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Cameron County Drainage District # 5

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April 19, 2024

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Stormwater Team Leader (MC-148)

P.O. Box 13087

Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Re: Phase II MS4 Annual Report Transmittal for Cameron County Drainage District #5
TPDES Authorization: TXR040243

Dear Team Leader:

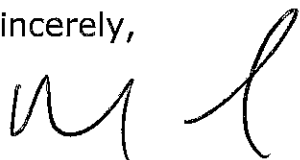
This letter serves to transmit the required annual report for the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit, Authorization Number TXR040243 for the Cameron County Drainage District #5.

The annual report is for Year 5. The reporting period's beginning 1/24/2023 and ending 1/23/2024.

A separate Notice of Change has not been submitted based on the fact that changes have not been proposed for the next permit year.

As required by the general permit, a copy of the report has been mailed to the TCEQ's Regional Office 15 in Harlingen, Texas.

Sincerely,



Rolando Vela

General Manager

Phase II (Small) MS4 Annual Report Form

TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000

A. General Information

Authorization Number: TXR040243

Reporting Year (year will be either 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5): 5

Annual Reporting Year Option Selected by MS4:

Calendar Year: _____

Permit Year: X

Fiscal Year: _____ Last day of fiscal year: (_____)

Reporting period beginning date: (month/date/year) 1/24/2023

Reporting period end date: (month/date/year) 1/23/2024

MS4 Operator Level: 2 Name of MS4: Cameron County Drainage District #5

Contact Name: Rolando Vela Telephone Number: 956-423-6411

Mailing Address: 221 E. Van Buren Ave., Suite 4, Harlingen, TX 78550

E-mail Address: rolando@ccdd5.org

A copy of the annual report was submitted to the TCEQ Region: YES X

NO _____ Region the annual report was submitted to: TCEQ Region 15

B. Status of Compliance with the MS4 GP and SWMP

1. Provide information on the status of complying with permit conditions:
(TXR040000 Part IV.B.2)

	Yes	No	Explain
Permittee is currently in compliance with the SWMP as submitted to and approved by the TCEQ.	X		CCDD#5 is in compliance with this permit.
Permittee is currently in compliance with recordkeeping and reporting requirements.	X		With submittal of this report, CCDD#5 is in compliance

Permittee meets the eligibility requirements of the permit (e.g., TMDL requirements, Edwards Aquifer limitations, compliance history, etc.).	X		CCDD#5 meets the eligibility requirements
Permittee conducted an annual review of its SWMP in conjunction with preparation of the annual report	X		Annual review of SWMP conducted with preparation of report

2. Provide a general assessment of the appropriateness of the selected BMPs. You may use the table below to meet this requirement (**see Example 1 in instructions**):

MCM(s)	BMP	BMP is appropriate for reducing the discharge of pollutants in stormwater (Answer Yes or No and explain)
		See attachment B. Narrative Provisions, 2 – BMP Assessment

3. Describe progress towards achieving the goal of reducing the discharge of pollutants to the MEP. If no progress was made or the BMP did not result in a reduction in pollutants, provide an explanation. Use the table below to meet this requirement (**see Example 2 in instructions**):

MCM	BMP	Information Used	Quantity	Units	Does the BMP Demonstrate a Direct Reduction in Pollutants? (Answer Yes or No and explain)
					See attachment B. Narrative Provisions, 3 - Pollutant Reduction

4. Provide the measurable goals for each of the MCMs, and an evaluation of the success of the implementation of the measurable goals (**see Example 3 in instructions**):

MCM(s)	Measurable Goal(s)	Explain progress toward goal or how goal was achieved. If goal was not accomplished, please explain.
		See attachment B. Narrative Provisions, 4 - Goals

C. Stormwater Data Summary

Provide a summary of all information used, including any lab results (if sampling was conducted) to assess the success of the SWMP at reducing the discharge of pollutants to the MEP. For example, did the MS4 conduct visual inspections, clean the inlets, look for illicit discharge, clean streets, look for flow during dry weather, etc.?

Cameron County Drainage District #5 conducts visual and odor observations in the course of maintaining the drainage ditches and associated stormwater structures. The only pollutant found during the report period has been illegal dumping. Illegal dumping is an overwhelming issue in the region. CCDD#5 reports illegal dumping to Cameron County for investigation, enforcement, and removal. As a non-traditional small MS4, a drainage district lacks the authority to pass ordinances or to enforce laws. Not all dumping can be investigated and cleaned up by the County. Not all dumping includes evidence of responsible party. Locations that are cleaned often have new dumping the next day. We continue to work with the County and others to reduce the problem.

During the reporting period, the District routinely inspects the drainage ditches for illegal dumping and removes dumped materials. The District advises the Constable’s office, the Harlingen Police Department, or other law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the reported site. The District follows up on the final resolution of cases.

D. Impaired Waterbodies

1. Identify whether an impaired water within the permitted area was added to the latest EPA-approved 303(d) list or the Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality for CWA Sections 305(b) and 303(d). List any newly-identified impaired waters below by including the name of the water body and the cause of impairment.

No impaired water within the permitted area was added to the latest EPA-approved 303(d) list or the Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality. The Draft 2024

Texas Integrated Report (unapproved) identifies "Drainage ditches flowing into Lower Laguna Madre" as impaired by "bacteria in water (recreation use)".

2. If applicable, explain below any activities taken to address the discharge to impaired waterbodies, including any sampling results and a summary of the small MS4's BMPs used to address the pollutant of concern.

Cameron County Drainage District #5 discharges into the Arroyo Colorado which is listed as impaired for bacteria and depressed dissolved oxygen. All activities and BMPs undertaken by CCDD#5 in this drainage address discharge into impaired waterbodies. As a non-traditional MS4, the District has assessed its facilities and operations and has determined that CCDD#5 is not a likely source of bacteria or a cause of depressed dissolved oxygen. We continue to train contractors and personnel, and work to identify and eliminate illicit discharges from septic systems, gray water lines, and sanitary sewer leaks, but none have been found.

3. Describe the implementation of targeted controls if the small MS4 discharges to an impaired water body with an approved TMDL.

Cameron County Drainage District #5 discharges into the Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal Segment, which is subject to an approved TMDL for Legacy Pollutants. The use of these substances is banned in the United States. CCDD#5 relies on monitoring efforts by TCEQ for these substances.

4. Report the benchmark identified by the MS4 and assessment activities:

Benchmark Parameter <i>(Ex: Total Suspended Solids)</i>	Benchmark Value	Description of additional sampling or other assessment activities	Year(s) conducted
DDE in edible tissue	0, banned	CCDD#5 relies on TCEQ monitoring of this parameter	Years 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5

5. Provide an analysis of how the selected BMPs will be effective in contributing to achieving the benchmark:

Benchmark Parameter	Selected BMP	Contribution to achieving Benchmark
DDE in edible tissue	Rely on TCEQ monitoring	Substance is banned, report to TCEQ

6. If applicable, report on focused BMPs to address impairment for bacteria:

Description of bacteria-focused BMP	Comments/Discussion
All BMPs in every MCM	Although there is no TMDL addressing bacteria, all BMPs in the CCDD#5 SWMP are ultimately in place to address the bacteria impairment in the Arroyo Colorado and the Rio Grande River.
Bacteria control – Septic system and/or gray water discharge detection and elimination	No discharge detected.
Bacteria control – Sanitary sewer leak detection and elimination	No discharge detected.

7. Assess the progress to determine BMP's effectiveness in achieving the benchmark.

For example, the MS4 may use the following benchmark indicators:

- number of sources identified or eliminated;
- number of illegal dumpings;
- increase in illegal dumping reported;
- number of educational opportunities conducted;
- reductions in sanitary sewer flows (SSOs); /or
- increase in illegal discharge detection through dry screening.

Benchmark Indicator	Description/Comments
Number of illegal dumpings	Despite our efforts, partnerships with local cities, Cameron County, and regional efforts including the tire clean-ups by the Lower Rio Grande Development Council, illegal dumping is an epic problem. Enforcement can be very slow in cleaning up large dump sites. Smaller sites are cleared during regular ditch maintenance. While the number of dumpings continues to rise, so do the efforts of partnerships throughout the region.

<p>Collaboration in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership for public education and involvement and to implement the Update to the Arroyo Colorado WPP</p>	<p>CCDD#5 is supporting a coastal water quality implementation project by the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership (ACWP) and the City of San Benito to reduce pollutants entering the Arroyo Colorado. Through four GLO Coastal Management Program Grants, the city is restoring function to the old sewage treatment and settling ponds using water from the new WWTP. WWTP water and stormwater is held for wildlife and habitat purposes as opposed to carrying pollutants to the Arroyo Colorado. The project is also a site for volunteer tree planting activities and education. The ACWP and the City have initiated monthly bird counts at the San Benito Wetlands and includes information on stormwater quality and Arroyo Colorado protection.</p> <p>In 2023, CCDD#5 also supported the ACWP in educational and habitat restoration efforts in partnership with the Rio Hondo Independent School District and the Rio Hondo Middle School.</p> <p>The ACWP also works with the Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society to improve water quality and educational outreach at Ramsey Nature Park in Harlingen.</p>
<p>Educational outreach, including bumper stickers, storm drain stencils, and collaboration with and support of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership.</p>	<p>The public is becoming more aware of illegal dumping, the importance of clean drainages, and the health and environmental hazards of poor water quality. With recent flood events, especially those in 2018 and 2019, the public is becoming more involved in flood prevention and stormwater quality issues.</p>

Staff trainings and inspections for illicit discharges and other potential contributors to bacteria, maintenance of structural controls, and good housekeeping.	CCDD#5 holds staff meetings that include stormwater quality training on detection, investigation, and elimination of pollutants, compliance with stormwater control measures, pollution prevention, and good housekeeping. Crews inspect and clean ditches, catch basins, and outfalls on a daily basis, perform visual and odor inspections to detect illicit discharge on 100% of the drainage system annually, and maintain structural controls.

