

Raymondville Drain Watershed Partnership Steering Committee Meeting
Group Work Meeting Notes
March 24th, 2021
11:30-13:22

1. Attendees:
 - A) Commissioner Ellie Torres-Hidalgo County
 - B) Carlos A. Sanchez – City of Harlingen
 - C) Carol Vasquez – City of Brownsville
 - D) Joe Hinojosa - Santa Cruz Irrigation District
 - E) Ahmed Mahmoud – UTRGV
 - F) Andrew Ernest – UTRGV
 - G) Brian Koch – TSSWCB
 - H) Linda Navarro – UTRGV
 - I) Melissa Gonzales – City of Alamo
 - J) Tony Reisinger – CC Extension Texas Agrilife and SeaGrant
 - K) Jessica Johnstone – TCEQ
 - L) Ivan Santos Chavez – UTRGV
 - M) David Alaniz – City of La Villa
 - N) Chu-Lin Cheng – UTRGV
 - O) Abdoul Oubeidillah – UTRGV
 - P) Andrew Ernest – UTRGV
 - Q) Chris Fuller – RATES
 - R) Commissioner Eddy – Willacy County
 - S) Hudson DeYoe- UTRGV
 - T) Derek Katznelson- LRGVDC
 - U) Saul Garica- Hidalgo County Precinct #1
2. Andrew Ernest – Opened with welcome and introductions
3. Project Status – Ahmed Mahmoud presented the work and activities completed so far.
 - A) LRGV Waterways
 - B) Raymondville Drain (2020 Texas Integrated Report)
 - C) EPA elements to develop a WPP
 - D) Project Goals
 - E) NC Project Timeline
 - F) Database Establishment (cyber infrastructure)
 - G) Steering Committee Meetings Status
 - H) Field Trips
 - I) Webpage for Characterization of Northern and Central Rio Grande Valley Watersheds

4. Development of Cyberinfrastructure for Assessment of the LRGV North and Central Watersheds Data – Linda Navarro presented all the data collected and how it was collected.
 - A) Background of the area of study
 - B) Watershed Delineation
 - C) Sources of Pollution
 - D) Water Quality
5. Melissa Gonzalez – Suggested to submit the presentation to the Stormwater Task Force website
6. David Alaniz – Asked if the bacteria affect common activities like fishing.
7. Andrew Ernest – Answered that the objective of the Steering Committee is to determine if it is necessary to go out and collect more focused sampling to eventually develop a WPP.
8. Brian Koch – Added that a Conservation Program of the Water Quality Management Plan Program that is giving good results in farmers adopting conservation practices.
9. Chris Fuller – Asked Brian Koch if he had information about percentages of wildlife sources like gluten sources.
10. Brian Koch – Replied to Chris that kind of information is not available and suggested that the only way to get it is by conducting a new research.
11. Texas Water Development Board-Freshwater Flows Program – Chris Fuller explained aspects of the study like:
 - A) Project Summary
 - B) Monitoring station description
 - C) Project Status
 - D) Next steps of the project
12. TWDB Flood Infrastructure – Andrew Ernest presented updates in projects of LRGV.
13. Joe Hino – Will the hydraulic sensor station be coupled with any other water quality sensors that we are trying to institute in the Valley?
14. Andrew Ernest – Yes, but it is important to mention that the hydrologic sensors are more expensive than the hydraulic sensors because of the monthly maintenance.
15. FYY 2022-319 proposals – Andrew Ernest explained the following proposals:
 - A) LLM-Hydrodynamic Water Quality Study
 - B) North and Central-LRGV-Phase II
 - C) Llano Grande Lake Dredging Feasibility Study
 - D) Arroyo Colorado-Tidal: Implementation of Watershed and Modeling Estuarine Hydrodynamics

E) LRGV LID Implementation-Harlingen City Hall and Cameron County San Benito Annex

16. Acknowledgment – Ahmed Mahmoud presented the acknowledgment announcement
17. Commissioner Eddy – Asked about the possibility of holding off on another meeting because of timelines
18. Andrew Ernest – Explained that Steering committee meetings are for presenting advances on the work completed but in case of any questions or suggestions about the projects, the doors are open with Ahmed Mahmoud and himself to explain or make a small group to clarify doubts.
19. Andrew Ernest – How often do we have steering committee meetings?
20. Ahmed Mahmoud – We should have another by June for Hidalgo Willacy and IBWC.