



Lower Laguna Madre Watershed Characterization

Water Body	Lower Laguna Madre Watershed
Location	Cameron County
River Basin	Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal Basin (22)
Contractor	Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
Project Period	February 12, 2014 to December 31, 2016
Project Total	\$358,960 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

Background

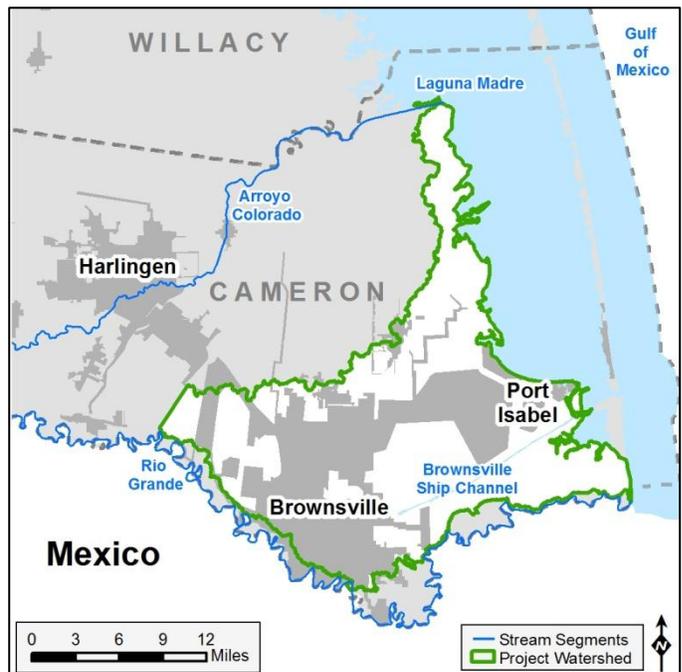
The Lower Laguna Madre Watershed is located south of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed, north of the Rio Grande Watershed and contributes approximately 25 percent of the freshwater flow into the Lower Laguna Madre Bay. The watershed includes the City of Brownsville and numerous townships in the surrounding area. There is a lack of water quality data collection regarding the Resacas (ancient distributary channels of the Rio Grande River) and limited data has been collected to assess the watershed's impairments, concerns, and determining the contributing sources for these impairments.

Project Description

This project will identify existing data to characterize the land use, water quality, and hydrologic circumstances in the watershed. Data collection will be used to fill existing data gaps that are identified. The characterization is needed to identify a path forward in selecting an analytical method for estimating pollutant loads. Input from stakeholders will be used to determine the goals, objectives, and indicators for addressing the water quality impairments and concerns. Information and partnerships from this project will provide the foundation for future development of a watershed-based plan.

Current Status

The first stakeholder meeting was held in March 2015. The Public Participation Plan was presented and comments were provided. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2015. The secondary data Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) has been executed and data review and analysis is ongoing. The monitoring QAPP is being developed. Monitoring of water quality at selected locations will begin this Summer.



For More Information

TCEQ Project Manager

Tim Cawthon
512.239.0845; Tim.Cawthon@tceq.texas.gov

TWRI Project Manager

Jaime Flores
(956) 969-5607; jjflores@ag.tamu.edu

University of Texas at Brownsville

Jude Benavides, Ph.D
Jude.benavides@utb.edu

Project Highlights

- 02/2014 – Contract executed.
- 03/2014 – Project kick-off meeting held.
- 10/2014 – Secondary Data QAPP executed.
- 03/2015 – Initial stakeholder meeting held. A draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) was presented.
- 03/2015 – Draft Monitoring QAPP submitted to TCEQ.