E. Stormwater Activities

Describe activities planned for the next reporting year:

MCM(s)	BMP	Stormwater Activity	Description/Comments
			See attachment E

F. SWMP Modifications

1. The SWMP and MCM implementation procedures are reviewed each year.

Yes No

2. Changes have been made or are proposed to the SWMP since the NOI or the last annual report, including changes in response to TCEQ's review.

Yes No

If "Yes," report on changes made to measurable goals and BMPs:

MCM(s)	Measurable Goal(s) or BMP(s)	Implemented or Proposed Changes (Submit NOC as needed)

Note: If changes include additions or substitutions of BMPs, include a written analysis explaining why the original BMP is ineffective or not feasible, and why the replacement BMP is expected to achieve the goals of the original BMP.

3. Explain additional changes or proposed changes not previously mentioned (i.e. dates, contacts, procedures, annexation of land, etc.).

NA

G. Additional BMPs for TMDLs and I-Plans

Provide a description and schedule for implementation of additional BMPs that may be necessary, based on monitoring results, to ensure compliance with applicable TMDLs and implementation plans.

BMP	Description	Implementation Schedule (start date, etc.)	Status/Completion Date (completed, in progress, not started)
None			

H. Additional Information

1. Is the permittee relying on another entity to satisfy any permit obligations?

Yes No

If "Yes," provide the name(s) of other entities and an explanation of their responsibilities (add more spaces or pages if needed).

Yes. As a non-traditional small MS4, CCDD#5 has no authority to enact or enforce ordinances. As a small district, CCDD#5 relies on strong partnerships to achieve common goals.

Name and Explanation: Cameron County, investigation, enforcement, and removal of illegally dumped materials.

Name and Explanation: City of Harlingen, ditch and outfall cleaning, investigation, enforcement, and removal of illegally dumped materials

Name and Explanation: Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership, education, outreach, and public involvement

Name and Explanation:

2.a. Is the permittee part of a group sharing a SWMP with other entities?

Yes No

2.b. If "yes," is this a system-wide annual report including information for all permittees?

Yes No

If "Yes," list all associated authorization numbers, permittee names, and SWMP **responsibilities of each** member (add additional spaces or pages if needed):

Authorization Number: _____ Permittee: _____

Authorization Number: _____ Permittee: _____

Authorization Number: _____ Permittee: _____

Authorization Number: _____ Permittee: _____

I. Construction Activities

1. The number of construction activities that occurred in the jurisdictional area of the MS4 (Large and Small Site Notices submitted by construction site operators):

29

2a. Does the permittee utilize the optional seventh MCM related to construction?

Yes No

2b. If "yes," then provide the following information for this permit year:

The number of municipal construction activities authorized under this general permit	0
The total number of acres disturbed for municipal construction projects	0

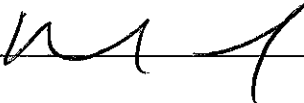
Note: Though the seventh MCM is optional, implementation must be requested on the NOI or on a NOC and approved by the TCEQ.

J. Certification

If this is this a system-wide annual report including information for all permittees, each permittee shall sign and certify the annual report in accordance with 30 TAC §305.128 (relating to Signatories to Reports).

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Name (printed): Rolando Vela Title: General Manager

Signature:  Date: April 19, 2024

Name of MS4 Cameron County Drainage District #5

Name (printed): _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of MS4 _____

Name (printed): _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of MS4 _____

Name (printed): _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of MS4 _____

Name (printed): _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of MS4 _____

If you have questions on how to fill out this form or about the Stormwater Permitting program, please contact us at 512-239-4671.

Individuals are entitled to request and review their personal information that the agency gathers on its forms. They may also have any errors in their information corrected. To review such information, contact us at 512-239-3282.

Cameron County Drainage District #5
B. Narrative Provisions, 2 - BMP Assessment
 Year 5

MCM(s) BMP

BMP is appropriate for reducing the discharge of pollutants in stormwater (Y/N). Explain.

MCM 1 - Public Education & Outreach

Website development	Yes. Communicates with the public, involve public in solutions, and encourage pollution prevention and reporting. Please visit us at www.CCDD5.org .
Publish public information on website	Yes. Communicates with the public, involves public in solutions, and encourages pollution prevention and reporting.
Storm drain stenciling	Yes. Communicates with the public, involves public in solutions, and encourages pollution prevention and reporting.
Bumper stickers	Yes. Communicates with the public, involves public in solutions, and encourages pollution prevention and reporting.
Distribute educational materials	Yes. Communicate with the public and involve public in solutions. Encourages pollution prevention and reporting. Distributed ACWP and TCEQ information.
Distribute educational materials to applicants to the District for a Subdivision Plat Review	Yes. Communicates with target audience to encourage pollution prevention.
Support and collaborate with the ACWP and ACC - education	Yes. Involves public in solution. Encourages pollution prevention and reporting.
Public notices	Yes. Involves public in solution. Encourages pollution prevention and reporting. The District followed state regulations for public meeting notices to encourage public comments at Board meetings.
Distribute community involvement event information	Yes. Involves public in solution. Encourages pollution prevention and reporting.
Public comments to Board	Yes. Involves public in solution. Encourages pollution prevention and reporting. A public comment section was included in every regular agenda. The District followed state regulations for public meeting notices to encourage public comments at Board meetings, however, no MS4 comments were received.

MCM 2 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

Storm drain stenciling	Yes. Communicates with the public, involves public in solutions, and encourages pollution prevention and reporting.
Bumper stickers	Yes. Communicates with the public, involves public in solutions, and encourages pollution prevention and reporting.
GIS mapping updates and improvements	Yes. Ensures proper tracking and maintenance of MS4.
Train MS4 field personnel to identify and track illicit discharges	Yes. Ensures proper tracking and maintenance of MS4.
Facilitate public reporting	Yes. Involves public in solution. Encourages pollution prevention and reporting.
Provide public access to SWMP and other MS4 records	Yes. Informs and engages the public.
Outfall inspection and screening	Yes. Effective in detecting pollutant discharge. 100% of outfalls are inspected each year as a part of regular drainage maintenance.
Procedures for illicit discharge & spill response	Yes. Ensures proper tracking and maintenance of MS4. The District follows its procedures.
Source investigation and elimination - Prioritize investigation of discharges	Yes. Effective in the process of eliminating pollutant discharge.
Source investigation and elimination - Report immediate threats to TCEQ immediately	Yes. Important to public health and safety. No immediate threats were reported.
Source investigation and elimination - Exert enforcement authority when District has operational control	Yes. Effective in the preventing pollutant discharge. As a non-traditional small Phase II MS4, the District has control over its own facilities, actions, and staff. No internal enforcement was required during the reporting period.
Source investigation and elimination - Perform inspections and exert enforcement authority to the MEP	Yes. Effective in detecting pollutant discharge. Inspections are performed as part of regular maintenance on 100% of the MS4 drainages and outfalls.

Source investigation and elimination - Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement	Yes. Effective in the process of eliminating pollutant discharge. Informal agreements and partnerships have worked in the past for inspections and enforcement.
Source investigation and elimination - Report illicit discharges to appropriate entity	Yes. Reporting leads to the effective process of eliminating pollutant discharge. The District reports illicit discharges to Cameron County law enforcement.
Source investigation and elimination - Track and document investigations	Yes. Tracking and documenting leads to the effective process of eliminating pollutant discharge and discouraging future discharges. Reports are documented and tracked.
Source investigation and elimination - Notify parties responsible for illicit discharges and perform follow-up inspections	Yes. Notifications and follow-ups are effective in the process of eliminating pollutant discharge and discouraging future discharge. Notifications and follow-up inspections are made by law enforcement and the District.
Source investigation and elimination - Install cable gates	Yes. Physical barriers are effective in the process of eliminating future pollutant discharge. The District has a total of 25 gates protecting areas of high illegal dumping activity.
Source investigation and elimination - Remove and properly dispose of illegally dumped materials	Yes. Removal and proper disposal eliminates pollutant discharge.
Bacteria control - Septic system and/or gray water discharge detection and elimination	Yes. Effective in the process of eliminating pollutant discharge. No septic system and or graywater discharge was detected in the reporting period.
Bacteria control - Sanitary sewer leak detection and elimination	Yes. Effective in the process of eliminating pollutant discharge. No sanitary sewer leaks were detected in the reporting period.
Address Legacy Pollutants	Yes. There is a TMDL for the Arroyo Colorado regarding Legacy Pollutants. TCEQ monitors for these banned pollutants and will notify the District if they are found.

