, agriculture, and coastal
- e. Technical Committee Members: consists of Dr. Ernest, Chris Fuller, and representative from HCDD1, WCDD1 and CCDD1
- f. Update on project website: project overview, meetings' agendas and minutes posted there

4. REON – Dr. Andrew Ernest

PowerPoint presentation over Rivers and Estuaries Observatory Network (REON) technologies. Major initiative in developing low cost sensor technology for local communities by providing a continuous real time hydrologic and water quality network.

5. Known Data Gaps – Dr. Andrew Ernest

- a. Coming from sub committees, getting right representation for each sector
- b. Dr. Ernest says biggest issue will be how to separate urban influence from the agricultural sector
- c. Suggestions for Urban and Infrastructure Workgroup:
 - Saul Garcia (Hidalgo County)
 - Jose Figueroa (City of Mercedes)
 - City of Raymondville
 - City of Lyford
 - City of La Villa
 - One of the commissioners
 - David Alaniz (City of La Villa)
 - Business owner from Sebastian
- d. Suggestions for Agricultural Workgroup:
 - Ronny Ramirez (Soil Conservation Board)
 - Jamie Flores (TWRI)
 - Member from Willacy County
 - Member from Hidalgo County
 - Juan Benizgo (Farmers Information)
 - Sean Basheer
- e. Suggestions for Coastal Workgroup:
 - Land Owner
 - Member for the Navigation District
 - Jessica Gracida (Willacy County)
 - Troy Allen (City of Raymondville)
 - Member from Hidalgo County

- f. Suggestions for Technical Advisory Workgroup:
 - Paul Greenhill
 - Raul Sesin (HCDD1)

6. Logo Discussion

- a. Members agreed on Hidalgo and Willacy County Floodway Watershed logo shown by Dr. Mahmoud

7. Agenda for Next Meeting

8. Other

Reminder to join IBWC Tour of Floodways Mercedes to Laguna Madre, meeting in Mercedes USIBWC Offices at 8 AM.

Workshop with HCDD1 next week (tentative date), discussing REON technologies.

9. Adjourn