THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY SUSTAINABILITY NETWORK: A NETWORK FOR ALIGNMENT OF THOUGHT AND ACTION ON ISSUES

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Population growth and development are rapid.
The patchwork of agricultural, structured and natural environments is changing.
Climate change may have significant impacts.
Sustainability Network Mission and Goals

- To encourage adoption of sustainability concept and approach into strategic decision-making in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

- **Goal 1** Achieve participation of local government, business, agriculture, state and federal agencies, non-governmental entities and academics from pertinent fields in the Network.

- **Goal 2** Develop communication stream among Network participants and the public of information on pertinent LRGV issues and activities.

- **Goal 3** Develop educational materials/programs
Community Engagement

- State and local government
  - Rep Eddie Lucio III
  - Cameron County Commissioner Garza
  - City of Brownsville

- Government agencies (Federal and state)

- NGOs
Pertinent Organizations

- Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership
- Frontera Audubon
- Texas Chapter of the Nature Conservancy
- Welder Wildlife Foundation
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Lower Laguna Madre Foundation
Progress

- Three workshops/charrettes were held:
  - May 2014, 20 participants
  - Oct 2015, 11 participants
  - May 2016 with four speakers, 27 participants

- Connected with one NGO to develop a collaborative sustainability project

- 3 organizations willing to form core of network
  - More meetings coming
What’s missing?

- Engaging agriculture and business
- Mexican partners
- Prioritizing issues
- Examples of sustainability
- Dealing with local politics