MCM 3 - Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

Interlocal agreements	Yes. Effective in the process of eliminating pollutant discharge. Informal agreements and partnerships have worked in the past for inspections and enforcement.
Ensure permit compliance	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge, but CCDD#5 had no construction projects during the reporting period.
Site inspections	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge, but CCDD#5 had no construction projects during the reporting period.
Update plat review procedures	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge by communicating with plat review applicants. CCDD#5 reviews plat review procedures for any necessary updates. No updates were necessary during the reporting period.
Public reporting	Yes. Involves public in solution. Encourages pollution prevention and reporting. The District received no construction site stormwater runoff control reports from the public during the reporting period.
MS4 personnel training	Yes. Ensures proper tracking and maintenance of MS4.

MCM 4 - Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

Interlocal agreements	Yes. Effective in the process of eliminating pollutant discharge. Informal agreements and partnerships have worked in the past for inspections and enforcement.
Ensure permit compliance	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge, but CCDD#5 had no development or redevelopment sites during the reporting period.
Maintenance of structural stormwater control measures	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge. The District maintains 100% of its structural stormwater control measures each year during regular maintenance of MS4 drainages.
Document and maintain records of enforcement actions	Yes. Effective in understanding past violations to prevent future violations. Records are kept at the CCDD#5 office. No internal enforcement was required during the reporting period.

MCM 5 - Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Inventory facilities and controls	Yes. Ensures proper tracking and maintenance of MS4. CCDD#5 maintains a detailed map and inventory of all facilities and controls, along with other mapping information.
Inspect and maintain drainages	Yes. Effective in detecting and removing pollutant discharge. 100% of drainages are inspected and maintained each year as part of regular maintenance.
Clean District catch basins	Yes. Effective in detecting and removing pollutant discharge. 100% of catch basins are inspected and maintained each year as part of regular maintenance.
Investigation	Yes. Effective in preventing future pollutant discharge. Reports of illegal dumping are reported to Cameron County law enforcement. Additional illegally dumped materials are inspected by District employees and removed for proper disposal.
Illegal dumping disposal	Yes. Eliminates pollutants and prevents future pollutant discharge. The District removed and properly disposed of illegally dumped tires during the reporting period.
Physical barriers to illegal dumping	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge. The District has a total of 25 cable gates protecting areas of high illegal dumping activity.
Contractor compliance with stormwater control measures	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge.
Operations assessment for potential discharge and prevention	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge. Operations are reviewed annually or more often as needed. No changes have been made during the reporting period.
Proper use of herbicides and pesticides	Yes. Prevents chemical runoff. The District uses herbicides
Disposal of waste material	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge. The District continues to properly dispose of waste materials.
Check 303(d) list	Yes. Ensures the use of BMPs to protect all impaired surface waters. The list was reviewed and no new impairments have been listed in our area. The unapproved Draft 2024 Texas Integrated Report includes drainage ditches flowing to the Lower Laguna Madre.
Review and update SWMP	Yes. Ensures the use of effective BMPs. The SWMP was reviewed during the development of this annual report. No updates are required.
Maintain structural controls	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge. 100% of structural controls are inspected and maintained as part of regular, annual MS4 drainage maintenance.
MS4 personnel training	Yes. Ensures proper tracking and maintenance of MS4.

MCM 6 - Industrial Stormwater Sources

Not applicable to Level 2 MS4 Operators	N/A
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MCM 7 - Authorization for Construction Activities where the Small MS4 is the Site Operator

Develop a SWP3	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge from District construction sites. No construction this reporting period.
Compliance with TCEQ regulations	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge from District construction sites. No construction this reporting period.
Maintain oversight and control	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge from District construction sites. No construction this reporting period.
Inspect construction sites	Yes. Effective in preventing pollutant discharge from District construction sites. No construction this reporting period.

ALL

Record keeping	Yes. Ensures proper tracking and maintenance of MS4. All records are kept at the CCDD#5 office.
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Annual reporting	Yes. Ensures proper tracking and maintenance of MS4. This report is for Year 5 of the current MS4 permit. A copy will be available at the CCDD#5 office and online at the District's website.
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Cameron County Drainage District #5
B. Narrative Provisions, 3 - Pollutant Reduction
Year 5

BMP	Information Used	Quantity	Units	Does BMP demonstrate a direct reduction in pollutants? (Answer Yes or No and explain)
MCM 1 - Public Education & Outreach				
Website development	website	1	website	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.
Publish public information on website	website	1	website	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.
Storm drain stenciling	storm drains	0	inspections	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.
Bumper stickers	vehicles	0	inspections	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.
Distribute educational materials	brochures & newsletters	200	brochures & newsletter	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.
Distribute educational materials to applicants to the District for a Subdivision Plat Review	materials	29	Plat reviews	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating subdivision plat review applicants (owners, operators, etc.) will eventually result in pollution reduction.
Support and collaborate with the ACWP and ACC - education	ACWP & ACC information	31	educational presentations	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.
Public notices	state requirements	24	notices	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.
Distribute community involvement event information	community information	3	community events	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.
Public comments to Board	meeting agendas & minutes	24	comment opportunities	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.

MCM 2 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

Storm drain stenciling	storm drains	0	inspections	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.
Bumper stickers	vehicles	0	inspections	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, educating and involving citizens will eventually result in pollution reduction.
GIS mapping updates and improvements	map	1	GIS map	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, mapping assists in tracking discharges and areas of potential detection.
Train MS4 field personnel to identify and track illicit discharges	staff	1	trainings	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, knowledgeable staff are effective in detecting and eliminating discharges.
Facilitate public reporting	public outreach	0	reports	Yes. When illicit discharges are reported, investigation and elimination follows.
Provide public access to SWMP and other MS4 records	availability	1	access	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, an informed public is more likely to report illicit discharges.
Outfall inspection and screening	outfalls	5	inspections	Yes. By inspecting outfalls, we can evaluate if illicit discharges are occurring.
Procedures for illicit discharge & spill response	procedures	1	response	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, it describes the response for investigation and elimination.
Source investigation and elimination - Prioritize investigation of discharges	reports	0	investigations	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, it determines the severity and response to each report.
Source investigation and elimination - Report immediate threats to TCEQ immediately	reports	0	investigations	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, it assists in eliminating immediate threats.
Source investigation and elimination - Exert enforcement authority when District has operational control	sites	0	investigations	Yes. Through enforcement when the District has authority, we can prevent discharge and erosion.
Source investigation and elimination - Perform inspections and exert enforcement authority to the MEP	sites	0	investigations	Yes. Through enforcement when the District has authority, we can prevent discharge and erosion.
Source investigation and elimination - Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement	MS4s with enforcement authority within District	2	agreements	Yes. Through enforcement by those with authority when the District has none, we can prevent discharge and erosion. The District has excellent relationships with investigation and elimination entities.
Source investigation and elimination - Report illicit discharges to appropriate entity	reports	0	investigations	Yes. When the illicit discharges are detected, immediate action can be taken to remove the pollutant and track the source.
Source investigation and elimination - Track and document investigations	reports	0	investigations	Yes. When the illicit discharges are detected, immediate action can be taken to remove the pollutant and track the source.
Source investigation and elimination - Notify parties responsible for illicit discharges and perform follow-up inspections	reports	0	investigations	Yes. When the illicit discharges are detected, immediate action can be taken to remove the pollutant and track the source.
Source investigation and elimination - Install cable gates	illegal dump sites	25	gates	Yes. Less new illegally dumped material likely in locations with more difficult access.
Source investigation and elimination - Remove and properly dispose of illegally dumped materials	illegal dump sites	54	tons	Yes. The District relies on our partnership with Cameron County to remove illegally dumped materials. Illegally dumped materials are also removed and properly disposed of during regular ditch and catch basin maintenance. New dumping is less likely at clean sites.
Bacteria control - Septic system and/or gray water discharge detection and elimination	septic system & gray water discharges	0	incidents	Yes. When the illicit discharges are detected, immediate action can be taken to remove the pollutant and track the source.
Bacteria control - Sanitary sewer leak detection and elimination	sanitary sewer leaks	0	incidents	Yes. When the illicit discharges are detected, immediate action can be taken to remove the pollutant and track the source.
Address Legacy Pollutants	reports from TCEQ	0	Legacy Pollutants	Yes. If TCEQ monitoring identifies a Legacy Pollutant, immediate action can be taken to remove the pollutant and track the source.

The District has excellent relationships with investigation and elimination entities.

MCM 3 - Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

Interlocal agreements	MS4s with enforcement authority within District	2	agreements	Yes. Through enforcement by those with authority when the District has none, we can prevent discharge and erosion. The District has excellent relationships with investigation and elimination entities.
Ensure permit compliance	construction activity	0	site	Yes, however, there were no District construction projects during reporting period.

Site inspections	construction activity	0	site	Yes, however, there were no District construction projects during reporting period.
Update plat review procedures	plat review procedures	1	review & update	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, updated review processes ensure that all TCEQ regulations are met by applicants.
Public reporting	public outreach	0	reports	Yes. When illicit discharges are reported, investigation and elimination follows.
MS4 personnel training	staff	1	trainings	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, knowledgeable staff are effective in detecting and eliminating discharges.

MCM 4 - Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

Interlocal agreements	MS4s with enforcement authority within District	2	agreements	Yes. Through enforcement by those with authority when the District has none, we can prevent discharge and erosion. The District has excellent relationships with investigation and elimination entities.
Ensure permit compliance	development activity	0	site	Yes, however, there were no District development or redevelopment projects during reporting period.
Maintenance of structural stormwater control measures	structural controls	100%	maintenance	Yes. Prevents pollutant discharges from entering MS4.
Document and maintain records of enforcement actions		100%	records	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, recordkeeping of enforcement actions can help prevent future pollutant discharges.

