

Lower Laguna Madre-Brownsville Ship Channel WPP
Habitat Work Group Meeting Notes
February 3, 2021
11:30-13:07

1. Attendees

- a) Albert Barreda- CCDD1
 - b) Chris Fuller-RATES
 - c) Desi Maritnez-Los Fresnos
 - d) Xavier Cervantes- City of Harlingen
 - e) Joe Hinojosa-Santa Cruz Irrigation District/Chair of LRGVSWTF
 - f) Derek Katznelson- LRGVDC
 - g) Ahmed Mahmoud- UTRGV
 - h) Hudson DeYoe- UTRGV
 - i) Raul Garcia- Cameron County
 - j) Tony Reisinger- CC Extension Texas Agrilife and SeaGrant
 - k) Commissioner Garza-Cameron County
 - l) Abdoul Oubeidillah-UTRGV
 - m) Raul Gomez-Cameron County
 - n) Kim Jones-TAMUK
 - o) Augusto Sanchez-Cameron County NRC
 - p) Rick Carrera-LRGVDC
 - q) Andrew Ernest- RATES
 - r) Jose Figueroa- City of Mercedes
 - s) Jessica Johnstone-TCEQ
 - t) Raymond Ramirez- TSSWCB
 - u) Jessica Gracida - Willacy County
 - v) Kate de Gennaro – Texas Sea Grant
 - w) David De La Fuentes - Soil and Water City of Edinburg
 - x) Deanna LeVrier- RATES RGV
 - y) Alex Sanchez- SPI
2. Andy Ernest-Opened with welcome and introductions
3. Desi Martinez- consultant for Los Fresnos- focuses ecosystem Resaca restoration, wildlife conservation and ecotourism objectives. Question why it is off the WPP. Seeking funding from TGLO, TCEQ. Invasive species are adversely impacting (Brazilian peppers?). Suggest possible: dredging etc.
Will look and see why Resaca falls outside WPP boundary?
Add Desi Martinez be added to Steering Committee invitation list.
4. Modeling Efforts- Andy gave brief overview. Objective: determine origin of NPS to LLM
5. Tony Reisinger- asked about including NPS from SPI. Andy responded that project study area is the mainland. Tony asked to bring SPI contribution to the Steering Committee Meeting.
6. No Questions regarding Modeling
7. Ahmed- presented existing data
- a. TGLO Coastal Management Zone and NHD
 - b. Land Cover
 - c. Soil Map
 - d. Soil area- Watershed area was
 - e. NPS pollutants

8. Tony Reisinger- indicated number of Nigial in Bahia Grande. Check with USFW regarding population density. TPWD that may be available. New wildlife manager at Laguna Atascosa.
9. Andy- suggested biggest issue may be land cover and land use due to recent development. Significant value. Requested input of data sources: USGS National Land Cover Database, will be updated soon? (Derek Katznelson) . Need to track down next release date and incorporate if applicable.
10. Modeling Assumptions
11. Feral Hog Density- check ACCWPP for what number is used there, reach out to Texas Agri Life regarding. Check Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife Refuge Persons regarding
12. Livestock density- check with county. Need to check date of most recent survey. Andy- is county wide data have the necessary resolution, assumed to be sufficient because its by land cover type. Rick Carrera indicated that it is include in census (check with Rick to clarify, difficult to understand)
13. Pet populations- Andy suggest, what about feral pets. Maybe look a Animal Control (county and city)
14. Tony Resignier– Hog population 8.9- 16.4 hogs/sq mile. TPWD needs to be revise
15. Deer and Nilgai-Follow up with Laguna Atascosa, Bahia Grande (inquire about Cattle given grazing rights). Check with Parks and Wildlife
16. Bird Population- Red Head Ducks add to load in LLM seasonally. USFW check with both Federal and TPWD for impacts on
17. Augusto Sanchez – CCBEP- Ray Allen- Stephanie Billado.
18. Look at pelican- Check Gelstan, Robin (TxDOT)
19. Colonial birds- Stephanie Billado (CCBEP)- cormorant, egrets, pelicans, etc.
20. Jessica had no additional comments.
21. Next working group meeting to be scheduled.
22. Ahmed announced next WG meeting
23. Kate- inquired about other WPP. Want to join the other list. Add everyone on list to mailing list.