

February 10, 2021
LLM/BS Watershed Protection Plan
Urban/Infrastructure Working Group Meeting
Meeting Minutes:

Attendees:

1. David Garza- Cameron Count
2. Andy Ernest - UTRGV
3. Jaime Flores - TWRI
4. Maria Preneda - City of Elsa
5. Joe Hinojosa - Santa Cruz Irrigation District
6. Jessica Johnstone - TCEQ
7. Ronnie Ramirez- TSSWCB
8. Saul Garcia - Hidalgo County Percient #1
9. Carol Vasquez - City of Brownsville
10. Selena - City of Elsa
11. Derek Katznelson - LRGVDC
12. Tony Reisinger - CC Extension Texas Agrilife and SeaGrant
13. Ahmed Mahmoud - UTRGV
14. Rick Carrera - LRGVDC
15. Kate de Gennaro - Texas Sea Grant
16. Mayor Jorge Ledzma - City of Primera
17. Celina Gonzales - City Manager for Primera
18. Augusto Sanchez - Cameron County
19. Kim Jones - TAMUK
20. Chris Fuller - RATES
21. Jeff U?

Project Overview:

- Water Quality Modeling-Select and Load Duration Curves
- Tony Reisinger suggested adding SPI to water shed, as most of their drainage is to LLM.
- Space X and South Bay inputs- not sure what their input may be. Commissioner Garza is working finding the data.
- Steering committee would need to raise the issue and bring it to TCEQ is subsequent funding cycles
- Andy discussed lack of data regarding circulation patterns in LLM
- The idea is to protect- natural resource and economy
- ? Raised regarding role of RATES, Andy addressed. Executive agent of SWTF, REON real time stations.
- LLMBSC Existing Data-

- a) Urban and Infrastructure Data
- b) Land Cover (data from 2016)-
- c) Drainage Districts – control ~45% of watershed
- d) Irrigation district similar
- e) Water shed flood zones- Zone X not in 500 year flood plain. Zone
- f) Waste Water Outfalls

- Tony- don't we need to include northern boundary for South Padre Island, 2 out falls
- Jaime Flores- SPI was included as a 16th sub-watershed, there are 3 wastewater outfalls. County may determine if there is an outfall from space X.
- Andy- goal was to identify potential impairs near the mouth of BSC.
- Tony – historic data regarding circulation.
- Lower – June will be the next cycle for the 20-21 cycle. Recommendation.
- Modeling Assumptions:
 - a) Number of OSSFs: Jaime Flores suggest that there are 25,000 septic system some in coastal zone and some outside the WPP. Where colonias are is where the septic tanks are located. Andy asked that we be given access to data. Jaime data base is in progress- have data that has been compiled. Problem OSSF permits are from outside addresses and not associated with actual location. Difficult to define actual number. Start with last year's data set. And perform a sensitivity analysis on model, i.e. how much influence to OSSF has. Jaime has GIS data based on permits, recognizing that record is not complete.
 - b) OSSF failure rates- Texas average is 12%. Jaime suggested that colonias failure rate is higher, due in part to clay soils and poor drainages. Majority of septic tanks in Cameron county are in poor soils. For AC, there is an estimate for failure rate, so reference AC WPP report.
 - c) Number of NPDES permitted waste water outfalls: Proposed value 32 WWTP, Andy, suggested that SPI are currently outside scope/study area. South Bay is located inside our study area, follow up with Commission Garza.
 - d) Number Desalination permits: 2 desalination plants.
 - e) Final slide recognizing support of TCEQ and US EPA.
 - f) Commissioner Garza suggested revisiting need for characterizing circulation patterns in LLM. Chris will forward proposal to Ahmed to include discuss in Steering committee meeting.