MCM 5 - Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Inventory facilities and controls	map	1	GIS map	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, inventories and mapping assists in tracking discharges and areas of potential detection.
Inspect and maintain drainages	maintenance	100%	drainages	Yes. During the maintenance of drainages, staff inspects for pollutant discharges, removes illegally dumped materials, and reports illegal dumping for investigation and removal by partners.
Clean District catch basins	maintenance	100%	catch basins	Yes. During the maintenance of catch basins, staff inspects for pollutant discharges, removes illegally dumped materials, and reports illegal dumping for investigation and removal by partners.
Investigation	illegal dumping	100%	illegal dump site reports	Yes. During regular maintenance of the drainage system, staff inspects for pollutant discharges, removes illegally dumped materials, and reports illegal dumping for investigation and removal by partners.
Illegal dumping disposal	illegal dumping	0	illegal dump sites	Yes. During regular maintenance of the drainage system, staff inspects for pollutant discharges, removes illegally dumped materials, and reports illegal dumping for investigation and removal by partners.
Physical barriers to illegal dumping	new cable gates	0	installations	Yes. Less illegal dumping takes place in locations with more difficult access.
Contractor compliance with stormwater control measures	contractor compliance	100%	contracts	Yes. CCDDHS has operational control over contractors and requires compliance with stormwater control measures, good housekeeping practices, and operating procedures and BMPs to reduce pollutant discharge.
Operations assessment for potential discharge and prevention	operations activities	100%	Assessments	Yes. By assessing District operations and, if needed, developing and implementing additional measures, we ensure that proper BMPs are in place to reduce pollutant discharge.
Proper use of herbicides and pesticides	herbicide and pesticide use	0	applications	Yes. Proper use reduces stormwater runoff of chemicals.
Disposal of waste material	waste disposal receipts	54	tons	Yes. Proper disposal of waste materials prevents illicit discharge of the materials and removes them from the waste stream.
Check 303(d) list	303(d) list	1	review	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, it ensures that all impairments are considered in BMP evaluation and SWMP updates to result in a reduction in pollutants of concern in any impaired water body.
Review and update SWMP	SWMP	1	review	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, it ensures that all impairments are considered in BMP evaluation and SWMP updates to result in a reduction in pollutants of concern in any impaired water body.
Maintain structural controls	structural controls	100%	maintenance	Yes. Prevents pollutant discharges from entering MS4.
MS4 personnel training	staff	1	trainings	No. Though this BMP does not result in a direct reduction of pollutants, knowledgeable staff are effective in detecting and eliminating discharges.

MCM 6 - Industrial Stormwater Sources

Not applicable to Level 2 MS4 Operators

MCM 7 - Authorization for Construction Activities where the Small MS4 is the Site Operator

Develop a SWP3	construction activity	0	site	Yes, however, there were no District construction projects during reporting period.
Compliance with TCEQ regulations	construction activity	0	site	Yes, however, there were no District construction projects during reporting period.
Maintain oversight and control	construction activity	0	site	Yes, however, there were no District construction projects during reporting period.
Inspect construction sites	construction activity	0	site	Yes, however, there were no District construction projects during reporting period.

ALL Record keeping	activities	100%	records	Yes. Ensures proper tracking and maintenance of MS4.
Annual reporting	activities	1	report	Yes. Ensures proper tracking and maintenance of MS4.

Cameron County Drainage District #5

B. Narrative Provisions, 4 - Goals

Year 5

Measurable Goal

Success

MCM 1 - Public Education & Outreach

Develop a District website and publish this SWMP, annual reports, any other required materials, District contact information, and links to other relevant sites	Goal met. Please visit us at www.CCDD5.org .
Publish this SWMP, annual reports, any other required materials, District contact information, and links to other relevant sites	Goal met. Please visit us at www.CCDD5.org .
Inspect existing stencils and add new stencils to new outfalls	Goal met. Stencils are located in areas accessible to the public.
Inspect existing bumper stickers, replace annually, and add stickers on 100% of new equipment	Goal met. Bumper stickers issued to staff and contractors.
Order 200 ACWP newsletters and 200 stormwater brochures for distribution, record number of brochures distributed through office contacts and outreach opportunities, with an emphasis on developers, contractors, businesses, and industry requesting plat reviews	Goal met. 855 attendees participated in ACWP educational programs and presentations and received information. 863 attended additional meetings with ACWP regarding water quality. Newsletters and stormwater brochures were distributed by the District and our partners throughout the year. One tire collection and recycling outreach event was held (LRGVDC). Two habitat/water quality outreach events were held at the San Benito Wetlands, and another habitat/water quality outreach event involved middle school students from Rio Hondo which . Each of the 29 plat review applicants received information.
Make Subdivision Plat Review procedures and requirements available on the District's website to applicants, including requirements to obtain all applicable TECQ permits	Goal met. Subdivision Plat Review is posted on the CCDD#5 website.
Support ACWP and ACC to provide classroom presentations, distribute stormwater quality materials, and perform community outreach	Goal met. CCDD#5 is a sponsor and partner of the ACWP education and outreach programs, including classroom presentations, event appearances, public involvement activities, distribution of newsletters and other materials, media outreach, and coastal water quality implementation. Two habitat/water quality outreach events were held at the San Benito Wetlands, and another habitat/water quality outreach event involved middle school students from Rio Hondo. The District participates in the implementation of the Update to the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan accepted by the US EPA in late 2017.
Comply with all state and local public notice requirements	Goal met. Meeting notices were publicized in compliance with state regulations.
Provide a public comment segment in each regular meeting of the Board of Directors, to include comments on the MS4	Goal met. A public comment segment scheduled at each CCDD#5 board meeting.
On the District's website, publish links to public involvement events taking place in cities and communities within the District	Goal met. The link to the ACWP publicized educational presentations and events.
Make this SWMP, NOI, updates, and annual reports available to the public	Goal met. These documents are available to the public during office hours at the CCDD#5 office. The SWMP, NOI, and annual report are also available on our website.

MCM 2 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

Inspect existing stencils and add new stencils to new outfalls	Goal met. Stencils are located in areas accessible to the public.
Inspect existing bumper stickers, replace annually, and add stickers on 100% of new equipment	Goal met. Bumper stickers issued to staff and contractors.
Review and update mapping of ditches, outfalls, surface waters receiving discharges, illicit discharge investigations, and other features	Goal met. A dedicated GIS Specialist has increased the District's GIS mapping information capacity. Maps are updated as infrastructure is added or new information is available.

Discuss IDDE procedures at an employee safety meeting and maintain training program materials and attendance documentation	Goal met. Training is held at the District office
Follow tracking and reporting procedure	Goal met. No calls have been received during the reporting period.
Maintain a copy of this SWMP and the NOI at the District's office and on District's website	Goal met. A copy of each is available at the District's office. The SWMP and NOI are also posted on our website.
Inspect 20% of outfalls	Goal exceeded. 100% of outfalls and ditches inspected annually.
Maintain on-site procedures for responding to illicit discharges and spills	Goal met. Response procedures maintained and followed.
Prioritize investigation of discharges	Goal met. Identified illegal dumping reported to County. No other discharges detected.
Report immediate threats to TCEQ immediately	Goal met. None detected.
Exert enforcement authority when District has operational control	Goal met for staff and contractors. No enforcement issues occurred.
Perform inspections and exert enforcement authority to the MEP	Goal met. No enforcement issues in circumstances when District has operational control.
Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement	Goal not met. Informal agreements and traditional partnerships are currently still in use and effective for inspections, enforcement, debris removal, and more.
Report illicit discharges to appropriate entity	Goal met. Illegal dumping reported to County. No other illicit discharges detected
Track and document investigations	Goal met. Investigatable reported discharges were tracked and documented. Others were referred to the appropriate enforcement entity.
Notify parties responsible for illicit discharges and perform follow-up inspections	Goal met. Cameron County, with the authority and capacity to investigate crime, notified those parties that were discovered and performed follow-up contacts.
Install cable gates	Goal met. We are working with landowners to install gates and limit access to historic dump sites. No new cable gates were installed.
Remove and properly dispose of illegally dumped materials	Goal met in part. Illegal dumping is an overwhelming issue in the region. Not all dumping can be investigated and cleaned up by the County. Not all dumping includes evidence of responsible party. Locations that are cleaned often have new dumping the next day. We continue to work with the County, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, and others to reduce the problem. Illegally dumped tires were removed during the reporting period.
Septic system and/or gray water discharge detection and elimination	Goal met. None detected.
Sanitary sewer leak detection and elimination	Goal met. None detected.
Report Legacy Pollutants to TCEQ and continue to rely on TCEQ monitoring	Goal met. TCEQ has not notified CCDD#5 of any detection.

MCM 3 - Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement	Goal not met. Informal agreements and traditional partnerships are currently still in use and effective for inspections, enforcement, debris removal, and more.
Ensure compliance of construction sites over which the District has control	No construction projects during reporting period.
Inspect construction sites over which the District has control	No construction projects during reporting period.
Review and update Construction Plan Review Procedures	Goal met. CCDD #5 reviewed plans for 29 subdivision projects.
Facilitate public reporting	Goal met. No calls involved construction site stormwater runoff controls.
Conduct a training MS4 personnel responsible for plan review, inspections, or enforcement	Goal met. Training is held at the District office.

