

**319 Clean Water Act NPS Program: Watershed Planning Project Meeting Notes**  
**Lower Laguna Madre/Brownsville Ship Channel Watershed Protection Planning**  
**Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**  
**12:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**1. Attendees**

- a) Andrew Ernest, RATES
- b) Deanna LeVrier, RATES
- c) Linda Navarro, RATES
- d) Bill Kirkey, RATES
- e) Ivan Santos, RATES
- f) Aida Gutierrez, City of Combes
- g) Derek Katznelson, LRGVDC
- h) Ernesto Solis, City of Alamo
- i) Kimberly Salinas, City of Harlingen
- j) Alma Guerra, City of Harlingen
- k) Raul Garcia, City of Los Fresnos
- l) Raul Gomez, Cameron County
- m) Augusto Sanchez, Cameron County
- n) Maria Pruneda, City of Alton

**2. Combined Meetings**

This meeting addressed the Steering Committee, as well as members of the Ag, Habitat/Coastal, Infrastructure & Urban, and the Technical Advisory Committee. At this stage of the project, better outcomes would be achieved by having all work groups combined with steering committee meetings in one larger single day workshop.

**3. Call meeting to order**

Dr. Andrew Ernest opened called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

#### **4. Introduction**

Dr. Andrew Ernest- Welcomed everybody, introduced himself and mentioned that the LLMBSC research is a project that started three years ago where we had been one of the main researchers during this time.

Mr. Augusto Sanchez – Introduced himself, thanked the participants for joining and mentioned that Commissioner Garza (Chair of the Committee) was not able to attend the meeting because of other duties he needed to solve.

Dr. Ernest – Presented meeting's agenda, the organigram of the project, explaining that a new TCEQ PM called Heather Robinson had recently joined the project and introduced the audience to the Stormwater Taskforce website and how to find information of the project.

#### **5. Hydrological Monitoring to Estimate Flow and Pollutants in Brownsville Ship Channel.**

Mr. Ivan Santos – Introduced himself and started the presentation of his project: Hydrological Monitoring to Estimate Flow and Pollutants in Brownsville Ship Channel.

Mr. Santos – Explained the current situation of BSC in terms of water quality, mentioning that it was declared as an impairment waterway due to bacteria from 2010 to 2018 and now it only has a warning due to screening levels of dissolved oxygen. He also addressed the objective and the area of the project and the sampling points. Presented the historical results of data collected by RTHS stations, addressing that those records can be found at [www.rths.us](http://www.rths.us). Explained that a new monitoring station will be installed at San Martin Lake where monitoring campaigns will take place. A test was conducted at the site to test and verify that our equipment is enough to properly measure flow.

Mr. Santos – Explained how data is collected on site by showing the equipment and explaining the procedures. Right after that, he showed the results obtained during the six sampling campaigns that had taken place since February 2020 until August 2021 making emphasis in how water quality parameters are changing during the seasons. Mentioned that two models, Load Duration Curves (LDCS) and Spatially Explicit Loads Enrichment Tool (SELCT) will be utilized to identify potential bacteria loadings by sub-basin and the correspondent source and concluded mentioning that

the project is funded by TCEQ and saying that more updates can be found at <https://rgvstormwater.org/lmb-sc-watershed-partnership/>

## **6. Closure**

Dr. Ernest – Thanked everybody for attending the meeting and added that those three monitoring stations at BSC will be showed in detail during the Flood Planning Workshop and that a new meeting is planned to take place in December to present preliminary modeling results.