A Meeting of the Monitoring Work Group of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership

Monday August 1, 2005
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Room 1003 of the Natural Resources Center
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Campus – Corpus Christi, TX

Stakeholders Present:

Aaron	Wendt	TSSWCB
Clare	Lee	U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Earlene	Lambeth	TCEQ
Elizabeth A.	Heise	UTBTSC
Eric	Mendelman	Texas Watch Program
Hudson R	De Yoe	UNIVERSITY OF TX PAN AMERICAN
Jude A.	Benavides	UT - B. TSC
Kay	Jenkins	TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Kevin	Wagner	TWRI
Richard	Kiesling	USGS
Rocky	Freund	NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY
Roger	Miranda	TCEQ
Venkatesh	Uddameri, PHd	TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY KINGSVILLE
William	Berg	UTB

1:00 OPENING (Laura De la Garza)

- Welcome
- General House Keeping (facilities, refreshments, breaks, meeting format)
    - Introductions

1:10 WHY IS A MONITORING PLAN NEEDED? (Laura De la Garza)

- The Nine Elements Required for Federal Funding

1. An identification of the causes and sources or groups of similar sources that will need to be controlled to achieve the load reductions estimated in the watershed-based plan (and to achieve any other watershed goals identified in the watershed-based plan)
2. An estimate of the load reductions expected for the management measures
3. A description of the NPS management measures that need to be implemented to achieve the load reductions
4. An estimate of the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed
5. An information/education component that will be used to enhance public understanding of the project and encourage their early and continued participation
6. A schedule for implementing the NPS management measures identified
7. A description of interim, measurable milestones
8. A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved
9. A monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation

efforts.

- Detailed Characterization of Sources of Pollution to the Arroyo Colorado
- Measuring the Progress of Load Reduction in the Watershed

1:25 WHAT MONITORING HAS BEEN CONDUTED AND BY WHOM (Roger Miranda)?

- In-stream Flow and Water Quality Monitoring
- Fish Tissue and Biological
- Edge-of-Field and Model Parameter Estimation

1:40 WHAT MONITORING IS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED AND BY WHOM?

- In-stream Flow and Water Quality Monitoring
- Fish Tissue and Biological
- Edge-of-Field and Model Parameter Estimation

1:55 WHAT MONITORING IS PLANNED AND BY WHOM?

- In-stream Flow and Water Quality Monitoring
- Fish Tissue and Biological
- Edge-of-Field and Model Parameter Estimation

2:10 BREAK

2:20 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS PERTAINING TO MONITORING

- Identification of Data Gaps
- Short and Long Term Monitoring Needs
- What parameters?
- What sites?
- What sampling Frequency?
- Who will Perform the Monitoring?
- How Will the Monitoring be Financed?
- How Will the Data Be Stored and Used and Who Will Store and Use It.

2:55 CLOSURE (Laura De La Garza)

- Expected Outcomes for Next Meeting

Rocky Freund stated that this group has met once and has been communicating via email. Ag and WWI will have their own monitoring component and the monitoring she is referring to will take place in the main channel of the AC to evaluate the effectiveness of the BMPs in stream itself. Rocky passed out the list of twelve (12) stations, the list of parameters to be monitored, and a map of showing the locations. Monthly sampling is proposed for the twelve (12) sites, seven (7) sites area already being monitored quarterly by the TCEQ-Region 15 office. Initial budget is approximately $10,500 per quarter, about $41,000 per year. She did not know how many years this sampling would go on.

The plan will propose specific projects and we will determine and monitor for expected load reductions. For the WW treatment plant, there will be upstream and downstream monitoring of the wetland cells along with basin wide monitoring to gage the progress on a watershed bases.

Monitoring and assessment will be a major component to assess agriculture’s contribution to the loadings, evaluate and demonstrate the benefits of implementation of BMPs, and measure progress.