MCM 4 - Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement	Goal not met. Informal agreements and traditional partnerships are currently still in use and effective for inspections, enforcement, debris removal, and more.
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Ensure compliance and maintenance at new development and redevelopment sites over which the District has control	Goal met. No District development or redevelopment sites.
Ensure long-term operation and maintenance of structural stormwater control measures installed by the District	Goal met. 100% of structural stormwater control measures inspected and maintained annually.
Document and maintain records of enforcement actions	Goal met. Records are kept at the District's office.

MCM 5 - Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Maintain an inventory of District facilities and stormwater controls	Goal met. CCDD#5 continues to update GIS maps and capabilities.
Inspect and maintain 100% of District's drainage ditches	Goal met. 100% of drainage ditches inspected and maintained annually.
Clean 100% of catch basins	Goal met. 100% of catch basins and drop boxes inspected and maintained annually.
Investigate and report 100% of illegal dumping incidents	Goal met. Illegal dumping reported to County or removed and properly disposed of during regular drainage maintenance. This is completed by January 23 of each year, but new illegally dumped materials are deposited on a daily basis after a site is investigated and cleaned. Illegal dumping is an epic problem in this region.
Remove and properly dispose of illegally dumped materials	Goal met. Illegal dumping reported to County or removed and properly disposed of during regular drainage maintenance. This is completed by January 23 of each year, but new illegally dumped materials are deposited on a daily basis after a site is investigated and cleaned. Illegal dumping is an epic problem in this region.
Install cable gates	Goal met. We are working with landowners to install gates and limit access to historic dump sites. No new cable gates were installed during this reporting year.
Require 100% of contractors to comply with all stormwater control measures, good housekeeping practices, and facility-specific stormwater management operating procedures	Goal met. The District had no construction, development, or redevelopment projects that required contractors.
Assess District operations activities for potential to discharge pollutants of concern, and develop and implement pollution discharge prevention measures	Goal met. Operation and maintenance activities evaluated annually or as new concerns arise.
Properly use herbicides and pesticides and maintain records	Goal met. CCDD#5 uses herbicides.
Dispose of District's waste materials properly	Goal met. Waste materials were removed to a landfill.
Check annually for any newly listed impairments on the 303(d) list of the Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality and update the SWMP accordingly	Goal met. No newly listed impairments were found for our area.
Review SWMP annually during preparation of the annual report	Goal met. The SWMP and BMPs were reviewed during the preparation of this report.
Inspect and maintain District structural control BMPs	Goal met. 100% of structural stormwater control measures inspected and maintained annually.
Training MS4 personnel in pollution prevention and good housekeeping procedures	Goal met. Training is held in the District's office.

MCM 6 - Industrial Stormwater Sources

Not applicable to Level 2 MS4 Operators

MCM 7 - Authorization for Construction Activities where the Small MS4 is the Site Operator

Develop and implement a SWP3 for each applicable construction activity	Goal met. No District construction projects during reporting period.
Post TCEQ approval at each construction site	Goal met. No District construction projects during reporting period.

Maintain oversight and control of each construction site	Goal met. No District construction projects during reporting period.
Conduct inspections for SWP3 elements and compliance	Goal met. No District construction projects during reporting period.

ALL	Record keeping	Goal met.
	Annual reporting	Goal met.

Cameron County Drainage District #5

E. Stormwater Activities

Year 5

BMP

Stormwater Activity

Description/Comments

MCM 1 - Public Education & Outreach

Website development	Develop a District website and publish this SWMP, annual reports, any other required materials, District contact information, and links to other relevant sites	Maintain, update, and continue to improve website.
Publish public information on website	Publish this SWMP, annual reports, any other required materials, District contact information, and links to other relevant sites	Maintain, update, and continue to improve website.
Storm drain stenciling	Inspect existing stencils and add new stencils to new outfalls	Inspect, replace if needed, add new stencils where needed
Bumper stickers	Inspect existing bumper stickers, replace annually, and add stickers on 100% of new equipment	Inspect, replace if needed, add new bumper stickers where needed.
Distribute educational materials	Order 200 ACWP newsletters and 200 stormwater brochures for distribution, record number of brochures distributed through office contacts and outreach opportunities, with an emphasis on developers, contractors, businesses, and industry requesting plat reviews	Obtain and distribute stormwater quality educational materials.
Distribute educational materials to applicants to the District for a Subdivision Plat Review	Make Subdivision Plat Review procedures and requirements available on the District's website to applicants, including requirements to obtain all applicable TECQ permits	Maintain, update, and continue to improve website. Maintain Subdivision Plat Review Checklist on website.
Support and collaborate with the ACWP and ACC - education	Support ACWP and ACC to provide classroom presentations, distribute stormwater quality materials, and perform community outreach	Continue to support ACWP and ACC
Public notices	Comply with all state and local public notice requirements	Continue to follow public notice requirements
Public comments to Board	Provide a public comment segment in each regular meeting of the Board of Directors, to include comments on the MS4	Continue to provide a public comment segment in each regular Board meeting.
Distribute community involvement event information	On the District's website, publish links to public involvement events taking place in cities and communities within the District	Maintain, update, and continue to improve website.
Publish public MS4 information on website	Make this SWMP, NOI, updates, and annual reports available to the public	Maintain, update, and continue to improve website. Publish this annual report on the CCDD#5 website.

MCM 2 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

Storm drain stenciling	Inspect existing stencils and add new stencils to new outfalls	Inspect, replace if needed, add new stencils where needed
Bumper stickers	Inspect existing bumper stickers, replace annually, and add stickers on 100% of new equipment	Inspect, replace if needed, add new bumper stickers where needed

GIS mapping updates and improvements	Review and update mapping of ditches, outfalls, surface waters receiving discharges, illicit discharge investigations, and other features	Review and update maps
Train MS4 field personnel to identify and track illicit discharges	Discuss IDDE procedures at an employee safety meeting and maintain training program materials and attendance documentation	Hold MS4 personnel training at quarterly staff meetings
Facilitate public reporting	Follow tracking and reporting procedure	Track and report 100% of incidents reported by the public.
Provide public access to SWMP and other MS4 records	Maintain a copy of this SWMP and the NOI at the District's office and on District's website	Maintain documents at the District's office and on the District's website.
Outfall inspection and screening	Inspect 20% of outfalls	Inspect and screen a minimum of 20% of outfalls
Procedures for illicit discharge & spill response	Maintain on-site procedures for responding to illicit discharges and spills	Continue to maintain on-site procedures for responding to illicit discharges and spills
Source investigation and elimination	Prioritize investigation of discharges	Continue to prioritize investigation of discharges
Source investigation and elimination	Report immediate threats to TCEQ immediately	Continue to report immediate threats to TCEQ immediately
Source investigation and elimination	Exert enforcement authority when District has operational control	Continue to exert enforcement authority when District has operational control
Source investigation and elimination	Perform inspections and exert enforcement authority to the MEP	Continue to perform inspections and exert enforcement authority to the MEP
Source investigation and elimination	Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement	Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement with Cameron County and MS4 cities within the District or submit a NOC.
Source investigation and elimination	Report illicit discharges to appropriate entity	Continue to report illicit discharges to appropriate entity
Source investigation and elimination	Track and document investigations	Continue to track and document investigations
Source investigation and elimination	Notify parties responsible for illicit discharges and perform follow-up inspections	Continue to notify parties responsible for illicit discharges and perform follow-up inspections
Source investigation and elimination	Install cable gates	Seek effective locations for cable gates or signs, and install.
Source investigation and elimination	Remove and properly dispose of illegally dumped materials	Work with Cameron County and others to remove and properly dispose of illegally dumped materials
Bacteria control	Septic system and/or gray water discharge detection and elimination	Continue septic system and/or gray water discharge detection and elimination
Bacteria control	Sanitary sewer leak detection and elimination	Continue sanitary sewer leak detection and elimination
Address Legacy Pollutants	Report Legacy Pollutants to TCEQ and continue to rely on TCEQ monitoring	Report Legacy Pollutants if found.

MCM 3 - Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

Interlocal agreements	Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement	Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement with Cameron County and MS4 cities within the District or submit a NOC.
Ensure permit compliance	Ensure compliance of construction sites over which the District has control	Supervise and inspect construction sites
Site inspections	Inspect construction sites over which the District has control	Supervise and inspect construction sites
Update plat review procedures	Review and update Construction Plan Review Procedures	Review and update Construction Plan Review Procedures

Public reporting	Facilitate public reporting	Encourage public reporting through outreach and easy access to the District, such as a hotline number and public comments at meetings.
MS4 personnel training	Conduct a training MS4 personnel responsible for plan review, inspections, or enforcement	Hold MS4 personnel training at quarterly staff meetings

MCM 4 - Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

Interlocal agreements	Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement	Enter into interlocal agreements for inspections and enforcement with Cameron County and MS4 cities within the District or submit a NOC.
Ensure permit compliance	Ensure compliance and maintenance at new development and redevelopment sites over which the District has control	Inspect and ensure compliance at sites over which the District has control.
Maintenance of structural stormwater control measures	Ensure long-term operation and maintenance of structural stormwater control measures installed by the District	Inspect and maintain structural stormwater control measures installed by the District.
Enforcement	Ensure compliance and maintenance at new development and redevelopment sites through existing law enforcement procedures	Utilize partnerships with law enforcement to ensure compliance and maintenance at new development and redevelopment sites.

