



2026 REGIONAL COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
August 4, 2026

8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 – 9:05 am	Welcome Melisa Gonzales-Rosas
9:05 – 9:25 am	Prairie View A&M University Extension Community & Economic Development Rina Castillo
9:25 – 9:45 am	Lower Laguna Madre Hydrodynamic Circulation Study K.J. Ayres-Guerra
9:45 – 10:05 am	Arroyo Colorado Partnership - Watershed Planning Update Samantha Colunga
10:05 – 10:25 am	Safe Water at Home: What Every Homeowner Should Know to Protect Wells & Septic Systems in Emergencies Leena Mitra
10:25 – 10:45 am	PFAS in Our Waters: Why It Matters for Community Health Dr. Frauke Seemann
10:45 – 10:50 am	RAFFLE
10:50 – 11:05 am	BREAK
11:05 – 11:25 am	North and Central Watershed Protection Plan & Brownsville Ship Channel Watershed Monitoring Project Linda Navarro, Ivan Santos, and Rebeca Santos
11:25 – 11:45 am	Building Resilient LRGV Communities: Empowering Local Communities with CHARM Amanda Cain
11:45 – 12:05 pm	LUNCH
12:05 – 12:25 pm	Strengthening Resilient Communities in South Texas Katya Wowk, Senior Social Scientist, The Water Institute
12:25 – 12:45 pm	USDA Cristina Lopez and Roel Gomez
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Closing Remarks, Community Announcements, Final Raffle Melisa Gonzales-Rosas

This workshop is partially funded through a Clean Water Act Section 604(b) grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, administered through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.