

*Pecos River Ecosystem Advisory Committee  
&  
Salt Cedar EQIP 2006 Stakeholder Program*

*September 15, 2005*

*Monahans Convention Center  
400 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Monahans, Texas*

**Attendance:**

Cindy Breiten	Upper Pecos SWCD #213
Michael McCulloch	Pecos County WID #3
Alan Zeman	Reeves County WID #2
Tina Hagy	Senator Madla's Representative
Greg Huber	Pecos Valley RC&D
J. W. Thrasher	Pecos River Compact Commissioner
Greg Larson	TCEQ

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Michael McCulloch.

Greg Huber is in attendance for this meeting to discuss the CSP Program. This is a new farm program that is in the 2002 Farm Bill. The program first funded eighteen watersheds nationally for an amount of twenty million dollars. In 2005, 220 watersheds were funded for total of 200 million dollars and in 2006, there should be between four and five hundred watersheds involved. The program is designed to encourage good conservation practices – to reward the best and inspire the rest. In this area, last year the Toyah watershed was funded and this year it will be the Coyanosa Draw and Hackberry Draw. The program was discussed further and Greg answered questions. Tina Hagy was interested in receiving more information about the program and Cindy Breiten will e-mail her a link that details the program in full. Anyone that is interested in this link can go the usda.gov website.

Charlie Hart was unable to be at this meeting today since salt cedar is being spraying in the Iraan area, but he sent a report of what has been completed by county as of September 14, 2005.

Howard – 298.5 acres  
Midland – 583.1 acres

Pecos River:  
Ward – 40 acres  
Crane – 65 acres  
Pecos – 111.7 acres  
Crockett – 45 acres  
Total- 261.7 acres

Left to spray:

Crane – 255 acres

Pecos – 28.4 acres  
Crockett – 213 acres  
Val Verde – 258 acres  
Total 754.4 acres

There is a Tamarisk seminar in Colorado on October 12 – 14<sup>th</sup> at Colorado State University.

There is a Carlsbad Project Vegetation Management Program meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and Michael McCulloch and Alan Zeman are planning on attending.

J. W. Thrasher reported that he is still waiting to see what is going to happen with the Malaga Project. Regarding the monitoring project, Alan Zeman spoke with Wayne Belzer with IBWC and TCEQ is working on this with them. A suitable site has not yet been found since the money is considered state funding and cannot be put in New Mexico. We need a site with running water and a gauge below the Delaware is preferred. We will not be able to get all of the data that we want from a continuous station and grab samples for herbicides, pesticides, etc. are needed. J. W. thinks that Malaga is the place to take these samples if we want return flow. Alan and Michael are going to talk to BOR about putting in the station and try and work with TCEQ since they cannot monitor a station that is put in New Mexico where we really want to put the site. We really need to know the quality of water we are getting from the releases and the drain water. Some kind of renegotiation needs to be worked out.

There has been no word from Bill Davis on the test burn. He has been busy with work in the hurricane areas and fires.

The workshop that was held in Ft. Stockton on August 23<sup>rd</sup> was discussed. There was not the attendance that was hoped for as far as county governments. They were all busy with budget meetings, so we discussed having another workshop at some future date to try and get these people involved in the project. A possible location for the workshop could be Sul Ross University in Alpine. We did have a good meeting and had a lot of good information from the question and answer session which will be included in Larry Brown's Plan of Action that he is working on.

We are still waiting on word from the Governors' office on the results of our EPA Grant Application. An answer should be forthcoming sometime this month.

The Texas Historical Commission is having a meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. This project will be a part of the river as far as tourism promotion. They will be discussing funding and getting cities involved.

The Texas Water Development Board Statement of Interest has to do with a Desalination Project and the 2005 Energy Bill. This topic was discussed.

A Prescribed Burning Workshop has been discussed. It would be a good idea to have one for West Texas area and weather. Jed Elrod is going to see about arranging to have one in this area. There is one in Sonora that is for three days. We need a one day workshop for this area if possible.

The Financial Report was discussed. Loving County WID #1 has donated \$1,000.00 and it is included in the report.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on October 20, 2005.