MCM 5 - Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Inventory facilities and controls	Maintain an inventory of District facilities and stormwater controls	Update inventory and maps.
Inspect and maintain drainages	Inspect and maintain 100% of District's drainage ditches	Inspect and maintain 100% of District's drainage ditches
Clean District catch basins	Clean 100% of catch basins	Clean 100% of catch basins
Investigation	Investigate and report 100% of illegal dumping incidents	Inspect, investigate, report, and properly dispose of illegally dumped materials.
Illegal dumping disposal	Remove and properly dispose of illegally dumped materials	Inspect, investigate, report, and properly dispose of illegally dumped materials.
Physical barriers to illegal dumping	Install cable gates	Determine where cable gates or signs are needed and install.
Contractor compliance with stormwater control measures	Require 100% of contractors to comply with all stormwater control measures, good housekeeping practices, and facility-specific stormwater management operating procedures	Continue to supervise contractors and review compliance with stormwater control measures, good housekeeping practices, and facility-specific stormwater management operating procedures
Operations assessment for potential discharge and prevention	Assess District operations activities for potential to discharge pollutants of concern, and develop and implement pollution discharge prevention measures	Review and assess District operations activities for potential to discharge pollutants of concern, and develop and implement pollution discharge prevention measures.
Proper use of herbicides and pesticides	Properly use herbicides and pesticides and maintain records	Follow instructions for use of herbicides and pesticides and maintain records of usage.
Disposal of waste material	Dispose of District's waste materials properly	Waste and illegal dumping will be removed to a landfill.
Check 303(d) list	Check annually for any newly listed impairments on the 303(d) list of the Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality and update the SWMP accordingly	Review the 303(d) list
Review and update SWMP	Review SWMP annually during preparation of the annual report	Review and update the SWMP

Maintain structural controls	Inspect and maintain District structural control BMPs	Inspect and maintain structural stormwater control measures installed by the District.
MS4 personnel training	Training MS4 personnel in pollution prevention and good housekeeping procedures	Hold MS4 personnel training at quarterly staff meetings

MCM 6 - Industrial Stormwater Sources

Not applicable to Level 2 MS4 Operators

MCM 7 - Authorization for Construction Activities where the Small MS4 is the Site Operator

Develop a SWP3	Develop and implement a SWP3 for each applicable construction activity	Develop and implement a SWP3 for each applicable construction activity
Compliance with TCEQ regulations	Post TCEQ approval at each construction site	Post TCEQ approval at each construction site
Maintain oversight and control	Maintain oversight and control of each construction site	Inspect and control each construction site
Inspect construction sites	Conduct inspections for SWP3 elements and compliance	Inspect and control each construction site

ALL

Record keeping	record keeping	Keep accurate records of BMP activities included in the SWMP
Annual reporting	Annual reporting	Develop and submit an annual report to the TCEQ and regional office. Keep a copy in the District office for public review. Post the report on the District's website.

April 22, 2023

“Road to Recycling”

Regional Tire Collection Project



SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2023

- 4 tires per person maximum
(no oversized or tractor tires)
- Proof of residency required
(driver's license, utility bill etc.)
- Must be resident of collection site location
 - Most sites will be open 8 AM - 12 PM
(collection times may vary per location)

FREE Tire Collection

“Road-to-Recycling” is brought to you through a regional collaboration of RGV cities, counties and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council striving for a safer and cleaner environment!

For additional information, please visit www.lrgvdc.org or call (956) 682-3481.



22 de Abril 2023

“Camino al Reciclaje”

Proyecto Regional de Colección de Llantas



SABADO 22 DE ABRIL 2023

- Maximo 4 llantas por persona
(no se aceptarán llantas muy grandes o de tractor)
- Se requiere prueba de residencia
(licencia de conducir o factura de utilidades etc.)
- Debe ser residente del area donde se ubicá el sitio
de colección
- La mayoría de los sitios estarán abiertos de
8 AM - 12 PM
(la hora de recoleccion puede variar)

GRATIS

Evento de Recopilar llantas

“Road-to-Recycling” is brought to you through a regional collaboration of RGV cities, counties and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council striving for a safer and cleaner environment!

For additional information, please visit www.lrgvdc.org or call (956) 682-3481.



Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Outreach & Education, 1/24/2023 - 1/23/2024

Education Programs

Date	Presenter(s)	Presentation Title	Event Title	People	Location	Duration (hrs.)	Contact Hours
3/2/2023	Jaime Flores	Arroyo Colorado-General Infromation, Water Quality	Healthy Lawns/Healthy Waters	53	Weslaco, TX	1	53
3/7/2023	Jaime Flores	Arroyo Colorado-General Infromation & Soil Test Campaign	Soil Fertilyty Management Workshop	15	Virtual-Ramondville	1	15
3/23/2023	Jaime Flores	Arroyo Colorado Water Quality-Reuse projects-RGV Master Naturalists	San Benito Wetlands	27	San Benito	1	27
4/19/2023	Jaime Flores	Arroyo Colorado WPP Implementation	TX Watershed Coordinators Roundtable Meeting	52	TAMUCC	0.25	13
7/18/2023	Jaime Flores	San Benito Wetlands Project-ACWPP Implementation	Texas 4-H Water Abassadors	17	San Benito, TX	1	17
9/14/2023	Jaime Flores	History of the San Benito Wetlands	Arroyo Colorado Audoban Society	40	Harlingen, TX	1	40
10/12/2023	Jaime Flores	History of the San Benito Wetlands & Tour	Texas Master Naturalists Annual Conference	40	San Benito, TX	2	80
10/25/2023	Jaime Flores	RGV Drought Contingency Irrigation Workshop	RGV Drought Contingency Irrigation Workshop	103	Weslaco, TX	3	309
12/19/2023	Jaime Flores	Native Plants of South Texas	Rio Hondo Native Plant Workshop	456	Rio Hondo, TX	0.75	342

Volunteer Events

2/18/2023	Jaime Flores	Arroyo Colorado Water Quality-Reuse projects	San Benito Wetlands Bird Count	24	San Benito	2	48
9/16/2023	Jaime Flores	San Benito Wetlands Project-Bird Count	San Benito Wetlands Monthly Bird Count	28	San Benito, TX	2	56

Additional Meetings Regarding Water Quality

3/1/2023	Jim Darling	Region M	Region M Meeting	35	Weslaco, TX	3	105
3/7/2023	David Fuentes	Regional Water Resources Advisory Meeting	RWRAC Meeting	25	Weslaco, TX	1	25
4/19/2023	Lucas Gregory	TX Watershed Coordinators Roundtable Meeting	TX Watershed Coordinators Roundtable Meeting	35	Corpus Christi, TX	7	245
4/20/2023	David Fuentes	Regional Water Resources Advisory Meeting-Special Meeting	RWRAC Meeting	29	Weslaco, TX	0.5	14.5
4/27/2023	Ramiro Moreno	Rio Hondo ISD NPS project	Rio Hondo ISD NPS project	3	Rio Hondo	1	3
6/7/2023	Jim Darling	Region M	Region M Meeting	25	Weslaco, TX	2	50
6/14/2023	David Fuentes	Regional Water Resources Advisory Meeting	RWRAC Meeting	28	Weslaco, TX	1	28
6/22/2023	Leslie Grijalva	IBWC Citizens Public Forum	IBWC Citizens Public Forum	45	Virtual	2	90
7/27/2023	Jim Darling	Region M Groundwater/Surface Water Modeling Committee	Region M	8	Virtual	0.75	6
8/2/2023	Jim Darling	Region M	Region M Planning Cycle	30	Weslaco, TX	2	60
8/16/2023	Jaime Flores	Agricultural Education and Outreach Implementation of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Planning meeting	Agricultural Education and Outreach Implementation of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan	8	Virtual	0.75	6
9/13/2023	Manuel Cruz	RWRAC Meeting	RWRAC Meeting	35	Weslaco, TX	2	70
9/14/2023	Jaime Flores	History of the San Benito Wetlands	Arroyo Colorado Audoban Society	40	Harlingen, TX	1	40
10/12/2023	Jaime Flores	History of the San Benito Wetlands & Tour	Texas Master Naturalists Annual Conference	40	San Benito, TX	2	80
10/25/2023	Jaime Flores	RGV Drought Contingency Workshop	RGV Drought Contingency workshop	103	Weslaco, TX	3	309
11/1/2023	Jim Darling	Region M	Region M Meeting	42	Weslaco, TX	3	126
11/7/2023	IBWC/TCEQ	IBWC Citizens Public Forum	IBWC Citizens Public Forum	45	Virtual Weslaco, TX	2	90
11/15/2023	TCEQ	2023 Binational River Symposium	2023 Binational River Symposium	150	McAllen, TX	8	1200

12/12/2023	David Fuentes	RWRAC Meeting	RWRAC Meeting	35	Weslaco, TX	1	35
1/18/2024	Web Wallace	Cotton & Grain Producers Pre-plant meeting	Pre-plant Meeting	102	Monte Alto, TX	3	306

TOTAL PEOPLE & CONTACT HOURS				1718			3888.5
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The Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Newsletter



Spring 2023

San Benito Wetlands drew international crowd during 29th Annual RGV Birding Festival

By Jaime Flores

The restoration of the 65 acres of wetlands and riparian habitat at the San Benito Wetlands is one of the most exciting on-going environmental projects in the Rio Grande Valley, and recently visitors from all over the world experienced it during the 29th Annual RGV Birding Festival.

