

Lower Laguna Madre Brownsville Ship Chanel Watershed Partnership

Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday April 25, 2018 10:00 am
Cameron County Annex
San Benito, Texas

Attendees:

Tushar Sinha	TAMUK
Brian Koch	TSSWCB
Ronnie Ramirez	TSSWCB
Arturo Cabello	Bvll Irr. Dict.
Jaime Flores	TWRI
Melisa Gonzalez	Alamo, SWTF
Tim Cawthon	TCEQ
Daniel Hernandez	UTRGV/Cameron Co.
Jose Figueroa	Mercedes
Raul Gomez	Cameron Co.
Victor Gutiérrez	TWRI
Mark Hiler	TCEQ
Antonia Reyna	UTRGV
Jungseok Ho.	UTRGV
Jude Benavides	UTRGV
Joe Hinojosa	Sta. Cruz I.D., SWTF
Augusto Sanchez	UTRGV, Cameron Co.

1. Introductions
2. Grant status

- a. QAPP (Augusto Sanchez)

- i. Monitoring sites

Issues regarding potential tidal influence and seawater intrusion at the monitoring sites were pointed.

- ii. Flow and Water Quality measurements

- iii. Frequency

- b. Monitoring sites and frequencies (Augusto Sanchez)

Five sampling events per site per year: four routing and one biased (to catch high flow event)

- c. Outreach (Augusto Sanchez)

It was brought up the importance of establishing community-based research teams. Dr. Benavides mentioned three initiatives:

- Resaca Ranges
- Citizen Scientists Group
- Vaquero Stream Team

d. Modeling: Variable Infiltration Capacity.

The Steering Committee requested more clarification regarding the capabilities, resolution and grid size VIC can work with.

The need for a Technical Advisory Workgroup Meeting was pointed out to clarify the use of VIC and the selection of the Water Quality Model(s) (SELECT, SWIM, others)

3. Ongoing monitoring

a. Ship Channel (Jude Benavides)

Presentation included latest water quality data; very low bacteria counts (Enterococcus)

b. Vaquero Stream Team (Jungseok Ho)

The VST detected no discharge in the Laguna Atascosa Area

There is a considerable difference between the E.Coli. test and Fecal Coliforms. This should be mentioned in the characterization section of the WPP.

Dr. Benavides offer to provide Enterococcus test kits to Dr. Ho for summer sampling work.

4. Work Groups (Augusto Sanchez)

a. Meeting calendars

b. Topics (each work group)

5. Water Quality Goals (Augusto Sanchez)

It is difficult to establish water quality goals at this point due to the following challenges:

1. There is no "ideal" for this watershed due to all its complexities.
2. There is no significant amount of data to base the Goals on: Ship Channel Characterization and VST data will become the first batch of information to start drafting the goals.

6. Other

The steering committee pointed out the SELECT could represent a better approach to the modeling work.

SWAT is not recommended due to its data-, time- and labor-intensive nature

Modified LDC should be explored

Modeling effort should be explored with a “adaptive management” approach.

7. Adjourn

Technical Advisory Work Group will meet the last week of May. Specific date, time and venue will be convened in a Doodle Poll with the group members.