The wetlands have attracted numerous rare birds in recent years, and in 2022 the RGV Birding Festival got special permission to visit the site during the festival for the first time since the wetlands had been restored. The initiative was a great success, and 386 visitors from 39 states and six countries visited the wetlands during the festival, Nov. 9-13, 2022.

Phase I of the wetland project began in 2009 with the restoration of four 1-acre polishing ponds. Over the course of 12 years and three additional phases, a total of 65 acres have been restored. As soon as the first ponds were completed and filled with water, birds and all types of wildlife began flocking to the wetlands. Since then, it has become a birding hotspot.

Members of the Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society discovered what an attraction the wetlands can be in November 2021 when they spotted a Fork-tailed Flycatcher in the area. The Fork-tailed Flycatcher is mainly found in Mexico, Yucatan and South America, and is a rare bird to be seen in the United States. For the next two weeks, birders from all over the world flocked to catch a glimpse of the flycatcher.

Additionally, a pair of Groove-billed Ani spent the 2021 winter, spring and most of summer close to the road bridge and were viewed at every bird count. *(continued on page 4)*



Birders flocking to view the Fork-tailed flycatcher. Photo by Jaime Flores.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher. Photo by Alicia Cavazos.



New project serving socially disadvantaged farmers saw successful first year in 2022

By Jaime Flores

This past year, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension economist Dr. Samuel Zapata collaborated with the Texas Water Resources Institute and county extension agents Vidal Saenz, Ashley Gregory, Hidalgo Co., Marco Ponce, Jennifer Herrera, Cameron Co., Rolando Zamora, Willacy Co., Omar Montemayor, Starr Co., and Dr. Juan Enciso to apply for a USDA-OPPE grant.

The team was awarded a 3-year grant, and the purpose of the grant program is to train socially disadvantaged farmers

and ranchers in sustainable agricultural production and management practices through a series of workshops.

A total of six workshops were held in 2022:

- Grow Your Farm, March 10, 2022 - 30 participants
- Goats and Poultry, May 26, 2022 - 60 participants
- Citrus Health, July 14, 2022 - 30 participants
- Pasture, Range and Forage, Sept. 15, 2022 - 75 participants
- Medicinal Herbs, Dec. 6, 2022 - 63 participants
- Making Sausage from your Harvest, Dec. 13, 2022 - 21 participants

Each workshop also included an educational section focused on business planning. Landowners were informed about how to apply for cost share assistance programs through the TSSWCB and USDA-NRCS, as well as how to apply for USDA and FSA loans.

The project team is working on planning and developing more workshops for 2023, and currently 5 workshops are planned, including business planning and marketing, crop production, irrigation management, small livestock production, and value-added practices. The training workshops will be held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Weslaco, and at the Texas A&M Higher Education Center at McAllen.



Making sausage by filling casing with seasoned meat. Photo by Jaime Flores.



Seasoning the pork and beef cuts to make sausage. Photo by Jaime Flores.



Grinding seasoned meat. Photo by Jaime Flores.



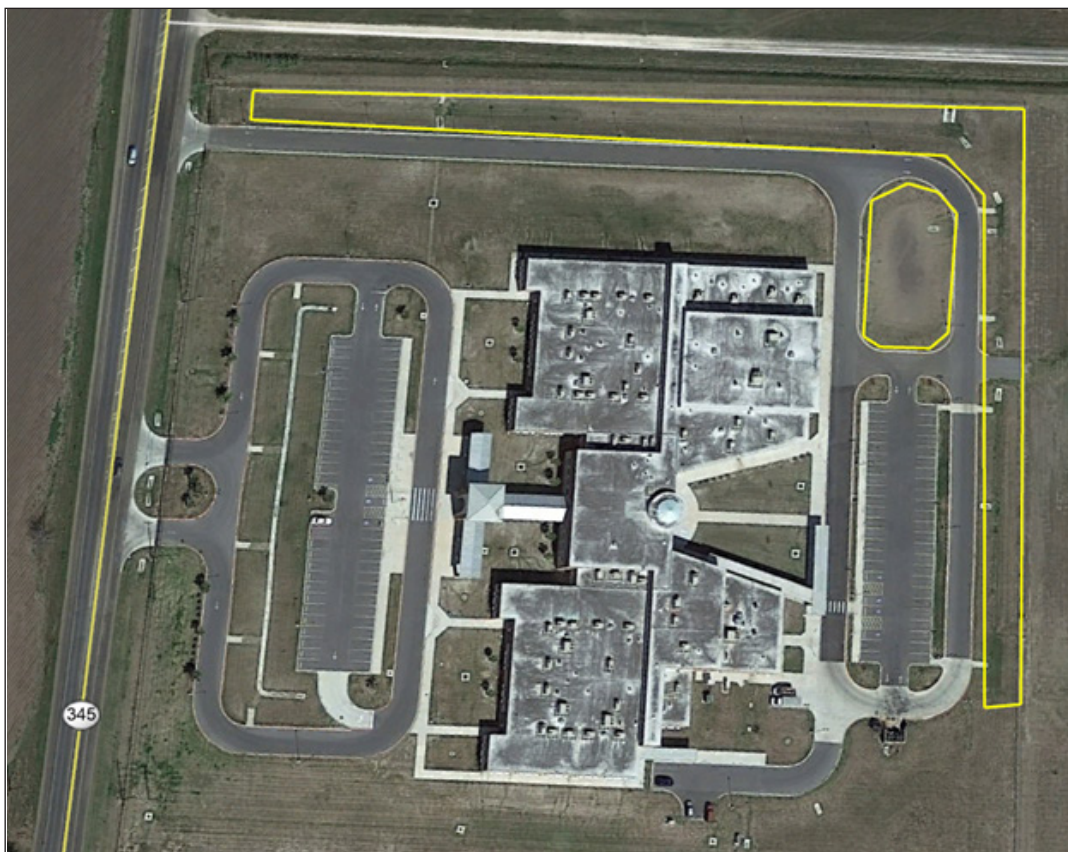
Rio Hondo ISD NPS Education and Coastal Stormwater BMP/LID Installation

By Jaime Flores

TWRI was awarded a TCEQ, CWA 319, NPS grant to provide the Rio Hondo Middle School students information on NPS pollution, water quality education and to install coastal stormwater enhancement BMPs and low impact development (LID) elements at the Rio Hondo ISD middle school to implement BMPs identified in the Arroyo Colorado WPP.

TWRI will work with native plant expert, Mike Heep, and Rio Hondo ISD to select native coastal vegetation to be planted in existing stormwater swales and detention ponds at the middle school that will reduce NPS stormwater pollution. Currently there is no native vegetation in the swales and ponds except for coastal Bermuda grass and the stormwater is starting to erode the base of the swales and ponds. The native vegetation will be planted by the middle school students and local volunteers during 2 planting day workshops. The native vegetation will not only remove NPS pollution from the stormwater but will also serve as

an outdoor classroom for the students at the middle school. Interpretive signage identifying the native vegetation planted and information on NPS pollution and pollution prevention will be installed in and around the stormwater swales and ponds. Science teachers will be able to use the area to provide project-based learning with an emphasis on key middle school earth science concepts such as erosion, sedimentation, deposition, stormwater, watersheds, ecosystems, weather and atmosphere, Point and NP Sources of pollution and BMPs to mitigate pollution. TWRI will also work with the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University to provide the Rio Hondo Middle School Science Teachers with Texas Stream Team certification training. Once they receive the training, the teachers will then be able to train the students to use the Texas Stream Team water quality sampling kits to determine water quality. This will provide the students will real world, hands-on training by performing physical and chemical testing. The project will begin in the Spring of 2023.



Yellow polygons represent proposed stormwater planting areas around Rio Hondo ISD Middle School.



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(continued from page 1) The Fork-tailed Flycatcher returned to the wetlands during the 2022 festival and was a huge draw to area. The total number of bird species officially documented at the wetlands increased to 219 during the festival, and it is now considered a must-visit location when birding in the Rio Grande Valley.

Read more about the festival:

- [Birding festival to offer first tours of San Benito wetlands](http://bit.ly/40mCaBv) | <http://bit.ly/40mCaBv>
- [Registration now open for Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival field trips](http://bit.ly/42VLa2m) | <http://bit.ly/42VLa2m>
- [TV celebrity ‘Bee Czar’ called in after city worker stung multiple times](http://bit.ly/3zd6S42) | <http://bit.ly/3zd6S42>
- [Swarm of bees almost cancels RGV Birding Festival field trip location](http://bit.ly/40Ji5VX) | <http://bit.ly/40Ji5VX>



Birders bird watching during the 29th Annual RGV Birding Festival. Photo by Jaime Flores.



Arroyo Colorado Watershed.



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The Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Newsletter



Spring 2024

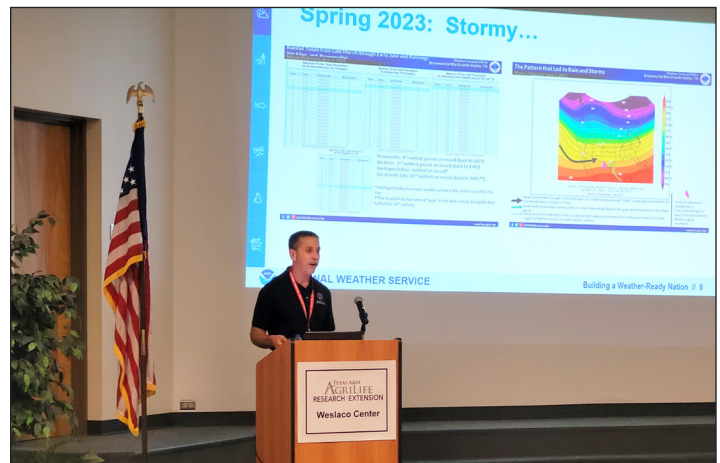
Rio Grande Valley Drought Contingency Irrigation and Water Supply Workshop

By Jaime Flores

The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension hosted the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Drought Contingency Irrigation and Water Supply Workshop on October 25, 2023 at the AgriLife Extension Center Hoblitzelle Auditorium. The purpose of the workshop was to provide the farmers and producers in the RGV with information on the 2024 drought and weather forecasts for the RGV and how that will impact water deliveries to irrigation districts and municipalities. Barry Goldsmith, National Weather Service Meteorologist, was the most anticipated speaker and provided some insights for the 2024 forecasts. Goldsmith provided a summary of his forecast:

- El Niño (the phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation when the east-central tropical Pacific Ocean is above average in terms of sea surface temperatures) helps create the energy necessary to “feed” tropical moisture into upper level disturbances tracking along or near the U.S./Mexico border.
- If those disturbances track too far to the north (see next bullet point), the moisture won’t get “picked up” into them, and the Lower Valley/northeast Mexico would see less rainfall during winter (through February, perhaps into March).
- If an upper level ridge of high pressure sets up over the eastern Pacific through southern California south to Baja California, it would help “deflect” upper level disturbances farther north, i.e., moving into central/northern California and through the central/southern Rockies and into north Texas-Kansas, keeping the Lower Valley on the dry side of the pillow. This was the case in the winter of 2015/16.
- That same ridge could also keep west-to-east moving tropical-sourced impulses “pinned” well south of the Lower Valley/northeast Mexico, keeping the rainfall pinned as well. Those disturbances—infused by El Niño’s moisture (and warm waters)—can eventually be

“lifted” into the aforementioned southern/central Plains disturbances as they dip southeast into the northern Gulf Coast/southeast U.S. region. That is part of the prediction this winter; note that Florida and southeast U.S. rainfall prediction for winter (December-February) being over 60% chance of above average.



Barry S. Goldsmith, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service for Brownsville and the Rio Grande Valley, was the main speaker at the workshop. Photo by Jaime Flores.

So far, the “cool season” El Niño period (that began in November) shows both the Valley/northeast Mexico and Florida as “jackpot” for rainfall (based on percentage of average since November 10-11) but this includes the heavy rainfall during Veterans Day Weekend. Remove that event, and our percentage would be at or just a touch above average for the past 30 days while Florida would still be well above.

He also stated that even if the RGV did receive above average rainfall, it would not be enough to restore the Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs to normal capacities. That would require a tropical storm and or a hurricane making landfall in Northern Mexico to provide enough tropical moisture to fill them again. *(continued on page 4)*



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Rio Hondo Middle School Native Plant workshop

By Jaime Flores

Last year, TWRI was awarded a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source grant, administered through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, to install coastal stormwater enhancement best management practices (BMPs) and low impact development (LID) elements at the Rio Hondo Middle School (RHMS) to implement BMPs identified in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan.

Starting in April 2023, Jaime Flores, TWRI Project Manager, worked with native plant expert, Mike Heep, to develop a landscaping design and native plant list to be implemented at RHMS. Once the landscaping design was complete and the plants were selected, the project team began preparing the area to be landscaped by removing the existing non-native grass and 2 inches of dirt on October 11-13, 2023.



Installing the weed barrier. Photo by Jaime Flores.



Removing the invasive grass and 2 inches of dirt. Photo by Jaime Flores.

After the grass and dirt had been removed, a layer of weed barrier fabric was rolled out and secured to the bare ground and 2 inches of mulch was applied to the entire planting area.

The TWRI Project Manager then began working with the RHMS principal and staff to coordinate the native plant workshop. The workshop would consist of the RHMS science classes being brought out to the planting area to plant the native plants every class period. This resulted in four science classes consisting

of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students per period coming outside to participate in the workshop.

In the end, 445 students from 24 science classes planted a total of 1,500 native plants at RHMS. The newly landscaped area will also serve as an outdoor classroom for the middle school. Interpretive signage will be installed with information about the native plants, stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution prevention. The science teachers will be able to utilize the area and the signage to teach the students about native plant identification, butterflies and hummingbirds that are attracted to the native plants, the water cycle, photosynthesis, earth science, and how to care for and appreciate the native plants.



445 RHMS students participated in the Native Plant workshop planting 1,500 native plants. Photo by Jaime Flores.



30th Annual RGV Cotton and Grain Pre-Plant Conference

By Jaime Flores

The RGV Cotton and Grain Producers of the RGV hosted their Annual Membership meeting and Pre-Plant Conference at Rio Farms on January 18, 2024. The entire agenda was filled with pertinent topics:

- Dr. Ronnie Schnell, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist – Cropping Systems, College Station gave 2 presentations; Fertilizer Rates and Placement for Optimum Yields in Corn and Grain Sorghum and Herbicide Tolerant Grain Sorghum Hybrids and Herbicide Options for Grain Sorghum
- Dr. Mark Welch, Professor & Extension Economist for Grain Marketing, College Station, provided a presentation on Grain Crop Market Outlook and Strategies for 2024
- Wayne Cleavland, Executive Director – Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Association gave an update on International Markets, Research and Agronomy for Grain Sorghum
- Edward Herrera, Zone Manager, Harlingen – Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation gave an Update on the 2023 Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation activities and progress
- Dwight Jackson, Member Service Representative, Corpus Christi gave a National Cotton Council Industry Update
- Dr. Yuri Calil, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, Corpus Christi gave a presentation on Cotton Crop Market Outlook and Marketing Strategies
- Danielle Sekula, Extension Agent, Weslaco – Integrated Pest Management, gave an update on the Cotton Stalk Destruction Methods and Volunteer Cotton in Grain Sorghum Result Demonstration project

The 2024 Cotton Crop outlook for the RGV is not ideal. The prediction is that the number of acres of cotton planted will be down this year due to high seed costs, low cotton prices and the uncertainty of water deliveries from the Amistad, and Falcon Reservoirs and the continued drought in the region.

The number of acres planted of Grain Sorghum should be higher this year as a defense crop. Sorghum is much cheaper to grow than cotton this year, with low seed prices, higher sorghum prices and the fact that sorghum does not need as much water. It is drought/heat tolerant and is harvested sooner and avoids the scorching hot temperatures of the late summer.

The conference was a success and a chance for some of the industry leaders to meet and plan on how to approach the 2024 planting season.



Attendees at the Annual RGV Cotton and Grain Pre-Plant Conference. Photo by Jaime Flores.



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(continued from page 1)

Other topics that were discussed at the workshop were:

- Projected Reservoir Levels for 2024, Georgina P. Bermea, RGV Watermaster
- Irrigation District Forecast – Ag Use vs. Municipal Use- Possible Water restrictions 2024, Sonny Hinojosa, HCID #2
- Irrigation & Fertilizer Strategies for Drought, Dr. Juan Enciso, AgriLife Research

- Salinity Management in Arid Regions, Dr. Girisha Ganjunte, AgriLife Research
- Ag Cost Share Assistance Programs, TSSWCB & NRCS

Without some much needed rain in the Fall and Winter to break the drought and raise the reservoir levels to ensure irrigation deliveries, growers will be reluctant to risk planting any crops that are more expensive to plant and maintain throughout the growing season.



Second successful year of project serving socially disadvantaged farmers in 2023

Texas A&M University Professor Dr. Samuel Zapata and his project team were awarded a 3-year USDA-OPPE grant. The purpose of the program is to train socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in sustainable agricultural production and management practices through a series of workshops. 2023 marked the 2nd full year of the project and the team was able to plan and host another six workshops.

A total of eight workshops were held in 2023:

- Starting a Vineyard, February 10, 2023 – 62 participants
- Grape growing, March 10, 2023 – 46 participants
- Grape Quality, June 21, 2023 – 25 participants
- Wine Quality, June 21, 2023 – 21 participants
- Advanced Ranch Management & Marketing Strategies, June 23, 2023 – 20 participants
- Specialty Crops, July 20, 2023 – 56 participants

- Fall Ranchers Program, November 1, 2023 – 60 participants
- Herbs Workshop, December 8, 2023 – 60 participants

Each workshop also included an educational section focused on business planning. Landowners were informed about how to apply for cost share assistance programs through the TSSWCB and USDA-NRCS, as well as how to apply for USDA and FSA loans.

The project team is working on planning and developing more workshops for 2024, and currently five workshops are planned, including: growing herbs, Asian vegetables, agrotourism, ranch management, and irrigation practices.

The training workshops will be held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Weslaco and at the Texas A&M Higher Education Center at McAllen.



Funding for the development and support of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership is through a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



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